

November 14, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Looking Forward to Entering the Kingdom"  
—Taking the Lamps—

Text: 2 Peter 3:10~13

**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.**

**3:11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,**

**3:12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!**

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

#### Introduction

The world today moves really fast and develops quickly. We cannot follow it without sense of urgency. The problem is time and time runs fast. Time flows fast all over Japan.

I have seen a traffic sign that said, "Where are you going in such a hurry in narrow Japan?" It is right to the point. Time goes on and engraves history. I think that there are three understandings about history as below.

- ① History repeats itself. (The reincarnation theory of Hinduism)
- ② History accumulates. (*Geschichte* in German)
- ③ History has a beginning and an end.

My friends, what historical view do you have?

The historical view of the Bible is ③ **History has a beginning and an end.**

The beginning was the moment when God created the heavens and the earth and eventually the end will come. What goal do we head to?

Let us study what is important from the following two points from 2 Peter, Chapter 3 today.

#### Main Points

##### 1. The Day of the Lord Will Come.

**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.**

##### 1) The Day of the Lord

It is written, **the Day of the Lord will come like a thief.** No one knows when a thief will come. The Bible records that **the Day of the Lord** is unknown like a thief. The day of the Lord refers to the end of days, the day of the last judgement of God.

This is the way of the historical view and recognition of the times. It is the way to recognize the world how it begins and where it heads to.

By the way, there many things that God created in this world. Looking them, plants, insects, animals and human beings all have a beginning and an end. When we watch lives of animals and plants, we realize that their lives on the earth have a **beginning and an end.** Nobody can deny it.

Like this, the recognition of the times of the Bible is not like a fantastic story. In the first page of Old Testament, it records God's Creation, the beginning. It records not only the beginning but also it records where the world is heading and its goal.

We should think about how to live today according to the recognition of the times. For example, it is a simple question, from where we come and where do we go? Is there anyone who can answer it? No, nobody can. Therefore, they cannot recognize the reason of being. However, the Bible clearly answers the question.

It firstly shows us that there is God the Creator who created us. God guides our lives and shows us where we should head for.

**The day of the Lord** refers to the time that God finally judges everything according to His righteousness and reveals His justice.

**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.**

You may hardly believe that **it will be exposed**. However, please remember the 9-11 Attacks, The Hanshin-Awaji Great Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake. It is not a mere dream that something like what is spoken of above can happen. It records **the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed**. It will be a fearful time when God judges. It is **the end of days**.

## 2) The End of Days

The Bible teaches how the world will change.

**1Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.**

My friends, in this day and age, many evil deeds and evil thinking are hidden in darkness. Many people experience unreasonable things in our society. Other times, an evil person walks arrogantly, and honesty does not always pay. We sometimes feel hopeless and ask why God keeps silence in such a situation

However, it will not continue forever. God does judge at the End of Days. God the Creator makes a promise that He will judge according to His righteousness.

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

**The Day of the Lord** is the time not only to reveal God's righteousness but also to reward those who worked hard according to God's righteousness.

**1Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will**

**receive his commendation from God.**

He who trusts in God can walk freely and is looking forward to that day. Our sin and iniquity are cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross and we became children of God. Those who are made children of God are given the right of the inheritance of the Kingdom of God. We live with joy of hope to enter the kingdom of God.

## **2. You Should Stay Awake**

### **1) You Must Be ready**

Peter records **the day of the Lord will come like a thief** in verse 10. He probably remembered Jesus' word as below,

**Matthew 24:42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.**

**24:43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.**

**24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

There is another parable in the Bible that Jesus taught to stay awake.

**Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.**

**25: 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.**

**25:3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,**

**25: 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.**

**25:5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.**

**25:6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'**

**25:7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.**

**25:8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'**

**25:9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'**

**25:10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.**

**25:11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'**

**25:12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'**

**25:13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

Five foolish virgins and five wise ones appear. Their job was to meet the bridegroom. They had lamps because they thought that the bridegroom would come at night. The bridegroom was delayed, so they all became drowsy and slept.

But at midnight there was a cry that told of the coming of the bridegroom. Then, all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. However, the lamps of the foolish ones were going out.

Then they asked the wise to give them some of their oil. However, the wise did not have enough oil to share. While they were going to buy oil, the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, but the door was not opened for them.

What does **"stay awake"** mean in this parable? Ten virgins had oil and they became drowsy and slept.

Then what was wrong with them?

→ Five of them did not have enough oil to keep their lamps lit. They were not prepared.

The bride does not appear in the parable. The central characters of the parable are the ten virgins. The Bible usually refers to the 'bride' as the Christian Church. Therefore, the parable means that the ten virgins are Christians. Oil in the Bible symbolizes prayer. We should always keep awake and pray.

2) Wait for???

**3:11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,**

**3:12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,**

We think about the day when everything will be brought to light and God's righteous judgement will be performed. It is great encouragement for those who want to live in God's righteousness. On top of that, we are asked to correctly

recognize it.

Peter said, “**hastening the coming of the day of God.**” Only God controls the history of human beings (time). It is impossible for us to make it hasten or delay.

Why did Peter write like this?

→He knew the End of Days was getting near, so he wanted to teach the importance of preaching the Gospel of Christ.

Jesus said as below,

**Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the entire world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

It is recorded that the gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world, and then the end will come. It is God’s will. Today is quite different from the old days. Social networking is rapidly developing, and the gospel can be preached over the world in a short time.

The important thing is to **wait for** the kingdom in godly faith. It also means to pray. There is one of the parts of **the Lord’s Prayer**, ‘**Your kingdom come.**’ It is the prayer that **the kingdom of God** will come soon.

We pray like this; however, we fixate on things in the present and this world, and we have put off doing about the kingdom of God. Don’t you think so?

Praying the Lord’s Prayer, ‘**Your kingdom come,**’ but our mind is somewhere else. It is really the attitude of the ten virgins, isn’t it?

We should wait for **the Day of the Lord** when the bridegroom comes, but don’t we sleep? The Scripture teaches as below,

**1 Thessalonians 5:6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.**

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Looking Forward to Entering the Kingdom”

—Taking the Lamps—

The Lord spoke to us through His Word this morning.

We are living in the last days. We should be prepared and look forward to entering the Kingdom of God.

Let us read the following verse to sum up today's message.

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

\* God bless you!