

I'll Be Back

I am positive everyone present is familiar with or has at least heard the catch phrase, "I'll be back." Whether you have seen the 1984 movie "The Terminator" or not, the phrase has been used repeatedly since Arnold Schwarzenegger uttered it in the film. It has stuck with him in several other movies as well and has become his "tag line." "I shall return" was General Douglas MacArthur's famous line from WW2 for those a little older.

The Arnold reference is about as modern as I get but moving a little more into the 21st Century and the cyber age, BRB is more fitting for those who cannot converse without a keypad.

"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots"- Albert Einstein

We may have already reached that point in history. If evolution were true, perhaps in 1000 years, humans will have developed small mouths, bulging eyes, elongated thumbs and smaller ears as verbal communication will have fallen by the wayside.

But not to pick on the younger generation and sorry to disappoint anyone, the generation of idiots were born long before your parents and are presently in political office.

Whatever the reason or phrase, be right back or I'll be back, it signifies a transitory absence and pending return.

Nearly 2000 years ago, before He was crucified for our sins, Jesus told His disciples He would return someday as well. 2000 years is a long time to keep someone on hold, but not compared to eternity.

Matthew 24:3- “And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him alone, saying, “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?”

Jesus' disciples were asking Him when He might return. At the least, they had hoped He would give them enough information of when to look for Him. He did even better than that. He gave them a forecast of things to come.

Matthew 24:4-8- “Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, “Be on guard, so that no one deceives you. For many shall come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ;’ and they shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you. For it is necessary *that* all *these things* take place, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different* places. Now all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows.”

Now as human as His disciples were, like us, they wanted specifics. Having specifics would probably have taken their attention off of the more important matters, matters of more worldly importance. Worldly distractions have a way of redirecting our focus away from God. We can get caught up in the worries or frustrations of day to day living.

Matthew 6:34- “Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*.”

Jesus told them what to watch for regarding future events of the age.

Matthew 24:21- “For then shall there be great tribulation, such as has not been from *the* beginning of *the* world until this time, nor ever shall be *again*.

Matthew 24:24-25- “For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall present great signs and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have foretold *it* to you.

Christ foretold them of events that would come to pass. Not to be confused with a “forecast,” which can also mean prediction, guess, estimate, or conjecture. This was not like any “weather” forecasts we see nowadays. Lord knows they are the consummate experts at “hyping” a story. Andrea can tell you my “admiration for their “what ifs” when giving the forecasts. Technology has certainly come a long way with the development of satellites and radars for predicting weather events but it is still a “forecast.” They assign a number to a disturbance before it is a depression before it becomes a tropical wave, before it becomes a tropical depression, before it becomes a tropical storm before it becomes a hurricane. All the while throwing out the “spaghetti model” predicted paths (both American and European models) in vibrant colors, indicating where it “might” go somewhere in which hemisphere. It does not take much to clean out the shelves in a Walmart... thankfully God has not given us a spirit of fear (**1 Timothy 1:7**).

Besides, Christ told us, (to paraphrase), bad is coming.

Matthew 24:29-31- “But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth

mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to *the* other.”

One thing that is also in our favor, we need not dig a hole and cover ourselves up worrying about these things as certain things must transpire prior to His return. He said so.

Matthew 24:34- “Truly I say to you, this generation shall in no wise pass away until all these things have taken place.”

The only surprise we need be concerned with is the day and the hour of Christ’s return. We do not know when that will be. No one knows.

Matthew 24:36- “But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

Mark 13:32-37- “But concerning that day and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Take heed, be watching and praying. For you do not know when the time is coming. It is like a man journeying

to a far country, leaving his house, and giving authority to his servants, and to each one his work, and commanding the doorkeeper to watch. Be watching, therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming: at evening, or at midnight, or at the cock's crowing, or in the morning; Lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Jesus wanted their focus ***and ours*** to be on our spiritual condition and our relationship with Him. Too many people in the church profess to know Him and do not have a clue.

Matthew 7:20-21- "Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but the one who *is* doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven."

2 Peter 3:3- "Knowing this first, that in the last days *there* will come mockers, walking according to their own personal lusts,"

Jesus tells us numerous times to be patient and *watch* as He will come as a thief in the night. He is not delaying His return for our sakes. It is a time of preparation. A time of spiritual preparedness, spiritual growth, to make ourselves ready for the

soon coming Kingdom of God. Sometimes the delay may take a little longer than anticipated. A lot can transpire in the interim. We have been blessed with a span of centuries for preparation before that trumpet sounds.

