The King is Coming!

"Theology" is More Helpful Than You Think – Second Coming
“How a proper understanding helps us in everyday life” mini-series
Titus 2:12-14; Revelation 19:11-21

Some people say Jesus drove a Honda, but didn’t like to talk about it. After all, doesn’t John 12:49 quote Jesus as saying: “For I did not speak of my own Accord…” What does that have to do with this week’s topic – absolutely nothing, but you should be to the right place in your Bibles and bulletin by now.

Today is Palm Sunday – the day the Christian Church remembers Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem visually fulfilling Old Testament prophecy about the coming of the Christ or Messiah. READ Matt 21:4-5. “See, your King comes to you.” On the Sunday before Jesus was crucified he specifically had his disciples get a donkey & her colt and rode into Jerusalem as the Messiah. And people recognized this as we READ in v 8-11. This is called Jesus’ “Triumphal entry” which is remembered on Palm Sunday. Because of Passover, huge crowds were visiting from the areas that Jesus spent His most time teaching and doing miracles. They were there for a week of festivities. They knew there was something special about Jesus and when Jesus came in as the Messiah was predicted to enter Jerusalem the place went crazy. Can you imagine a parade where everyone was so excited about a person that they threw their own coats on the ground so the person wouldn’t need to walk on the dusty path? Technically more coats than palm branches were put on the ground and trampled on by the donkeys, disciples and crowds, but I don’t think “Coat Sunday” would have the same effect as “Palm Sunday”. After all it is supposed to warm up some this week!

The King is coming! That is what they celebrated! The King is coming! That Christ or Messiah had been prophesied as the Savior of the people. He would remove the bondage of wicked and oppressive rulers. He would judge all the wicked and wrong things done to others. He would establish a Kingdom of peace, harmony, justice and righteousness. The Christ will rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, fulfilling God’s promise of having a descendant of King David ruling in righteousness & bringing peace to Jerusalem. There are many very powerful promises we find in the Old Testament about this coming King, Messiah or Christ. The King is coming and that should really excite the hearts of all of God’s true followers. By the way, that also means the next time someone drops something on their toe and yells “Jesus Christ”, you can think in your mind or if you are a close friend say out loud, “So you also believe Jesus is the coming King.” To which they will stare at you wondering what in the world you are talking about but you’ll have redeemed their demeaning Jesus in your mind without being judgmental!

PROPOSITION: Jesus is coming again to stop the evil & injustice in our world and bring in a rule of restoration & paradise.

I. Jesus is coming again!
But as we will see in our personal Bible reading this week — remember we are encouraging EVERYONE to pick one of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, and read through the final week of Jesus’ earthly life from the Triumphal entry on Palm Sunday through Jesus Death on the cross for our sins which we will remember at our Friday night candlelight service to Jesus’ resurrection from the dead which we celebrate next Sunday on Easter.... As we see in the final week of Jesus’ life, He did triumph over death, die as a payment for our sin and open heaven to us by grace – but He didn’t stop all the injustice, unfairness, and sin around us. Did Jesus fail as the Christ?

A. Angels confirmed immediately

NOT AT ALL! Turn to Acts 1. Although we can clearly see it now, what the people in the Old Testament didn’t see is that there are actually 2 comings of the Messiah. Once to suffer to conquer sin & satan and a second time to outwardly stop sin and satan. This is why the disciples couldn’t understand Jesus regularly telling them that last year that he was going to suffer and die – then be raised from dead. They could only see the triumphant picture of the coming Savior and not the suffering part. But here in Acts 1:11, we find the very first message that God gave to the disciples after Jesus ascended into heaven. READ Acts 1:9-11. The very first message God gave the disciples after Jesus left them was – Jesus is coming again! That must be a pretty important message!

I love envisioning the scene here. It has taken them 40 days to really believe & figure out all that Jesus’ bodily resurrection from the dead means. Now Jesus, in His resurrection body, literally leaves them by levitating up off the ground and rising into the sky like a helium balloon until his body disappears from sight. As verse 10 says, “they were looking intently up into the sky as he was going.” Their mouths were probably open; they had no words; they had never seen anything like this. They had just asked Jesus (in v 6) when the triumphant part of Messiah’s return was going to happen. “Lord, are you going to restore the Kingdom to Israel now?” That’s not for you to know – Jesus answered – but you will receive incredible power from the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus disappears by floating up to through the clouds. Total amazement.

Now picture two people in white suddenly appear out of nowhere and say “why do you stand here looking into the sky?” Maybe because we just saw something we’ve never seen before. Maybe we are staring because our leader Jesus just disappeared into the sky. BY THE WAY, who are you and how did you pop in out of nowhere? Can this day become any weirder? Talk about God getting their attention so He can give them a most important message that they are never to forget!

