

The Thrill of Hope

MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2020

The Incarnation & Our Coming World!

Crucial review:

1. Jesus' people preoccupy themselves with Him. See 2 Corinthians 3:18.
2. Our lives with Jesus begin with His deity. See Hebrews 1:8, 10, 6 & Colossians 1:18-19.
3. Thus, Jesus' incarnation produces confident excitement. See Hebrews 2:9, 14, 17.

Setting the context of Hebrews 2:1-4: Don't take for granted "such a great salvation"!

Heb. 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

How great is our salvation? It produces for us "the world to come" (Heb. 2:5).

Heb. 2:5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

1. Let's look at what makes our coming world so great.

- a. People have always longed for more (Heb 11:10, 16, 26).

Heb. 11:10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. . . . 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. . . . 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

- b. It comes with some real drama (2 Pet 3:10 cp Rev 21:1-4).

2Pet. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

- c. Its moral environment is ideal (2 Pet 3:13).

2Pet. 3:13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- d. Our relationships with God & people are ideal (Rev 21:3).

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

- e. We will enter & rule with Jesus in His kingdom (Luke 22:28-30).

Luke 22:28 "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, 29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, 30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

2. This has always been God's plan for humanity (Hebrews 2:6-8). See Psalm 8:4-6.

a. Creation displays God great care for us (6).

Heb. 2:6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?"

b. God designed us to rule over this creation (7-8a). See 1 Corinthians 6:2-3.

Heb. 2:7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8a putting everything in subjection under his feet."

c. But now we live in hope of what's on its way (8b).

Heb. 2:8b Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

Conclusion: a quick glance at who & what makes our destiny absolutely certain (Heb 2:9).

Heb. 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor **because** of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Our hearts thrill with hope for the future as we look upon, and more deeply value, Jesus. What aspects of Jesus's person and life will you reflect on this week?
2. What most excites you about your coming world?
3. What do you envision it to be like to rule on the new earth with Jesus? What kind of a ruler will you be?
4. What's one of the first things you'll want to do on the new earth?

SONGS

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" – James Montgomery

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" – Edmund Hamilton Sears Richard Storrs Willis

"O Praise the Name (Anastasis)" - Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings

"In Christ Alone" – Stanfill

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$19,077.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,662,789.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,678,922.00