

**The Rock: 08-07-2022**

**A year with the master**

**Title:** The time in between

**Scripture:** Hebrews 9:24-28

(Black bible Pg. 946 ESV)

**Theme:**

The promise of Jesus' return ought to drive us to work for Him in His redeemed world, where the devil continues to destroy the goodness of God's creation and His people.

**Doctrine:** The Blessed hope (Fund. Truth 13) The return of Jesus

**Introduction:**

If you have been married, or are in the process of being married, you will understand the dynamic tension of the "now and not quite yet".

That time in-between when you said yes, or when you asked and she did say; yes.

That time between then and when you walk down the aisle and look one another in the eyes and say, "I do". That unbelievable moment when the groom sees his bride for the first time dressed in

her beautiful wedding gown, and she sees him waiting for her at the altar. It is incredible moment.

But the in-between, well that period is chocked full of a bunch of roller-coaster rides of, "everything is going according to plan." To "I can't believe we have to do this, that or the other thing. Why do we have to invite them, but not those?"

Or both the bride and groom get so stressed they fight over invitations, food for the reception, music, ETC. You pick it, as many of us have been there. Even if it was a life time ago.

So many things happen in that in-between, from the yes, I will, to the I do..

### **The Story:**

That is the best picture I can come up with to describe the return of Jesus. That dynamic tension of living in the now and not quite yet.

The promise of the Bible that Jesus has fixed this broken world (hard at times to believe, I know). That He has risen and ascended into glory and sits at God's right hand.

That He intercedes on our behalf every day and that He is coming back to fulfill

all of the rest that the Law and Prophets have spoken.

Yet, here we are, still dealing with the bad and the sin, hoping for and waiting for Jesus' return. It is good to be reminded this morning of the three things I've shared before regarding this.

In our lives, we have been saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved. What do I mean by that? Well, in Jesus, we have been saved from sin's penalty, we will ultimately be saved from sin's presence when Jesus returns.

Yet, here in the in-between of those two events, we are fighting every single day against sin's power in our lives and in our world.

There are so many places I could have gone in the Scriptures to talk about His coming back, but I very intentionally chose Hebrews 9 because there is nothing here to muddy the waters regarding what it is Jesus did for us, or the "when" of His return.

I say that, because we (Christians) tend to focus on the very things Jesus said not to. Places like Mark 13, Luke 21, and Matthew 23-25. Good for homework, and beneficial if you want to get a sense of

what I am talking about regarding the end and His return.

But before we get back to Hebrews, I do want us to look at two texts. Words Jesus said to His disciples regarding this event. Because, to steal a phrase: The plain things are the main things, therefore, the main things will always be plain.

(Elaborate a bit on this)

Let's then look at Jesus' words:

**-Matthew 24:36 (ESV)**

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."

The key here is Jesus telling the disciples that even He doesn't know that time. "Nor the Son, but the Father only."

If Jesus doesn't know (didn't know), then why do we think we can or should know? You see, it is enough to know THAT He is coming back and that things will continue from bad to worse- but we are not to lose heart, because we are not without HOPE.

Why? Because of Jesus prayer and promise in John 17:

**-John 17:14-17 (ESV)**

"I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

The verse from last week's study. We have His word, remember? His word is truth-the truth.

So, as things go from bad to worse, His word is our anchor. Jesus doesn't know the time, we do not either.

Also, we are not to try and figure it out with fancy charts, assumed time lines, trying to figure out who the Anti-Christ is, and all that stuff.

So many studies and books have taken so many home groups and Bible study groups into the muck and weeds, falling down rabbit holes trying to figure these things out and all you end up finding is Alice when she's ten feet tall.

Never really sorting anything out. Why? Because we actually have other assignments in this world. Which is the second text we need before we get back to Hebrews:

**-Acts 1:6-8 (ESV)**

"So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

In typical human fashion, right up to the end, the disciples still didn't get it. They want times, they want dates, and most importantly, they want power!

They want it because they want to rule over others, to be the ones in charge, who make the rules, and who can give to the "bad guys" what's coming to them!

Jesus, as patiently as ever, is telling them, "No". You have another assignment, and it isn't to sit in Kings palaces and on the throne.

While I am gone, you will continue my work, in my world. Now Git! Start right here with those right in front of you in Jerusalem. Working your way out into the wider world, telling them all about what I have done for them.

Don't worry about when my Kingdom is going to be set up -that is set in stone and my Father knows when. Just make sure the streets are full with people, all those I have invited to the party.

THAT ought to be every Cristian's focus when it comes to Eschatology (end-times stuff). It doesn't mean that the details don't matter, or that we should ignore the signs in front of us.

It simply means that for us, that is not what matters most. This is not my opinion, but Jesus' command to us. Be ready. What's the best way to be ready? To be doing what He said.