What is this super important message that it includes the visit of angels immediately after the astounding ascension of Jesus? Back to v 11b. READ. Jesus is coming again! That same Jesus – not a symbol, not another, not a metaphor – that same resurrection-bodied Jesus you saw go into heaven is COMING BACK the very same way you saw Him go. Visibly, bodily and dropping down from the sky! When will the
Kingdom be restored? When Jesus returns – the King is coming. TURN over a couple pages to Acts 3:19.

B. That is good news for believers

Acts 3:19-21

This is great news for believers. Look at Peter’s words just a month or so after the angels’ words. READ Acts 3:17-21. So it is now clear to Peter that in Jesus’ first coming He fulfilled all the promises dealing with the Messiah needing to suffer and die for us (v 18). But that Jesus is now in heaven and will return a second time to bring times of refreshing and restore everything. READ v 21. In simple terms, Jesus is the Messiah and He is coming again bodily, visibly and from the sky. The King is coming! And when Jesus comes this second time He is going to restore all things – restore justice, restore righteousness, restore goodness, restore health, restore peace. This is great news for all believers. What does any person need to do to get this process started? READ v 19. Those refreshing times start with the forgiveness of our sins, getting a new nature, having God’s Holy Spirit placed in us and restoring a personal relationship with God. But any of the peace, encouragement, love, joy, direction and blessing we feel today is nothing compared to what we will experience when Jesus returns a second time.

C. But judgement for others

Acts 17:31

However, the Old Testament especially makes it clear that Messiah’s coming, also called the Day of the Lord, is going to be a time of judgement for all who refuse to believe. Turn to Acts 17:29-31. READ. The same call “to repent” is found whether we are talking about the restoration for believers or the judgement for those who have done wrong. The man whom God has appointed to judge all with justice is Jesus the Christ. And the proof of this is that Jesus rose bodily from the dead! The second coming of Jesus is bad news to all those who reject the true God, who are self-centered, egoistical, mean, and disobedient to God’s ways. We have been rescued from that coming wrath – not because we are better than others – but because Jesus died on the cross for us and we have received that gift by humbling ourselves in faith, repenting of our sins, and following Jesus alone as our leader.

D. The King is coming in power!

Revelation 19:11-21

The King is coming! Let’s turn to Revelation 19 to get a sensory picture of Jesus’ second coming. It is the total opposite of the first coming where Jesus entered the world in obscurity, being born as a helpless baby, in a manger. READ v 11-21.

- v 11 – Jesus is coming powerfully, victoriously and to halt all evil forces.
- v 12-13 – He is coming as a King – imposing, impressive, and a bit mysterious
- v 14 – Jesus is not coming alone!
- v 15-16 – Jesus is coming mightily and unstoppably
- v 17-21 – There is none like Jesus at the second coming

As the first song on my Newsboys album says, “the King is coming” - Make a way for the King - The King is coming. Picture this awesome power unleashed!
II. Importance of Second coming in everyday life

A. Gives all of life a different perspective

Let's spend the rest of our time looking at how this affects areas in our daily life. The first one that we've already seen is that believing and looking forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus gives all of our life a different perspective. The very first thing God wanted to make clear to the disciples was that Jesus is coming again. Everything else in their life was going to look different if they understood this.

- **Are you confused?** The fact Jesus is coming again to restore everything puts a foundation under the rockiness of our immediate confusion. I may not know whether I should do this or that, but I do know the King is coming to set everything straight.

- **Are you afraid?** The fact Jesus is coming again to restore everything takes the long term fear away. Because there is nothing I can lose now that can not or will not be replaced when Jesus returns.

- **Are you worried?** The fact Jesus is coming again to restore everything lessens our anxiety because that makes all our other worries just temporary. Jesus is going to restore everything when He returns.

- **Are you feeling lonely?** The fact Jesus is coming again to restore everything reminds us that our loneliness is only temporary. When Jesus returns we are going to experience the closest, most compassionate, caring communities ever!

The day Jesus left them, the disciples emotions were all over the place. They were probably more confused at that moment than any other time in their life outside of witnessing their hope destroyed at the actual crucifixion. The first and most important truth God gave them at this time of confusion was the fact & evidence that Jesus is coming again in the future to restore this world! The second coming of Jesus is meant to give all of our life a different perspective – little and big things.

