

## **Be Patient, He's Coming Soon!**

'It is not always in our best interest to know the future. A frog called a psychic hotline for frogs. The phone psychic told the frog that he was about to meet a beautiful young woman who would want to know all she could about him. The frog was excited to hear this news and asked the psychic, "When will I meet this beautiful woman?" The psychic answered, "You will meet her next week". "And where will we meet?" the frog probed. The psychic hesitated and then told the frog, "You will meet this woman in her biology class".'

On the other hand, maybe it was good for that frog to know that he only had a week left to live. He could check off his bucket list, get his affairs in order, and go out with a "bang"! In the same way, it is good for us to know about the future that awaits us. And our Lord has told us a lot about what to expect, and when. From the glorious descriptions of our lives to come, both in heaven and on this earth, we know that He is victorious over everything and everyone that rejects Him. It's not really even a contest. He is infinitely powerful, that is, omnipotent, all-knowing, omniscient, and present everywhere all at the same time, that is, omnipresent. And only He is all those things, all at the same time. No one else comes even close. Who could even attempt to overcome all

those advantages? The Lord knows everything about us, what we're going to say and do and when, even before we know it. The devil, as awesome and powerful a supernatural being as he is, is none of those things. We know that he has to operate the most extensive spy network of demons, fallen angels, familial spirits, principalities and powers, that he can muster. But even with all that, he can not surveil all of us 24/7. And hardly be able to predict what we're going to do and when and where we're going to do it. Imagine how he literally lusts after the surveillance networks that are currently being built around the earth through our cell phones, social networking apps, and security cameras deploying in neighborhoods all across the globe. Only then can he even begin to approximate what God knows already, but only at any one given time. While God already knows everything that has happened, and everything that will happen everywhere.

So you see, the devil is just another created being, similar to us, but different in several important aspects. And he, and all his minions, is limited, much like we are. Even all the evil, rebellious fallen angels are not necessarily in league with him, as, like us, they are individuals with free will, and their own personal interests. However, when the devil makes his final assault on heaven, in his megalomaniacal attempt to usurp Lord Jesus' absolute rule over all the universes, he will necessarily attempt to unite all the spiritual rebels with all rebellious humans to attack Israel, the Jews, and all who've in that near future given their lives and alle-

giance to Christ Jesus, to annihilate all who've come to love God, and so to "legally" assume the dominion, that is, legal authority to control this earth, making it their home. Though he may attempt to assault God's very throne due to his unbridled pride and hatred of God, he knows doing so will be absolutely futile.

We though, are destined to be with God the Father for all eternity. He created us, all of His creations in fact, because He is love. He loves all that He has made. Otherwise, He would not have made them. For God is love. For any of His creatures to rebel against His love causes Him unimaginable pain. For the more we know Him, the closer we get to Him, the more we begin to grasp just "how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is" (Ephesians 3:18). His love is wider, longer, higher and deeper than the very multiverse itself! Once we get a glimpse, get a taste, of His immeasurable love for us, if we have any decent bone in our bodies, we will rush to Him, throw ourselves into His loving arms, and never want to leave. But how few of us actually experience His love in that way during this life.

Though we may not emotionally feel His love for us, yet, if we ask Him, I'm sure He will enable some way, unique to you, and especially meaningful only to you, to reveal to you just how much He loves you. If you will throw yourself on His mercy, when you realize just how badly you've messed up, ignored Him, turned away from His ways, and done what you wanted instead of what you knew was the right thing, if you just turn to face Him, even

looking down, not only will He accept you as that father accepted his prodigal son, He, too, will clothe you in brand new, gorgeous, heavenly garments of salvation, put a magnificent, custom-made ring on your finger, and throw a welcome-home banquet for you that will end all banquets. And folks, you won't be alone. For that banquet will include all us former sinners. It'll be a glittering, red carpet gathering of the most brilliant, glorious beings this multi-verse has ever seen. Those who've been the most humble will be the most resplendent in God's glorious, holy presence, Whose very proximity forever pulsates with pure life itself. This is but the briefest of descriptions of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

And we know this because the Savior has told us ahead of time. If we are looking forward to this, imagine how He can hardly hold back until the time is ripe! He wants us in Heaven's banquet hall even more than we want to go there! For He is the prize, the "upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14, NASB). So in view of His calling to us, really, what is this earth? What of our lives in this here and now? As we learned from King Solomon reading through Ecclesiastes, in one sense, everything about our lives now is meaningless. In that sense, in comparison with what awaits us, everything truly is as nothing. But nothing in our lives is actually meaningless. Because, as we give Messiah Jesus our lives, everything, even the most minute and tiny triviality, is imbued with meaning for us, and for progress in this life which compounds to our wondrous destiny of everlasting, unique purpose in

His Kingdom. So while we keep in view what lies ahead of us and is approaching ever closer, we still must live with the purpose God has given us as His instruments, His agents, His ambassadors, on this earth.

Though we so long for the glorious future that awaits us, the devil is trying his best to distract us, deceive us, and, if possible, destroy us while we're on this journey. Folks, he will not succeed. Though he may snag us on one thing or another along the way, cause us to unnecessarily take one detour or another, he'll never succeed in preventing us from making it to the "celestial city" and finding our seat at the Lord's immense banquet table. For as long as we trust the Lord, continue to believe in Him, He has promised that we will make it. He will never fail us! Jesus never fails! His guarantee He has put in writing. It's right here in Philippians 1:6: "He Who has begun a good work in you will complete it" (NKJ). And also in Hebrews 12:2: "Let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (NKJ). So with those ironclad guarantees, don't let the present get you down. Let the peace of Christ, which is beyond all understanding, rest upon you and keep your soul in constant peacefulness.

Think how our Lord Jesus slept soundly in the boat crossing the Sea of Galilee, while it was anything but peaceful. Buffeted by blustering gusts of wind, picking up stinging sprays of water from the waves breaking over the deck of the boat, while it rocked and rolled, dipped and climbed over the choppy, churning sea, the

Lord Jesus remained unmoved, unconcerned, *unconscious*, dead to the world, sound asleep. All His disciples were just frantic, practically losing their minds as they feared they'd momentarily be swamped, the boat capsize, and they all drown in the stormy sea, an ignominious end to what had begun as a promising life to bring needed change and a restoration of righteousness to the first century Jews. In sheer panic and terror, they shook awake their Lord and Master. Luke 8:24-25 records it: 'The disciples went and woke Him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, He rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Then He asked them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were terrified and amazed. "Who is this Man?" they asked each other. "When He gives a command, even the wind and waves obey Him!"'

So, where is your faith? If you have your hand in His, then your faith should be strong. If you don't have your hand in His, then whatever faith you have is truly meaningless. For He has given us the signs of His soon return. Today's reading from Isaiah 35 is but one. The very lands in Israel spoken of in this chapter are blossoming, just as here prophesied. This is yet another proof that His return is just around the corner. So though the world around us gets ever bleaker and darker, remember that it's always darkest before the dawn—His second coming. He's coming back. Soon! Rejoice and be glad! Share this fantastic news. Prepare His way, as John the Baptist did. He's coming back!