Go, in my authority and make disciples-baptize-teach!

**-Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Now, back to Hebrews for the why?

**Number one: Once for all.**

**-Hebrews 9:24-26 (ESV)**

"For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

He came, at the end of the ages to deal with the Adam and Eve problem. That sin committed in the garden, if you recall our first study on, "Why the Bible."

Eve listened to the snake when she shouldn't have. "Did God really say?"

Adam was unhelpful and out of the garden they went. Not because God is a mean vindictive sky pilot, bent on control and punishment.

Rather because He loved Adam and Eve, because He loves us. Think about it, in Genesis 3:15, God said He will fix the problem that they created.

The writer to the Hebrews is saying the same thing. In fact, He is giving what would be called commentary on that verse.

That this Jesus fixed the sin issue in the world by becoming THE SACRIFICE necessary. Crushing the head of the serpent, the devil.

God the Father paid, in His Son Jesus, the debt He did not owe, in order that we can have the life we do not deserve.  
GRACE!

Is there another worldview out there today which says and does that? No, there is not. You see our heavenly Father wants no one to perish. He alone, in Christ has done all that is necessary, once for all, for all time, for you and for me.

We shouldn't then, be so focused on the end when all the bad people "get what's coming to them"-praying all the while for Jesus to get us out of this mess.

Listen to me: If Jesus is our example, let's remember that He stepped INTO the mess, in order to help us OUT of it, if only we would have faith to believe.

Our mission. Therefore, we are learning in our "year with the master", is that we are now His hands and feet. Sharing Jesus with people in the prayerful hope that they too will believe and receive the

help out of the sin and evil that entangles them.

Sin has been dealt with once and for all time. As N.T. Wright has put it- Jesus has become for us, our righteousness- We stand in His shadow, and He has launched the "New Creation" where Jesus is the one time offering for all.

What we are experiencing now, is the birth pains of a world in conflict with its creator, fighting a battle which has already been won.

### **Number two: We all stand before God**

That is never a question:

#### **-Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)**

"And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment..."

Whether it is before His return, because of our death, or, when He comes back on the clouds with all His angels (weird story, but it's our story), we all face this judgement.

The beauty of the "once for all" is this; we do not have to face it alone! Jesus is our hope and stay.

You see, this particular verse is most unhelpful for anyone who thinks there is nothing but this life, as well as for

those who think we have multiple shots at this life through re-incarnation.

If either of these worldviews are true, there would be no justice or mercy to be had in this world. Now, why do I say that?

All the evil in this world would go unjudged. People such as Hitler, Pol Pot, Stalin, to name a few from recent history, simply turn to dust. Accountable for nothing, if at the end of all things "there is no judgement."

How awful to think that this is all there is! No wonder people are so angry and sad.

Where too, is the mercy in the worldview which tells you that you have to keep working at life, keep struggling at perfection, like a hamster on a wheel - always running, but never getting anywhere.

Never knowing where the target center is, or how much of a bill you owe. It becomes a moving target and a never-ending mortgage payment.

You never know if you hit it, or finally made your last payment. How merciless, and how hopeless.

But you see, the Bible here tells us that, Jesus paid it ONCE for ALL, and ALL will stand before the Creator God in one of two ways:

Cloaked in Christ's righteousness. Saved, redeemed, restored.

Or, they will stand for judgement in their own efforts-not to be sent back so they can give it another go, but rather, to a final judgement which brings punishment and eternal separation from God. Hell...

I want you to hear me this morning. This is not mean or negative. This is what the Bible says. It is why this "end time stuff" is important.

We need to know and understand Jesus! We need to know what He has done for us and this world, and why it is He is so different than any other religious figure we can look at. One word: Savior!

**Number three: Salvation for all who believe.**

We are kept, we are preserved, and held through it all. That is true because Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Law and the Prophets.

He is the one-time, perfect sacrifice, who took upon Himself all the sin this

world had, all the evil the devil could throw at Him and He walked out of that grave. He is the savior.

There is no story like it. Verse 28 is the promise of promises:

**-Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)**

"...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."

He came at the end of the ages to be the sacrifice for us, so that when we stand in Judgement before God, it is never alone! He is our hope -The Blessed Hope that we wait for, that this world needs.

You see, our hope isn't in time lines, and fancy charts. It is not in the trying to figure out Kings and kingdoms and their orders.

It is not in power or politics. Our hope is in a person-Jesus of Nazareth, the risen King. This is our story, the narrative as we would say today which the world needs, but does not want.

Our hope is in nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness. That is what the writer to the Hebrews is telling us. What

He did for us, and why He did it, is what we rest in and hope upon:

**-Cornerstone: Hillsong worship**

"When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then, in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless, stand before the throne."

This is what we believe. Do you believe?