

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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**May 29, 2022**

### **“THE DAY WILL COME;” WAIT FOR IT!” Pt.1**

By Bruce Reeves

What God promised to come, in many passages, always did come, and his promises to us should be anxiously awaited, as Habakkuk 2:3 wisely states: *“For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay.”*

In this article I choose from a great number of such passages and call our attention to the certainty of fulfillment that we see in each case. Be it soon, be it late, the day comes! What should that teach us? The unlying God chooses the promise and the time of its “coming.”

Our assignment is wait for it, for it shall surely come. There are consequences to our response to the promise of the coming day! It’s a serious matter, as scriptural history shows us.



**1. Genesis 15:18,** *“In that day Jehovah made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”* This river of Egypt, or the Nile, was the southern boundary of the land of Canaan, and from hence to the river Euphrates, the eastern boundary, was the utmost extent of it in which it was ever possessed, as it was in the times of David and Solomon, 2 Sam. 8:3; 2 Kgs. 9:26.

Abraham never built a house in the land but dwelt in tents as a sojourner, for he looked for a heavenly city in which to eternally abide (Heb. 11:8-16).

But in that certain day God did make this covenant with Abraham, and kept his promise to him. His seed possessed the land of Canaan. God was right!

**2. Exodus 8:22,** *“And I will set apart in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am Jehovah in the midst of the earth.”*

When God, by the leadership of Moses before the great Egyptian leader, Pharaoh, sent a plague of flies all over Egypt in a display of divine displeasure, in that particular day there wasn’t one single fly in one particular area of Egypt, in Goshen, where God’s people dwelt. How strange! Or, was it? The flies in great abundance were everywhere in Egypt, except there. There was no other explanation: Jehovah God was in the midst of the earth, in absolute control of the world of insects. That day God made it plain to Egyptians and to Israelites just what his mighty power could do. God said that such would come to pass that day, and it did. God was right!

**3. Deuteronomy 4:39-40,** *“Know therefore this day, and lay it to thy heart, that Jehovah he is God in heaven above and upon the earth beneath; there is none else. 40 And thou shalt keep his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days in the land, which Jehovah thy God giveth thee, for ever.”*

Moses in Deuteronomy (- the second giving of the law; or better, the repetition of the giving of the law) directs himself to a second generation, those reared in the wilderness before entering the promised land. (See 17:18-20). Moses is the author (31:9, 24-29).

This day for this new generation of Jews was significant because Moses was reminding them of the great fact of God's sole existence, and that upon obedience to his commands rests the promise of good days upon the earth. This day they were to lay to heart this statement! God was right!

**4. Ruth 3:18**, *“Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall; for the man will not rest, until he have finished the thing this day.”*

Ruth had fulfilled her mission and now she was to sit still and wait for the necessary steps to be executed. She was given the confidence that Boaz would dedicate himself to the matter with all commitment and urgency until he completed his task, whatever the conclusion would be. One of the two would have Ruth for his wife. These words of Naomi remind us of those of Peter, 1 Pet. 5:7, as also of Christ, Matt. 6:25.

There are times when we are to be quiet, immobile. Another (Boaz) is completing his part, compelled with character of promptness and diligence (Eccl. 9:10). He put aside the urgencies of his own business to attend to the matter that he purposed to do. He that day fulfilled his promise concerning interests of another (Ruth). He was fervent in spirit (Acts 18:25). Before the day was over Boaz would complete his project. God had this recorded, and God was right!

**5. Jeremiah 39:16**, *“Go, and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished before thee in that day. 17 But I will deliver thee in that day, saith Jehovah; and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid.”*

Ebed-melech, the second Ethiopian eunuch (Jer. 38:7) mentioned in the Scriptures (Acts 8:27, the first one), nobly got Jeremiah freed from the death of starvation in a dungeon (Jer. 38:8-13).