James 5:7-8- “Therefore, brethren, be patient until the coming of the Lord.

Consider the husbandman *who* waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient for it, until it has received *the* former and latter rains. You also be patient. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord has drawn near.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4- “Now then, concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need that I write to you; For you yourselves understand perfectly that the day of *the* Lord will come exactly as a thief *comes* by night. For when they say, “Peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail *comes* upon a woman who is with child; and they shall by no means escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness that the day *of the Lord* should overtake you as a thief.”

Knowing this, that Christ has not delayed His coming, we should be striving toward holiness and godliness.

2 Peter 3:9-11- “The Lord is not delaying the promise *of His coming*, as some in their own minds reckon delay; rather, He is longsuffering toward us, not desiring

that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. However, the ***day of the Lord*** shall come as a thief in *the* night in which the heaven itself shall disappear with a mighty roar, and *the* elements shall pass away, burning with intense heat, and *the* earth and the works in it shall be burned up. Since all these things are going to be destroyed, what kind of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

“The Day of the Lord,” or “The Lord’s Day,” whichever way it is used, I am always amazed at how people miss this in the Bible. “Oh, we choose to worship on The Lord’s Day.” We covered that in Cut and Paste Christianity Part 10- The Lord’s Day. It certainly will not be what those in Sunday churches will be expecting. The topic is more than covered in the very pages of the Bibles they carry with them every week. It is sad they miss this and so much more for worshipping God “their” way.

Joel 2:1-2- “Blow the ram’s horn in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain!” Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD comes, for *it is* near at hand—A Day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness. As the morning *is* spread across the mountains, so *comes* a great people and a mighty people; there has never been the like, nor shall there ever be again, even to the years of many generations.”

Joel 2:30-31- “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth—blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome *day of the LORD*.”

Amos 5:18-20- “*Woe to those desiring the day of the LORD!* What *is* this for you? The day of the LORD *is* darkness and not light; As *if* a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house and leaned his hand on the wall, and a snake bit him. *Shall* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness in it?”

Even still, we have been told of these things to come, and the instructions of what to do if we are still alive when they occur.

Luke 21:34-36- “*Watch yourselves*, lest your *hearts be preoccupied* with high living and drinking and the *cares of this life*, and that day come upon you suddenly. For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth. Watch therefore, and pray at all times that *you may be accounted worthy* to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Zephaniah 2:1-3- “Gather yourselves together; yea, gather together, O nation not desired—Before the decree is brought forth, and the day passes like the chaff; before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’S anger comes upon you. Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth who have executed His judgment; seek righteousness; seek meekness. It may be that you shall be hidden in the day of the LORD’S anger,”

God loves those He has called. He would not leave us unprepared. Only we can do that to ourselves. (He loves us all, it is the sin He hates)

Zephaniah 1:14-18- “The great day of the LORD *is* near; *it is* near and comes swiftly, the sound of the day of the LORD. The mighty man shall cry bitterly there. That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the ram’s horn and alarm against the fortified cities, and against the high towers. “And I will bring distress on men, so that they shall walk as the blind because they have sinned against the LORD. And their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung.” Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’S wrath; but the whole earth shall be

devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He shall make even a full end, yea, a terrible end of all who dwell upon the earth.”

Neglecting our spiritual condition will put us in harm’s way. Our own choice.

Hebrews 2:1- “For this reason, it is imperative that we give much greater attention to the things *which* we have heard, lest at any time we should slip away.”

Hebrews 2:3- “How shall we escape, if we have neglected so great a salvation; which was first received when it was spoken by the Lord, *and* was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*;”

There is no try, only do. Our instructions are quite clear. How many times do we read, “he that has an ear, let him hear?”

As we read in the essay, there is little reference in scripture to the Feast of Trumpets. We know it is a memorial. It is a reminder, a commemoration that our God is Sovereign, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will return to establish His Kingdom on this Earth.

Revelation 11:15- “Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.”

Revelation 17:14- “These will make war with the Lamb, but the Lamb shall overcome them; for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who *are* with Him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Our time now is precious in preparing for the sound of the trumpet. God is not delaying, He is patient and generous. He wants us all to be ready.

Revelation 3:10-11- “Because you have kept the word of My patience, I also will keep you from the time of temptation which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly; hold fast that which you have so that no one may take away your crown.

Matthew 24:29-31- “But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to *the* other.”

When that glorious day is here and the trumpet sounds, we will be resurrected saints on the move. It will be time, our Lord Jesus Christ has returned! His Millennial Reign and our eternity have begun! Amen!

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