

BE PATIENT UNTIL THE LORD COMES

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *"Be patient therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord."* v 7.
- B. SETTING:
1. In the first verse of chap. 5, a stinging rebuke had been directed to the non-Christian rich who oppressed the poor.
 2. James now turns to the victims, his words are intended to bring them comfort and encouragement.
 3. But they must be patient.
- C. PATIENT...by definition.
1. Steadfast
 2. Longsuffering.
 3. Faithful
 4. "Unto death". Rev. 2;10.
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ILLUSTRATIONS

- A. THE FARMER:
1. Plants.
 2. Cultivates.
 3. In due season - harvest.
- B. MURMUR NOT: v. 9.
1. It is tempting to become fretful and impatient with one another.
 2. To find fault.
 3. It is sometimes hard to maintain the right attitude when we are suffering.
- C. EXAMPLE OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS. vs. 10,11. *"take, brethren, for an example of suffering and of patience, the prophets who spake in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed that endured; ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity, and merciful."*
1. They were often unheeded. Mistreated and killed.
 2. *"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you."* (Matt. 5:12).
 3. Job. *"Sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."* (Job. 1:22).
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JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

- A. OLD TESTAMENT is filled with the promise of his FIRST COMING. So the New Testament is filled with the promise of his SECOND COMING.
1. One out of every 25 verses in the entire book refers to His coming.
 2. In O.T. people spoke confidently of it, but as years passed it grew dim, and when He did come they were NOT expecting Him.
 3. In N.T. prophets spoke confidently of Christ's second coming. But almost 2000 years have come and gone and the expectation for many people have perished.
- B. *"Knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."* (II Pet. 3:3,4).
1. But just as surely as he came the first time, Christ is coming again.
 2. *"Read II Peter 3:8-10; 14"*
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Promise of His Second Coming

- A. Our faith in the second coming of Christ rests, FIRST of all, on his own testimony in the matter.
1. The promised "Comforter" (John 14:26).
 2. Then he added: (John 14:3) "I come again".
- B. Our faith in the second coming of Christ rests TOO, on the promise of angels.
1. One such occasion is in the first chapter of Acts (1:9).
 2. Then (Acts 1:10-11).
- C. THEN we also have the sure word of inspired apostles and other N.T. writers.
1. Heb. 9:27,28. So Christ...shall appear a second time...
 2. I Thess. 4:16-18....
 3. The Lord's Supper proclaims His death "till he come" (I Cor. 1:26).
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DIFFERENCE

- A. HIS second coming will be Different from His First Coming.
1. Jesus' first coming was (ended) in humiliation.
 2. He had existed in heaven with the Father from eternity and in order to come among men he "emptied himself" (Phil. 2:7,8) (Acts 8:33).
- B. But as surely as His first coming was in humiliation, His Second coming will be in GLORY!
1. Rev. 1:7
 2. Acts 17:31; Matt. 25:31,32 (read)
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Time Of His Second Coming...

- A. From the time of Christ's departure from the earth, men have been trying to determine the day and hour of his return!
1. Paul spoke of men who sought to "beguile" and "trouble" the saints by teaching "that the day of the Lord is just at hand." (II Thess. 2:2).
 2. William Miller set date in 1843, then in 1844. Charles T. Russell set it for 1874. Countless others, right up to the present day have set the time for the return of Christ. They all have one thing in common...THEY ARE ALL WRONG!
- B. LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAID: *"But of that day or that hour knoweth no one, not even the angels in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is."* (Mark. 13:32,33)
1. The day of the Lord will come *"as a thief in the night"*. (I Thess. 5:1)
 2. Matt. 24:38,39.
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Events To Accompany His Return

- A. Although we cannot know the exact time of the Lord's return, we can know some of the things which will happen.
1. His coming will be spectacular in its nature. (Rev. 1:7; I Thess 4:16).
 2. The dead will all be raised. (John 5:28,29).
 3. The living will be changed (I Cor. 15:51).
 4. The Judgment will take place. (Matt. 25:31,33). Rev. 20:11,12).
 5. An eternal separation of the righteous from the wicked will be made and final sentence will be passed on all men. (Matt. 25:33-34, 41).
 6. The Kingdom will be delivered up to the Father (I Cor. 15:24).
 7. The earth will be destroyed (II Pet. 3:10).
- B. HEAVEN WILL BE.
1. "When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow with humble adoration
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!
 2. Are we ready for His Second Coming??
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