

Title: “The Future: Jesus Tells Us What to Wait For”

Date: 5/24/20

Series: Jesus for Skeptics, Beginners, and Strugglers (sermon 15 of 16)

Text: Mark 13:1-4

“Jesus predicted, and even promised, certain things would happen. This matters more for the present than you might think.”

Outline

Listen to Mark 13:1-4. What is it about?

A cool job: a futurist. (A difficult job, though.)

The Christian life, and why both the past and future matter:

- *The past.* Guilt-Grace-**Gratitude**. Heidelberg Catechism.
- *The future.*
 - What you believe about the future matters! It matters for you today. *Death of the universe. Hitler got away with it. You will be forgotten.*
 - **Hope** comes to mind, and we talked about it last week. It’s more than that. Read John Piper’s *Future Grace*.

Jesus’ three key predictions/promises: the future of the Temple, the Kingdom, and the King

(1) *The temple.* It will be destroyed. fulfilled in 70 AD through the Romans

- a. *The temple was broken before it was destroyed. It was broken because it was obsolete. The curtain already ripped! (Mark 15:37-38)*
- b. So this is a past event for us. We have access to the Holy of Holies even now through the blood of Jesus. A great example of guilt->grace->gratitude.

(2) The Kingdom will arrive (consummation)

- a. There will be a long delay, but it will come (ex. Luke 19:11)
- b. What is the Kingdom of God/heaven like when it comes in full? Food, reclining at the table (Luke 13:29). It is “the renewal of all things.” (Matt 19:28) Including our bodies!
- c. We wait for physical perfection of the Kingdom! This world is not God’s *magnum opus*. That’s coming.

(3) The King will arrive (Matt 25:31, 24:27)

- a. The second coming. “So 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 for him.” (Heb 9:28)
- b. The arrival of the perfect leader!

Questions for Application and Review

- 1. How does the future Jesus proclaimed affect our living in this coronavirus moment? (Part of the answer has to do with the word “moment”!)
- 2. Read Matthew 25, a whole chapter on the arrival of the King and Kingdom.
 - a. How do these things affect your life now?
 - b. What does Jesus tell us to do in this passage?