

“Look, I come unexpectedly!”

Revelation 22:6-7

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, June 19, 2022, 10am

also on Facebook Live Stream and YouTube

Coffee/Question:

It is strange, but true, that the most important turning-points of life often come at the most unexpected times and in the most unexpected ways.

Napoleon Hill

03:00

Share an example of when an important turning-point came unexpectedly into your life.



These two verses are a concluding summary statement of the whole book. Let's look first at verse 6.

Revelation 22:6

The angel said to me,

“These words are trustworthy and true.

**The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets,
sent his angel to show his servants
the things that must soon take place.”**

Verse 6 repeats what the One on the throne said in chapter 21:5 –

Revelation 22:6

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sent his angel to show his servants
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Revelation 21:5

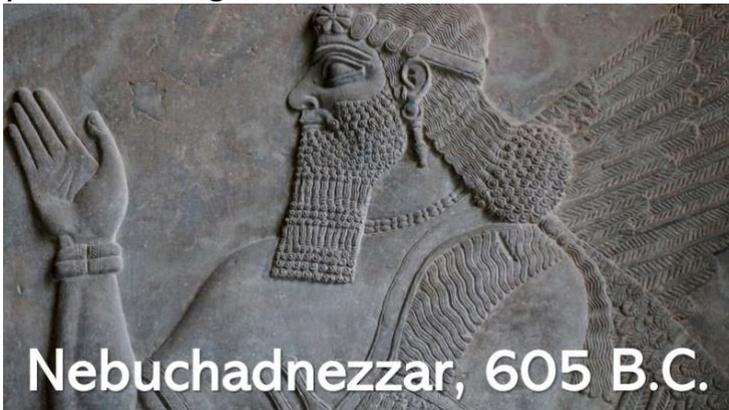
“Write this down,

for these words are trustworthy and true.”

What God says... is trustworthy and true... because this is who God is – he is trustworthy and true.

One of the OT books is called Daniel.

As a teenager, Daniel was taken into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar in the first year of his reign, which was in 605 BC.



Nebuchadnezzar, 605 B.C.

Daniel was selected along with three other Hebrew teenagers for a three-year training period where they were taught the language and literature of the Babylonians, for the express purpose of preparing them to enter into the king's service.

In the second year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, 604 BC, the king had a dream that greatly troubled him.

The king asked his wise men - his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers, to tell him what he had dreamed... and then... to interpret the dream for him.

What the king asked of his wise men was impossible.

They all tried to tell the king this.

But the king responded that if they could not do as he asked, then they would all be put to death.

This order unfortunately included Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, in spite of the fact that they were only in the second year of their training.

When Daniel heard of what had happened, he took action.

He spoke with the captain of the guard... who facilitated him speaking with the king... of whom he asked only one thing... time.

God gave Daniel favor with the king and his request was granted.

Daniel then petitioned God... asking for mercy that he and his friends might not be executed... and God granted Daniel mercy... revealing to him that very night... both the dream and its meaning.

When Daniel appeared before the king, he did not claim credit for what God had made known to him.

**“There is a God
in heaven
who reveals
mysteries.”**

Daniel told the king, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen... in the days to come.” Daniel 2:27-28

Daniel then proceeded to tell the king... what he had dreamed... and then what the dream meant.

When he finished, Daniel said to the king...

**“The great God has shown the king what
will take place in the future.**

**The dream is true, and the interpretation
is trustworthy.”**

Daniel 2:45b

The words spoken by Daniel to the king are remarkably similar to what the angel said to John in Revelation 22:6.

There is another significant detail we need to take note of.

God had shown to King Nebuchadnezzar future events that were... far away.

Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar:

“The great God has shown the king what will take place **in the future**. Daniel 2:45b

The angel to John:

“...the things that must **soon** take place.”
Revelation 22:6

But to the apostle John, on the island of Patmos... that same future which had been shown to Nebuchadnezzar, was now said... to be near.

This emphasis... at the end of the book of Revelation...

Revelation 22:6

“...the things that must **soon** take place.”

Revelation 1:1

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants **what must soon take place**.”

... “these things must soon take place”
was also how the book of Revelation began.

