

10/13/24

“Great Days Ahead or Dread?”

“She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.” (Proverbs 31:25 NLT)

The Plight of the Unbeliever

Hebrews 2:15 – “...all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”

Luke 21:26 – “People fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

The Delight of the Believer

1 Peter 1:3-5 – ³ “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Titus 2:13 – “Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

The Plight of the Unfaithful

Deuteronomy 28:64-66 – ⁶⁴ “Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods--gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. ⁶⁵ Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for

the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. ⁶⁶ You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.” (NIV)

Comfort & Correction for the Captives

Isaiah 51:12-15 – ¹² “I, yes I, am the one who comforts you. So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear? ¹³ Yet you have forgotten the LORD, your Creator, the one who stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth. Will you remain in constant dread of human oppressors? Will you continue to fear the anger of your enemies? Where is their fury and anger now? It is gone! ¹⁴ Soon all you captives will be released! Imprisonment, starvation, and death will not be your fate! ¹⁵ For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea, causing its waves to roar. My name is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” (NLT)

Confidence During Chaotic Close of History

Psalms 46:1-7 – ¹ “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

Revelation 12:10-12 – ¹⁰ “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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