

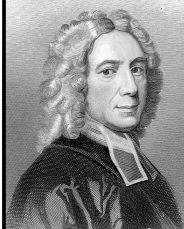
THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 3:11-13
Lesson #12
The blessed hope
12/05/2021

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), who wrote numerous theological books, including the premillennialist work *The End of Time*, was certain that the end would come **SOON!**

He is famous as the composer of the Christmas carol *Joy to the World*.



The lyrics are about the Second Coming (Ps.98), not the birth of Christ.

1

2 Peter Finding our way as aliens in this World

Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture.	Control your expectations and responses.	Clarify true and false hope.
1:1-4	1:5-15 1:16-21	2:1-22	3:1-18
	Holiness	Heresy	Hope



Alien life coaching

Aliens true hope is centered not in this world but in the world to come.

2

The immediate context

2 Peter 3

“10 But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and **the earth and its works will be burned up.**”

At Christ’s 2nd coming this present world will be destroyed (and replaced by a new world).

3

2 Peter 3

“11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in **holy conduct and godliness**, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for **new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.** 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be **diligent** to be found by Him, in **peace, spotless and blameless,**”

4

2 Peter 3

“11 Since all these things are **to be destroyed** in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in **holy conduct and godliness,**”

- “to be destroyed” (Greek present tense) has the sense of **“in the process of disintegrating”**.

QUESTION: As this world is falling apart does it give **special opportunity for Christians to shine brighter?**



Tertullian

“The more you mow us down, the more numerous we grow; the blood of Christians is seed.”

5

¹² looking for and **hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

- “hastening” has the sense of “**earnestly desiring**”.

QUESTION: Should we expect cultural **decay** or **progress** toward a utopian society?

- The O.T. & N.T. have much to say about social ethics **WITHIN / THROUGH** the faith community.
- There is a **passive attitude** in the Bible toward social **reform** of cultures outside the faith community.

6

¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for **new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells**.

- “new heavens and earth” suggest that the promised afterlife will involve a “**replacement**” for this world.

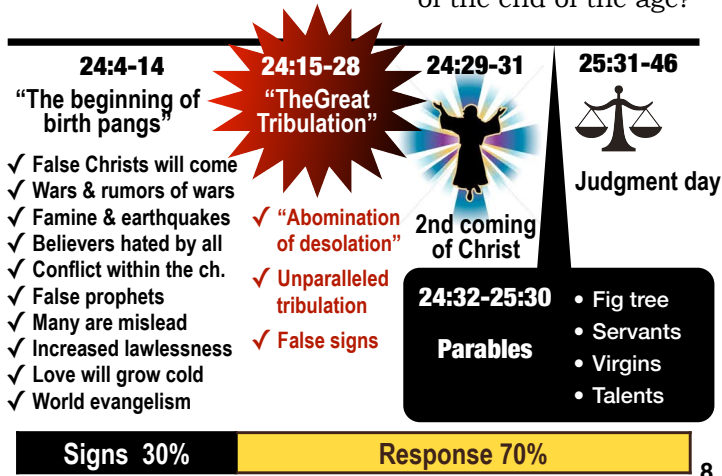
QUESTION: Could “heaven” be **replacement** rather than **reform** of this world?

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be **diligent** to be found by Him, at **peace**, **spotless** and **blameless**”

QUESTION: What is our **responsibility** for social **reform** as we watch and wait for Christ’s return?

7

Matt. 24:3 “what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?”



8

Four Parables in Matt.24-25

1. **The fig tree** (24:32-41) - Signs should inspire constant readiness.
2. **Faithful servant** (24:42-51) - Persist in selfless service while you wait.
3. **Ten virgins** (25:1-13) - Prepare to wait through “delays”.
4. **Talents** (25:14-30) - Be fearless and courageous stewards.

Responsibility #1 -
Be good stewards as we prepare to watch and wait.

9

Responsibility #2 - Show and tell the Word of the Cross.

Matthew 24

“¹³ But the one who **endures to the end**, he shall be saved. ¹⁴ And **this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached** in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.”

Show it by how you respond to the hardships of this life.

Tell it by preaching the blessed hope of the world to come.

10

1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is a response to

patient	trials
kind	insults
not jealous	success of others
does not brag	success of self
is not arrogant	power & authority
is not unbecoming	freedom
not self seeking	competition
is not provoked	confrontation
holds no grudges	injustice
does not rejoice	failure of others
rejoices in the truth	gossip & slander
bears all things	losses
believes & hopes all things	discouragement
endures all things	delayed hope

11

Responsibility #3 - Show the Way of the Cross

Matthew 25

“42 for I was **hungry**, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was **thirsty**, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a **stranger**, and you did not invite Me in; **naked**, and you did not clothe Me; **sick**, and in **prison**, and you did not visit Me.’ . . . 45 Then He will answer them, saying, **‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’**”

**Show compassionate grace
to all those made in God’s Image.**

12

What is our present role in changing our world?

Clarify the nature of our hope?

1. It is not **centered** on this world or age.
2. The Way of the Cross is **the way of Jesus** - bringing signs of peace & justice to this world and directing our hope to a world to come.
3. Our expectations and responsibilities for **systemic social reform** on earth are important signs but not solutions.

13

Signs and wonders

2 Corinthians 12:12

“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by **signs and wonders and miracles.**”

- **Signs** are not solutions but point to the solution. Physical sickness is not the problem but a symptom of “the Fall”.
- **Wonders** are “rare events” that cannot be explained naturally.

14

Acts 3

“19 Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 **whom heaven must receive until the period (time) of restoration of all things** about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

The “blessed hope” (restoration of all things) awaits Christ’s return.

15

Romans 8

“18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.** . . . 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**”

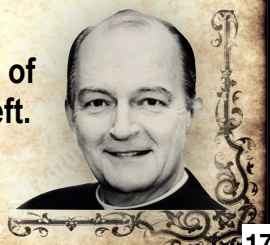
**Our true hope
is not to be seen in this life.**

16

“Idolatry is trying to bring in God’s Kingdom before its time and without its King.”

It seems to be the game plan of both the political right and left.

Richard John Neuhaus



17

*"Walking in the light"
is "walking in the Spirit"
is "walking in the **Word** of the Cross"*

When we
see self in
contrast
to Christ

When we see
self in the
context
of Christ

Death



Life

18

*"Walking in the light"
is "walking in the Spirit"
is "walking in the **Word** and **Way** of the Cross"*

How I see
myself
and others.

How I treat
myself
and others.

**The Word
of the Cross**

(confidence
fearlessness)



**The Way
of the Cross**

(compassion
grace)

19

Look in and up.
Reach out and down.

Confront the abusers
and **care** for the afflicted.

Restore dignity and respect to the
poor, forgotten, washed up, beaten down,
plowed under, passed over.

Cast your cares on God and **seek** to be
a part of God's answer to another's prayers.

Give generously without fear.

20

Listen to concerns
Overlook weaknesses
Value strengths
Empathize with joys & sorrows

Sacrifice in this life.
Hope in the life to come.

Speak the **truth** and **listen** well.

Be an **alien** to this world
and an **ambassador** for the next.

Respond to personal failures and injustice
with grace, peace, patience, and courage.

21

2 Peter

Next week
3:14-18

**Paul's Gospel
is God's Grace,
and Our Gift.**

22