It is important to God that his people know, in the words of GK Beale, that the coming of Jesus is...

imminent

Look at Romans 13:10-12a.

Romans 13:10-12a

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time.

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; **the day is almost here.**

God's future is almost here!
It is upon us; it is about to happen.

Revelation 22:6

The angel said to me,
"These words are trustworthy and true.
**The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets,
sent his angel to show his servants
the things that must soon take place."**

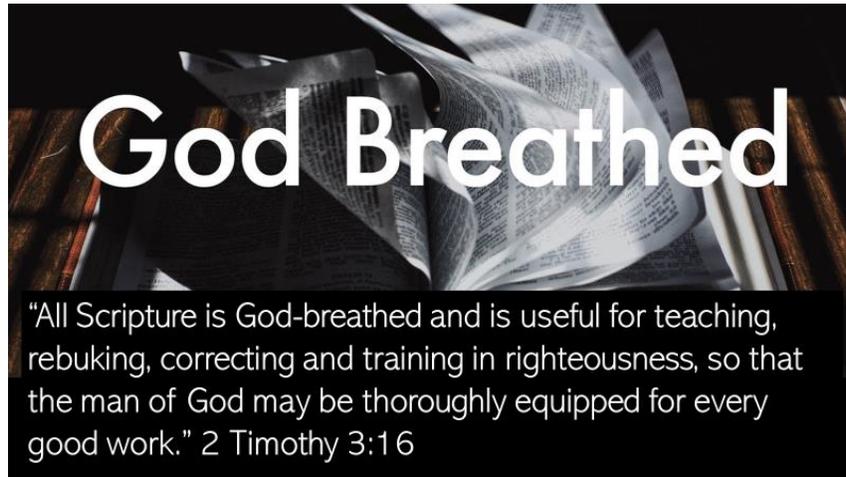
The Bible teaches us that truth is found in the person of God.
We do not look within ourselves for truth; we look to God.

The God who speaks; the God who communicates in understandable language to humanity, since the days of Moses, purposefully directed his prophets to write down his words, so that all peoples and generations might know what he has said. Through the apostle Peter God said...



God breathed out his word, and the Holy Spirit who carried along the prophets... opened the ears of the prophets to hear that word and enabled their minds and hands to write down exactly what they had heard.

The result of this is that...



This is why the Bible is unlike any other book.

It is....

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Hebrews 4:12-13

As the book of Revelation concludes, it was important to God that his people hear yet one more time... the words of this book are trustworthy and true because of the One who breathed them out.

Verse 7

“Look, I am coming soon!

Blessed is the one
who keeps the words
of the prophecy
written in this scroll.”

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“Look” is a word intended to grab the attention of the listener; emphasizing that what is about to be said is of the utmost importance.

Verse 7

“Look, I am coming soon!

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“I am coming” ...is a present tense verb.

The significance of using the present tense... and not the future tense...

emphasizes the certainty of what is being said by Jesus.

Jesus wants his people to live with this certain hope.

Verse 7

“Look, I am coming soon!”

**Blessed is the one
who keeps the words
of the prophecy
written in this scroll.”**

The word “soon” is used as an adverb and has the sense of “quickly, at once, or suddenly.” <https://bible.org/seriespage/29-epilogue-rev-226-21>

Look at how Jesus spoke of his sudden, unexpected return to his disciples in Matthew 24:37-44.



This contrast between the coming of the Son of Man and the flood in the days of Noah is intended to help the people of God understand... the suddenness... of Jesus’ return.

The earth in the days of Noah was corrupt.

Every inclination of the thoughts of human beings was only evil all the time.

The Bible says the heart of God was grieved that he had made humankind, and so God determined to wipe mankind from the face of the earth.

Only Noah found favor in the eyes of God.

