

The Promised Messiah

Heb 10:35-37

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

I have titled this Christmas series, “A Certain Savior for Uncertain Times”

This text was written in uncertain times. About 35 years has elapsed since the apostles had heard the angels say, “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” But Jesus had not come. Paul has finished his missionary journeys. James the brother of John has been put to death. It could be that Paul was in prison.

These were uncertain times for the early Christians. And things were not getting better. The Romans, who once accounted Christianity as a subset of Judaism is now become intolerant of Christians. Although the faith has spread throughout the world, it just made it easier for the Christians to be persecuted and things were only going to get worse.

This passage is a reference to Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NKJV) 2 Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

This passage is a promise from the Lord that the prophecies given by Habakkuk would be fulfilled even though they might not appear to be fulfilled immediately. The events foretold by God will come to pass. That is the idea of making them plain on tablets of stone. But the vision, any vision is only for an appointed time and cannot happen until that time comes. But when that times comes, the event foretold will take place. And although that foretold event seems to tarry they are encouraged to wait for it, for it will surely come to pass since it is the Lord's doing.

In Hebrews the writer is referring to the return of the Lord to earth.

The Hebrew believers were under terrible persecution and the previous verses state.

Heb 10:32-35 32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. NKJV

After they had become believers they had endured “great struggle with sufferings”

They were made a spectacle by those who reproached them and gave them all sorts of tribulations.

They had their possessions plundered.

They had lost families, and positions, wealth and possessions.

All for the sake of a Savior who promised that He would soon return. And yet He had not. They were now tempted to deny Jesus and return to their old Jewish faith. The writer of Hebrews warns them that there was no way of salvation except for Christ and that to deny Him and return to their old faith was futile and there would be no forgiveness for those who continued in that manner.

But then 80 years before this, the Jewish nation had been waiting for their Messiah for over a dozen centuries.

Matthew 11:2-3 (NKJV)² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

Even longer than that as we will see later, even since the creation.

Jude 1:14-15 (NKJV)¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

It had been over 400 years since the last prophecy of the coming Messiah, but yet no Messiah.

The Jews had been through unbelievable trials over the last 200 years with one Gentile leader trying to destroy the Jewish faith all together.

Now they are under the servitude of Rome and the extremely wicked Herod, who even killed his own wives and children when he thought they were a threat.

But in the fulness of time, God did send His Son to fulfill all that was written before concerning Him.

In a quite unusual manner God sent His Son into the world through the use of a simple Jewish maid living in the despised town of Nazareth. To be born in a stable, in the small village of Bethlehem. Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

We face similar uncertain times today, and many doubt that Jesus is going to return.

James 5:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

2 Peter 3:1-13 (NKJV)¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their

own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons 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 dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV) Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Revelation 16:15 (NKJV) "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV) 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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