

1) Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life

Week 7 of 7, John Kincaid, Summer, 2013

2) The Blessed Hope – Titus 2:13

- We wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Our Lord will return suddenly, without warning
- Rapture: all Christians will be with the Lord in the air
- This group includes those who have died in Christ
John 14:1-3; 1 Thes.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-54
- “We shall not all sleep”: Christians living on the day of the rapture will not experience death

3) But we shall all be changed - 1 Cor.15:51

- The dead in Christ will rise first; then living believers will be caught up together with them. 1 Thes.4:16-17
- In these 2 verses, we receive 4 promised blessings:
 - Return (of the Lord, to be with believers forever),
 - Resurrection (of the dead in Christ),
 - Rapture (of all Christians, living and dead), and
 - Reunion (with Christian loved ones)
- All believers will receive glorified bodies. Phil.3:20-21
Col.3:4; Rom.8:23; 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor.13:12; 2 Cor.5:1-5

4) In these last times for you – 1 Pet.1:18-20

Rapture in Scripture always has practical application:

- John 14:1-3 - Jesus is coming back, don't be troubled
- 1 Thes.4:13-18 - the rapture is an encouragement
- 1 John 3:2-3 - the rapture is a purifying hope
- 1 Cor.15:51-58 the rapture motivates us to stand firm in the faith, to always give ourselves fully to His work
- Once you realize that you could soon be with the Lord, it makes a difference in how you conduct your life

5) Live a life worthy of your calling - Eph.4:1

- Live a life worthy of God, worthy of the Gospel, and worthy of our high calling in Christ. Eph.4:1; Col.1:10-12; Phil.1:27; 2 Cor.5:20; Rom.13:10-14; 1 Thes.2:12
- Departed Christians are only asleep in Jesus
- They will be resurrected, and we will be reunited
- This knowledge is a great comfort in our time of grief
- 2 Cor.1:3-4 God comforts us to share with others
- God uses even death to draw unbelievers toward Him

6) Jesus is coming soon - Rev.22:7, 12, 20

- Jesus is coming soon. Maybe today.
- We don't know when; God knows. Matt.24:36, 42-44
- But we can be sure that He is coming. Titus 2:11-15
- God's Word tells us to expect it at any moment
- Jesus told his disciples to be alert, watchful
- Be prepared to meet Him each hour (faithful, pure)
- He wants to find us at our post when He returns
- Be ready. Be encouraged. Be confident.

7) In the next heartbeat

- Our hope for Christ's return has no hint of uncertainty (unlike a child hoping for the right birthday present)
- Hope implies the event is eagerly anticipated
- Believers have hope of resurrection and eternal life
- But our hope is even greater...
- While we are still on earth, we can experience each moment of each day with anticipation
- In the next heartbeat, we could be with our Lord

8) Behold, I tell you a mystery - 1 Cor.15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

9) The trumpet shall sound - 1 Cor.15:52b-53

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality

10) The sting that causes death - 1 Cor.15:56

- Paul dances on the grave of death itself! 1 Cor.15:55
- Rebellion against God's Law _ Death. Gen.3:17-19
- Rom.7:7-13 The fatal sting that causes death is sin
- Sin would be powerless without Law. God gave the Law to show us how sin offended Him. Wiersbe:
 - “The Law reveals sin. James 1:23
 - The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:14, 23
 - Jesus bore our sins on the cross. 1 Pet.2:24
 - He also bore the curse of the Law. Gal. 3:13, 4:5”

11) Rest for your souls – Matt.11:29

- God promises to keep believers secure. Eph.1:13-14
- You can't make your salvation stronger or less secure
- Christians still sin; We all stumble. James 3:2
- Your salvation rests on the promises of God alone
- It doesn't depend on your works
- Salvation is a gift from God; we can't earn it

12) How can I be sure I'm still saved?

- Only God can save us & keep us saved. John 3:14-17
- God intends to glorify all those He predestined, called & justified. Rom.8:28-30
- In Greek, all the verbs in Rom.8:30 are in past tense
- Each believer is already but not yet glorified. Heb.2:10
- The outcome is certain; not even one will slip away
- Jesus the perfect Shepherd loses none of His flock

13) Be Thankful – Col.3:15

- We are indebted to God for every blessing. James 1:17
- Give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thes.5:18
- All Christians are responsible to be thankful.
- A Spirit-filled life results in thanksgiving. Eph.5:18–20
- A Word-filled life results in thanksgiving. Col.3:15–16
- Thanksgiving is key to victorious living. Rom.8:32-39
- Thanksgiving is key to our prayer life. Phil.4:6
- Count your blessings; God is always with us
- In giving thanks, you reflect on what He has done

14) Then shall be - 1 Cor.15:54 = Isa.25:8

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written; Death is swallowed up in victory!

15) O death, where is thy sting? (1 Cor.15:55-56)

O grave! where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law

16) But thanks be to God (1 Cor.15:57) who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

17) We have an Advocate – 1 John 2:1-2

- Satan accuses us when we sin. Rev.12:10
- But we have an Advocate who continually makes intercession for us as the believer's High Priest. Rom.8:34; Heb.2:17-18, 4:14-16, 7:23-28; 1 John 2:1
- When a believer sins Christ pleads our case before God. Christ already paid that debt. Case dismissed.

- Resist Satan and he will flee. James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9
- When Satan reminds you about your past, remind him about his future

18) How can we know that God is for us?

- Christ showed infinite love for us at Calvary
- He willingly gave His life to pay a debt we couldn't
- Christ continues to show us His love eternally
- He cares for us and makes intercession for us
- God knows us, yet He still loves us – He's proven it John 15:13; Rom.5:8; Gen.22:12
- We are unworthy. But God's love is sacrificial, unconditional, and eternal. 1 John 4:7-10

19) But what if I've done something bad?

- God's power is able to keep us secure Jude 24; 2 Tim.1:12; John 10:28-29
- Nothing and no one (including ourselves) can separate us from God's love
- Hymn "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"
- Nothing can snatch you from His hand
- No circumstance, no power can cause God to stop loving a believer. Rom.5:7-10, 8:35-39

20) Why does God keep loving us?

- Exo.2:3 calls the basket of baby Moses an "ark of bulrushes" • There are 2 Hebrew words for ark
- Both mean "container or box to protect the contents"
- The common word aron is used for coffins, chests
- Even the Ark of the Covenant, which held the tablets of the Law, was called aron

21) Coat it with pitch – Gen.6:14

- The Hebrew word tebah is used for only 2 containers: – Noah's ark, and baby Moses' ark of bulrushes Gen.6:14, Exo.2:3-5; Heb.11:7
- What did these 2 arks have in common?
- Both were covered with pitch
- Moses was the human author of Genesis & Exodus
- Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Moses used a special word, reserved for these 2 arks. Why?

22) Through faith in His blood - Rom.3:25

- The word translated as pitch in Gen.6:14 is not the usual Hebrew word for waterproofing
- This word is used over 70 times in the Old Testament, but only translated as pitch here
- The other verses translate it atonement, a covering
- It is the ransom, the price to save a life
- "Nothing but the blood of Jesus" can do that

23) In Him – Eph.1:4-13

- We are painted with pitch, inside and out
- Just like the ark of Noah, just like the ark of Moses
- Christ is our ark. He saves us; He rescues us
- The waters of judgment cannot harm us now
- No need to fear a Flood (the wrath of God) or Pharaoh's Nile river (the wrath of men)
- God looks at us and sees the blood of the Lamb
- We are in Christ, and Christ is in us. John 14:20

24) If God be for us - Romans 8:31, 33, 34

If God be for us, who can be against us?
Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?
It is God that justifieth; who is he that condemneth?

It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

25) He Bears Our Scars

- There is only 1 sinless person who ever lived
- Christ is the only one who deserves to be in heaven
- But He loved us, so He welcomes us to His home
- Sinners will receive perfect bodies, without blemish
- Only 1 resurrection body will have wounds
- And by His wounds, we are healed. Isa.53:4-6
- He bears the scars that we deserved for our sins

26) The redemption of our bodies – Rom.8:23

- When Christ returns to claim His bride at the rapture, every Christian will receive a new body Phil.3:20-21; 1 Cor.15:51-52; 1 Thes.4:16-18; John 14:2-3; Rev.19:6-9; Eph.5:25-27; Jude 24-25
- Our resurrection body will be perfectly conformed to the image of Christ. 1 Pet.1:5; 1 John 3:2
- This body will be free of infirmities that plague our physical bodies as a result of sin Rom.8:18-23, 29-30; 1 Cor.15:42-44

27) I will never leave thee – Heb.13:5

- Someday when time runs out, the very last believer will come into the flock of Christ
- Once His work of redemption is complete, Christ will remain in His resurrection body for eternity
- Christ will remain with His bride forever. We belong to Him. Rom.1:6, 14:8; 1 Cor.6:19-20, 15:21-28
- He said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Deut.31:6; Heb.13:5; Ruth 4:13-14

28) A Servant's Heart

- Christ humbled Himself and became a servant to save us. Phil.2:5-8
- Servants were offered the opportunity to go free, usually after 6 years of service. Exo.21:2-6
- But if a servant loved his wife even more than freedom, he could choose to remain with her
- His ear would be pierced against a doorframe
- His shed blood and permanent scar would serve as a testimony of his undying love

29) They saw His wrists

- Christ will bear our scars eternally
- The scars will remind us of the price He paid for us
- 2 disciples recognized Jesus when He stretched out His arms to them. They saw His wrists. Luke 24:30-39
- Doubting Thomas saw His wrists. John 20:27-29
- The scars will be how we recognize Him. 1 Pet.1:8
- Our greatest joy is yet to come:

We will worship our Christ, our Messiah – forever

30) Worthy is the Lamb - Revelation 5:12-13

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.