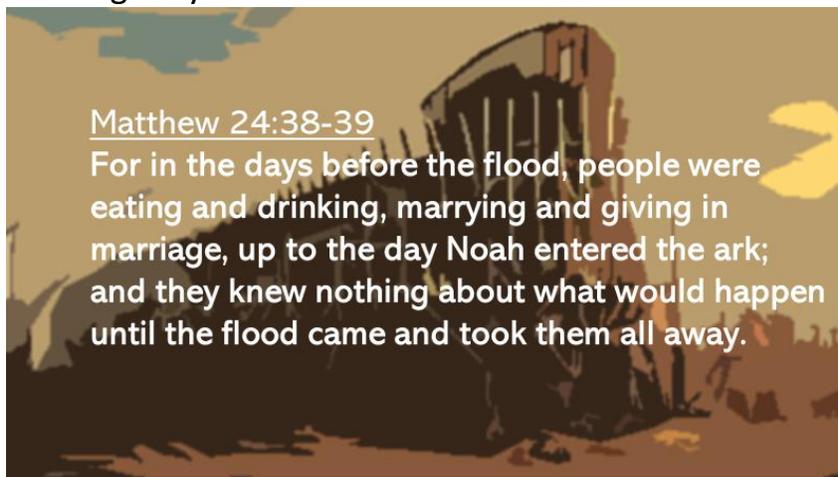
This is why God directed him to build a massive boat in which he and his family and selected creatures of the earth would be saved.

It took Noah approximately 100 years to build the boat. But in addition to being a boat builder, 2 Peter 2:5 describes Noah also as a preacher of righteousness.

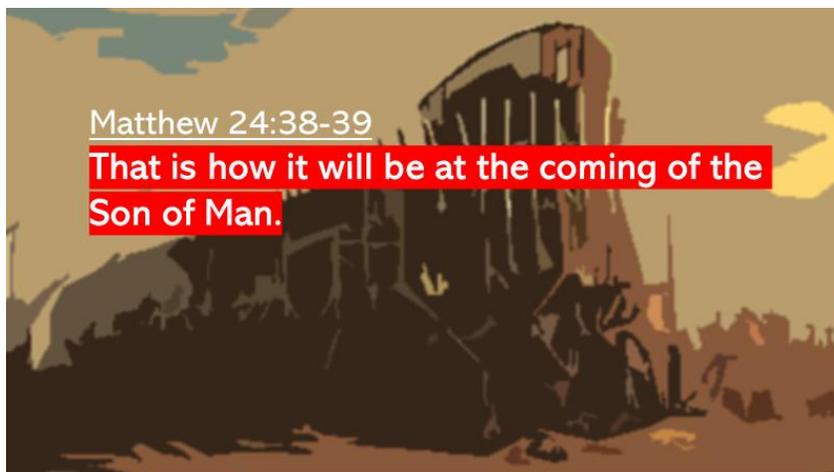
While he built, Noah communicated to those who inquired, “What are you doing?”

Noah spoke to those who inquired... of who God is, and the danger that humanity was in because of their sin.

1 Peter 3:20 says that while Noah built and spoke, God waited patiently. But tragically... Noah was not listened to.

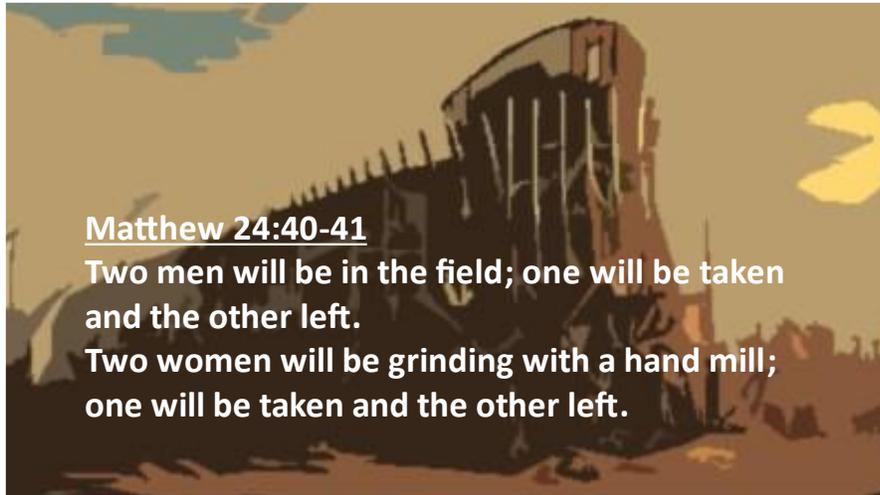


Right up until the day he entered the ark, people lived their lives as if God didn't exist or matter.