B. Puts a different light on the injustice in the world

The 2nd area that is profoundly affected when we believe and look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus deals with all of the injustice we see around us. Looking at the news can really depress us with all the injustice in the world. Listening to our friend’s problems can really agitate us with the injustice our friends & family are going through. Sitting quietly at home stewing about some injustice done to us personally can totally consumed our minds. Injustice rightly makes us feel uncomfortable and wanting to do something to bring justice, peace or righteousness. But we humans have a poor record of dealing with injustice in ways that actually brings greater good to the world – we major on the minors, blame others, become more selfish, take actions with worst consequences, or become enslaved to bitterness, anger, fear, worry or hopelessness. Jesus’ second coming means (1) ALL injustice will be dealt with in time (2) There is coming a time of real justice – that only comes from God!
C. Brings special hope – something to look forward to

READ Titus 2:11-14. Now look back at v 13. The second coming here is described as “the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” The King is coming and He is coming in glory. We will clearly see Jesus’ full deity. We will experience rescue. All of this brings us to the 3rd area that is profoundly affected when we believe and look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus – our hope grows in life.

READ Titus 2:13. Jesus’ coming again is called “the blessed hope”. Our English word “hope” can have two very different meanings – when we say “I hope it gets warmer this week” it just signifies a wish I have – BUT there is no certainty that it will happen. The other way we use hope is the very opposite – it is the glad assurance something good will certainly – it’s that solid expectation of special blessing on its way. “My hope is in the Lord, who gave Himself for me.” Turn back a page to Titus 1:2. READ. Their hope is sure because it is based on the character of God and their hope is positive because the result is eternal life. Biblical hope is a strong and confident expectation of future reward, blessing or good. The faithful WILL experience God’s promises in the future – that is as sure as God is God and Jesus rose bodily from the dead! This is that sense of hope that Jesus’ second coming brings us so we can rejoice now because of what will surely happen in the future.

How does the word “blessed” affect this hope? Hope is great – but “blessed hope” is over the top and clearly getting rid of an uncertainty! Blessed refers to that which brings pleasure, contentment, happiness or a sense of God’s favor. Our hope is “blessed” in that Jesus’ return will bring in this most amazing & joyful experience for the believer in Christ. We will be blessed beyond measure when we see Christ. The trials of this life will be over, and we will see that “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

So the 3rd area that is profoundly affected when we believe and look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus is that it brings an optimistic, positive hope into our lives no matter what our current situation. Don’t depend on illusionary hope, temporary hope, or hope in things that will certainly fail. Don’t be content to remain in dejection, hopelessness and despair. From ancient times, people have recognized that a spirit of hope had the power to heal afflictions and help them bear times of great suffering, illnesses, disasters, loss, and pain.

D. Motivates to Jesus’ mission

The 4th area that is profoundly affected when we believe and look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus is that it motivates us to join Jesus in His work! We are far more willing to sacrifice the things of now for the greater treasure in heaven. It is a tragedy when we are so earthly-minded that we are no heavenly good.
E. Enhances power of grace (‘NO’ to temptation; yes to godliness) Titus 2:12 (I Jn 3:3)

The 5th area that is profoundly affected in everyday life when we believe and look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus is that it helps us develop greater self-control and godliness in everyday activities. While passages like I John 3:3 show us how this works directly, I want to show you how a strong belief in the 2nd coming actually enhances the power of grace in motivating and empowering genuine victory over sin here in our Titus 2 passage (go back to Titus 2:11). Notice that 2 appearances are mentioned here. READ v 11-13. The first appearance is the grace of God and the second appearance is Jesus coming back in power and glory. In this passage it is the grace of God in v 11 teaches us to say ‘No’ to temptation and bring emotions under the control of God’s truth. It is the grace of God that encourages us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives today. Our response to who God is and what He has done for us is infinitely higher than the “ought to” or “better not” mentality of “works salvation.” BUT notice it doesn’t stop there. At the very same time (“while we wait”) we are to excitedly anticipate that blessed hope of Jesus’ return which will restore so many things. In other words, a strong robust belief in the 2nd coming of Jesus also enhances the power of grace in our lives. It is not just in the appreciation of what Jesus did in the past, but also in the excitement of what is coming in the future that helps us say ‘no’ to ungodliness & worldly passions and put effort into living self-controlled, upright and godly lives now in this broken world. If you are frustrated in your failures in these areas, also strengthen your hope for the future – it will help you.

F. Completes all Jesus has done Titus 2:14

The final area we will mention today that is profoundly affected in everyday life when we believe and look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus is that it completes all that Jesus has done. READ v 14. Jesus past death on the cross to redeem us and purify us is completed when Jesus returns. We haven’t yet been freed from all our wicked thoughts & actions or all of the wicked thoughts & actions of others. We haven’t yet become purified to the level that will help us enjoy eternity to the maximum. But we will experience such major steps look forward – both inwardly and outwardly – when Jesus comes back to restore the good that God designed into His creation. The King is coming!!!