But in the day (time, occasion) in which God would send the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem (Jer. 37:8,10; 38:2,3) Ebed-melech's life would be preserved by God and not taken by the Babylonian sword, nor harmed by the unbelieving Israelites (that he feared). That day came that God would reward his valor and trust in the Lord. Well says the hymn: “It Pays To Serve Jesus.” (See Matt. 25:31). God was right!

**6. Zechariah 13:1**, *“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. 2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith Jehovah of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered; and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”*

The phrases “in that day” here refer, not to a 24-hour day, but to a specific time in the future when: 1. A fountain for the washing of sin and procurement of spiritual cleanness was coming for spiritual Jerusalem (God's people, his church), and 2. idolatry among God's people would end.

Furthermore, the unclean spirits would no longer be entering people for Jesus and his apostles to cast out, to prove that their messages were divine. The gift of prophecy would reach its end of necessity and then would cease.

We see this “day” come in the passing of the first century with the advent of the gospel and its conditions of pardon, of forgiveness, on the part of God (1 Jn. 3:5). Consider the following passages of events beginning at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2: (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 2:36-41; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

1 Corinthians 13:8-10, *“Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away.”*

This “fountain” was opened and has never been closed. The gospel reached to distant places, Acts 8:4; Rom. 15:19; Col. 1:6,23. These days are those of Hebrews 8:8ff. Rom. 10:4-21 tells of them. Space here does not permit me to continue to mention more pertinent passages.

Unclean spirits passed out of the land, God's people abandoned idolatry as a group problem and prophecy ceased since the faith once for all was delivered to the saints (Jude 3; Eph. 4:13). That day, that time, came. God was right!

## “Tough Questions About Christianity Part 2”

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 3:15**. We must be ready to answer the “tough questions.”

- Tough questions do come: Paul- **Acts 25:17-20**.

### III. How Can Anyone Say They Know The Truth?

- **Assumptions:** No one can know which religious beliefs are true or false, so Christians can't say they know what's true and what's not. Truth is relative.

– **Challenge:** Relativism is the belief that we cannot know what is true. Here's the problem: Take the statement, we cannot know what is true. This statement would have to be true for relativism were correct. But relativism says we cannot know if anything is true or false, thus relativism is self-refuting.

#### ^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- Truth Is Defined By What Agrees To The Facts And Reality.
- $2 + 2 = 4$ ;  $4 + 4 = 8$ ... Mathematics Have Facts And Based In Real Numbers— Not Relative!
- The Same Is True With The Doctrine of Christ- **2 John 9-11**.
- **John 18:37-38; John 17:17; Romans 1:25; Ephesians 4:25**.
- How Do we Know The Truth- **John 8:31-32; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1**.
- **Consequences:** False Teaching = To Truth; No One Could Be A False Teacher.
- Sadly, One Of The Tactics Of Error Is To Accuse It Is Arrogance To Say We Have The TRUTH.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. Why Be A Christian, When There Are So Many Hypocrites In The Church?

- **Assumptions:** Churches are full of people who say one thing and do another. They say they care about others, but they really only care about themselves.
- **Challenge:** The word *hypocrite* comes from a Greek word for a “stage actor.” Hypocrisy is when people put on an act like they measure up to some standard of righteousness or goodness, when in reality they fall short. Jesus didn't mince words when He confronted the religious hypocrisy of His day- **Matthew 23:27-28**. These are tough words from Jesus meant to jar the religious leaders out of their false notion that they measured up much better than everyone else.

#### ^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- “Too Many Hypocrites In The Church” Is One Of Satan's Favorite Myths To Keep People Out Of The Church, And From Even Trying To Obey God's Will (**Matthew 7:21**).
- It Is Based On The Prejudice And Bias Of The World Toward Christians. (**John 15:18-19**).
- Now We Freely Admit That There People Who Only Pretend To Be A Christian, and are Hypocrites— But NOT ALL ARE!
- **John 6:70; John 12:4-6**; Compare To Peter- **Matthew 26:75; Galatians 2:6-14**.
- The Problem Is With The World's Definition Of A Hypocrite... Anyone Who Has Ever Sins Is One!
- Hypocrites are Those Who Pretend Only— No Honesty, Repentance, Or True Obedience.
- **Proverbs 28:13; John 9:41**.
- What If We Let “Too Many Hypocrites In The Church” Stop Us From Obeying God?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

