

“Labor Pains”

“While people are saying, ‘There is peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:3)

Yearn for the Return?

Romans 8:23-24 – ²³“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly (apekdechomai) for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved...”

Apekdechomai – apo – away from
ek (intensifier) – thoroughly, completely
dechomai – welcoming

1 Corinthians 1:7 – “So that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait (apekdechomai) for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ”

Galatians 5:5 – “For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait (apekdechomai) for the hope of righteousness.”

Hebrews 9:28 – “...Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting (apekdechomai) for him.”

2 Mindsets

Philippians 3:18-20 – ¹⁸“For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await (apekdechomai) a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”

Colossians 3:2-4 – ²“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Watching & Waiting?

Luke 12:35-37 – ³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.”

Feeding or Fighting?

Matthew 24:45-51 – ⁴⁵“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)