Jesus said, when he comes again, the world of humanity without God will be as unprepared as those who lived in the day and time of the flood.

He said...



Matthew 24:40-41

Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

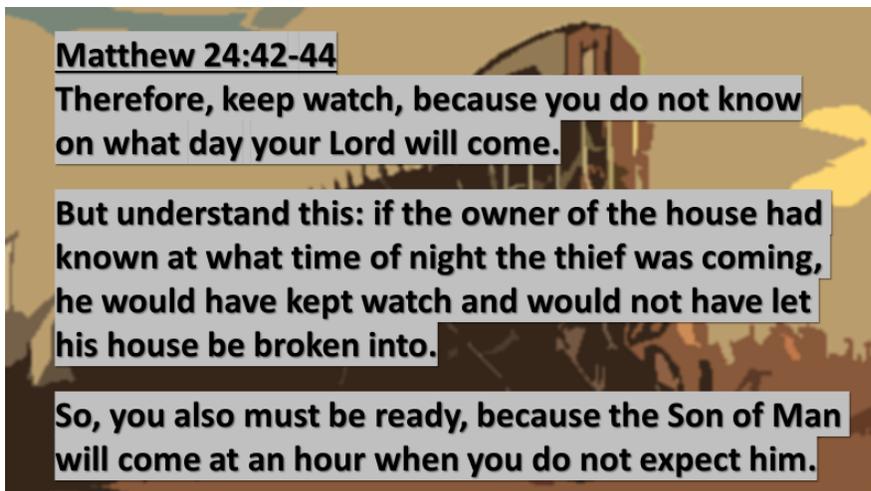
Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Jesus is coming soon.

His return is imminent and will be sudden and unexpected.

How then are Jesus' disciples to live in the last days?

This is what Jesus told them...



Matthew 24:42-44

Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

So, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

What does it mean to keep watch?

It means to be alert, to be ready, to be prepared.

Jesus used a brilliant illustration to make his point.

He said... if a homeowner knew his house was going to be broken into by a thief, that homeowner would watch... and be ready to stop the thief when he attempted to break into his home.

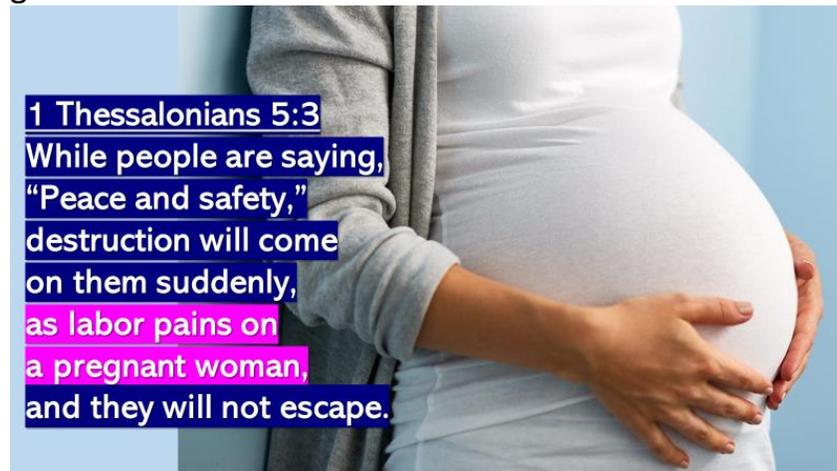
When Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, he too used this same analogy.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

... you know very well that the day of the Lord **will come like a thief in the night.** While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly...

Paul also used a second analogy.

He said to think of Jesus' coming as being like when a woman who is pregnant goes into labor.



1 Thessalonians 5:3

While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

Even though a pregnant woman knows at some point around nine months, she will deliver her baby, the moment when labor starts is always unexpected and sudden.

So it will be with Jesus' coming.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief – unexpectedly.

The day of the Lord will come like labor pains – suddenly.

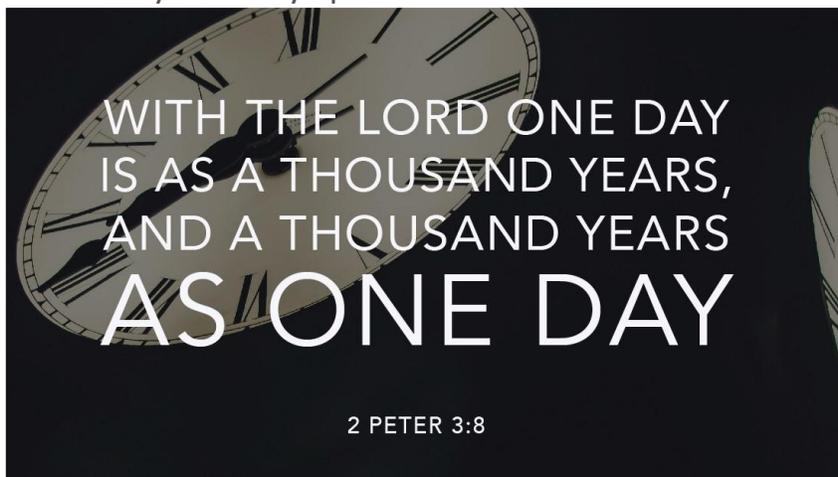


Nineteen hundred years have passed since these words – “I am coming soon” – were spoken to John and then written down.

The word “soon” is not to be understood according to a calendar.

Here we must remember that God lives outside of time as we experience it.

This is why the Holy Spirit moved Peter to write in his second letter, 3:8...

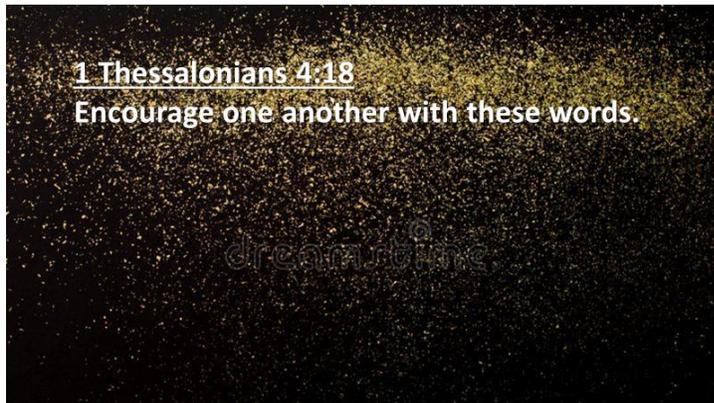


The coming of Jesus is imminent; it is near; it is upon us.

This is why Jesus told his followers to be watchful and ready.

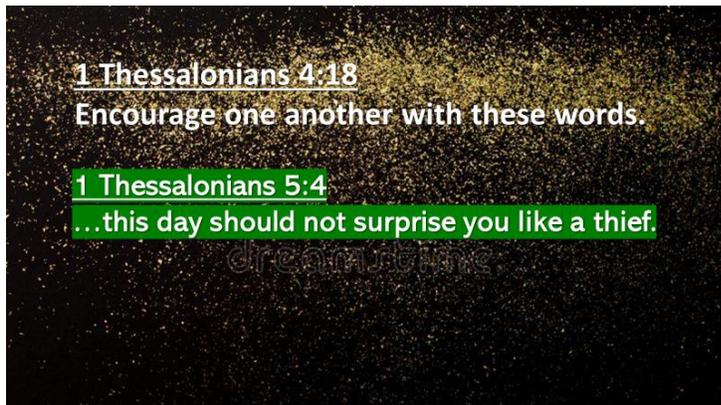
The Holy Spirit through Paul additionally said to the people of God, this is how you are to live in light of the truth and the hope that Jesus is coming soon.

First he said to them...

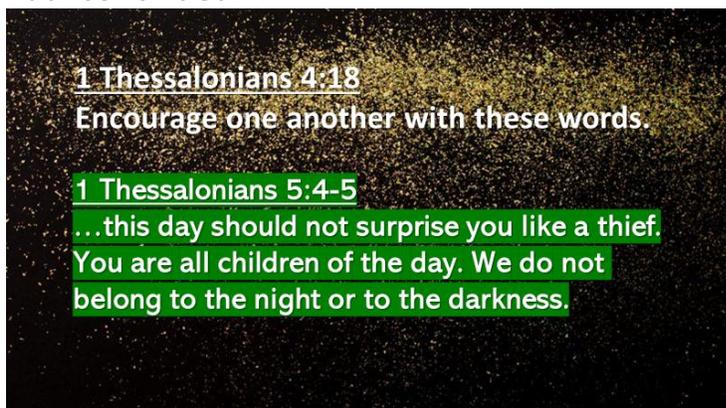


In the challenges we face in following Jesus and living in this world; we need to remind one another... regularly... Jesus is coming... soon.
Doing so helps to reset our focus.

Paul continued and had more to say regarding how followers of Jesus are to encourage one another.
He tells us...



This is what the book of Revelation has said a number of times.
This is what Jesus himself said.
Paul continued....



We encourage one another by reminding one another of who we are because we've trusted in Jesus.

We are children of God.

We belong to God.

When Jesus comes he is coming for us.

This is the truth by which we encourage one another... it's how we build one another up in the faith.

Verse 7

"Look, I am coming soon!

**Blessed is the one
who keeps the words
of the prophecy
written in this scroll."**

A powerfully subtle lie which Satan has repeatedly used and with great success across a thousand generations... is that if a person obeys God...

...if they live in line with what God says is good and right...

...if they spend their life for Jesus and his cause...

...they will miss out...

...they will miss out on worthwhile experiences...

...they will miss out on amazing opportunities...

...they will be left with regrets... their life will be impoverished.

But look at what Jesus himself said to his church, to his people!

If you obey me...

...if you keep the words of this prophecy...

...if you live with a posture of watchfulness and readiness...

...if you encourage one another and build each other up in the faith...

...by helping one another to stay focused on the things that are unseen...

...by reminding one another of who you are because of whose you are...

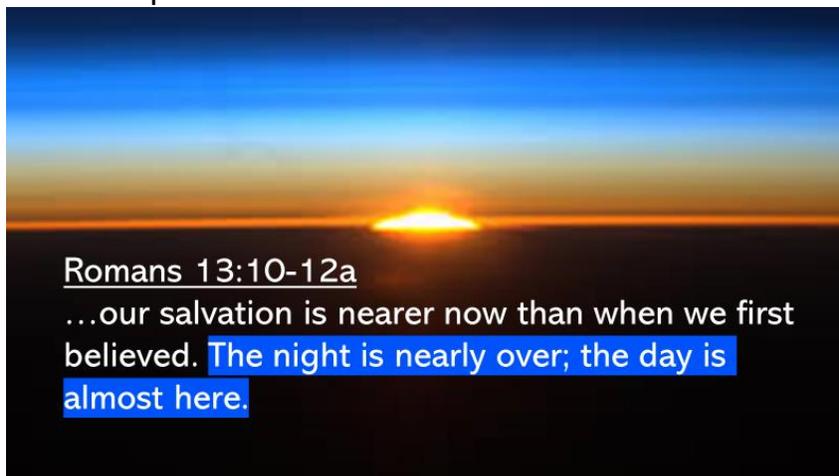
...you will be blessed...

...you will be blessed by the Father, the Son and the Spirit...

...you will be blessed with joy that floods your heart...
...you will be blessed with the peace of God that passes understanding...
...you will be blessed with grace that is enough...
...you will be blessed with mercy that is new every morning...
... you will be blessed with contentment of soul

There is no blessing in disobedience.
True blessing is found in obedience to God.

Jesus is coming soon.
His return is imminent.
So... stay the course.
Keep the faith.
Do not grow weary of doing good.
Live with perseverance.



The night is nearly over.
The day is almost here.

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Revelation

2:5 – I will come to you

2:25 – Hold fast until I come

3:3 – I will come like a thief... against you

3:11 – I am coming soon... hold fast

3:20 – I will come in to him

6:17 – the great day of wrath has come

7:14 – they came out of the great tribulation

11:18 – your wrath came and the time for the dead to be judged

12:10 – now salvation, power and the kingdom have come

14:7 – the hour of judgment has come (14:6)

16:15 – I am coming like a thief

19:7 – the marriage of the Lamb has come