# ***“Potential Dangers In Our Blessings”***

Lesson Text: **Deuteronomy 6:10-12.**

## **Great Blessings That Have Potential Dangers:**

### **I. Great Intellect, Higher Education, & Knowledge. Proverbs 8:11.**

- But Even Good Things Can Be A Curse!
  - ^ Illustration: The Safety of an Automobile Depends on Who is at the Wheel.
    - Someone Safe, Dependable, & Wise Or Drunk & Foolish Behind The Wheel!
- Knowledge And Education Is Power! But If God Is Not In The Driver’s Seat, It Is Bound To Be A Curse! (**Jeremiah 10:23; Romans 1:21-22**).
- The Main Problem Is Not The Great Intellect Itself, It’s The Effect On The Person. *“Knowledge Puffs up”* (1 Corinthians 8:1 NKJB). or *“Makes Arrogant.”* (NASB) **Proverbs 26:12; Proverbs 3:5-7; Why Paul Says... 1 Corinthians 3:18-21.**
- The Wisdom From God Versus Worldly Wisdom- **1 Cor. 1:20-21; James 3:15-17.**

### **II. Time Is A Great Blessing. Ephesians 5:16.**

- But If Misused, It Can Be A Curse! The Same Time Used by Someone to Prepare to Become a Great Surgeon May Be Used By Another To Become A Bank Robber!
- How We Use Our Time... 24 daily, 168 weekly, 730 Monthly, 8,760 yearly.
- Wasting Time Can Be Dangerous— **Proverbs 24:33-34.**

### **III. Wealth Is A Great Blessing. Ecclesiastes 5:19.**

- But if Misused, It Can Be A Great Curse! **Luke 16:11.**
- How We View Our Possessions Is Everything! Does Wealth Change Us? **1 Timothy 6:8-11.** Why Verse 11?
- How Many Lottery Winners Look Back At The Money As A Curse?

### **IV. Possessing Great Beauty Or Charm. 1 Samuel 25:3.**

- Some Women Are Truly Blessed With Attractive Appearance & Charm.
- But It Can Also Be Misused: Delilah, Jezebel, Salome, Herodias....
- **Proverbs 5:1-8; Prov. 31:30.**

### **V. Having Authority Can Be A Great Blessing. Matthew 8:8-9.**

- When Someone Wise And Competent Is Given Authority... It Is A Blessing.
- But When Someone Is Unwise, Cruel, Or Oppressive.... A Curse!
- **Proverbs 29:2; 1 Kings 12:12-16.**

### **VI. Having Great Popularity & Reputation Among Men. Proverbs 22:1.**

- When Everyone Knows Your Name And Your Deeds— Can Be A Blessing.
- But It Can Also Be A Great Curse! If We Try To Hang Onto Such....
- It Caused Many To Compromise To Keep Popularity- **John 12:42-43.**
- Jesus Didn’t Compromise To Keep Popularity- **Luke 2:52; John 6:66-68.**

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble, Greyson Reynolds (Nellie's classmate), Sandra Oliver, and Janis Johnson (Savannah), and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law), And Dennis Davis was requesting prayers while in the Hospital.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Fred Johnson  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Tough Questions About Christianity Pt. 2"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Jerry Kennemur  
Galatians (Randy Blackaby)  
*Page #41 Question #9a*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Dan Cottrell  
*Deuteronomy 6:10-12*  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Danny Sheffield  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "Potential Dangers In Our Blessings"  
**Closing Prayer:** Doug George

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**June 1st:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
**Workbook:** Jeremiah & Lamentations  
(John Humphries)  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #28, Question #4*  
**Invitation:** Paul Busby  
**Song Leader:** Russell Briggs  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs