



Daily Devotionals

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PHILIPPIANS 3:20 – 4:1 THE PRESENT FUTURE REALITY

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²⁰ *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

¹ *Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!*

Through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we become citizens of heaven. Yet, in our present state we are to yearn for the return of Jesus to make our salvation complete. In the Letter to the Hebrews we read that “*faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*” (11:1). As citizens of the kingdom we are to live under the sovereign rule of the King, but we do so even though the King is not tangibly with us. Like Job we say:

²⁵ *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.*

²⁶ *And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;*

²⁷ *I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (Job 19:25-27)*

In what is perhaps the earliest written book of the Bible, the anticipation of the physical presence of our Redeemer God to us at the end of the present age is already articulated as our ultimate consummation and hope. This hope is the faith by which Job orders his life. Our faith is in Jesus. We already know that he died on the cross, was raised from the grave and ascended into heaven. The substance of our faith is that he will return again as King and establish his righteous rule over us and the world. Therefore, faith in Jesus cannot be a true faith unless it includes the belief in the second coming of the Lord.

It is clear that the early disciples all lived thinking that the Lord would return in their lifetime. This should be also the attitude we have as we live out our lives, because faith is living as if the promises for the future are already a present reality. Rather than leading to lives lived in morbid speculation and self-righteous austerity, the constant presence of the reality of the return of the King should infuse our lives with unbounded joy and the excitement that comes with the birth of a new baby.

You are my Redeemer and my King, Lord Jesus. As I live in thanksgiving for your sacrifice that makes my salvation possible, I also want to live in joyful expectation of your return. Help me to overcome my natural focus on MY salvation and MY perfection, so that I might desire your return solely because I want to know you perfectly. Come Lord Jesus and bring me into your perfect presence. Amen.

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