

“Expect the Un-expected”

All Scripture is KJV:

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ON THIS MATTER.

- What should we expect?

There are many instances in the bible that things happened unexpectedly.

- From miracles to sudden judgements from God. But God tells us that we should expect the unexpected as if it is going to happen now, or today?

Look at what God told Jeremiah to tell the People of Babylon in the captivity in Jeremiah 29.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected** end.

- The LORD had told them in the letter through Jeremiah that if they would turn to the LORD in the days whilst they were in captivity he would not bring evil upon them but peace.
- They were told that they could expect peace if they turned to the LORD.

Jesus used the same examples when speaking in parables. Where he used for example the master of the household returning to his house unexpectedly after being away for such a long time from a journey. Matthew 24.

- Well why is that? Why would Jesus for example use this type of illustration?
- Well it really is the way things happen in life.
- The bible also speaks about; by “chance” things can happen or take place?

Luke 10:31

And **by chance** there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

1. But when we look at what the bible says about expecting the unexpected, it uses those words in a very positive way.
2. It speaks of the reputation of the gospel for example being upheld by those believers who have come to salvation.
3. Paul was expecting to hear positive things in the ministry each time he returned to the churches he had set up.

Philippians 1:26-30.

²⁶ That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1. Paul was expecting to see the believers rejoicing in Jesus Christ.
2. Paul was expecting to see them growing abundantly?
3. But was that the case when he did return, like when he returned to the Corinthians or the Galatian churches? The answer is no?
4. Nevertheless? But that's what he was expecting?

²⁸ And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition (*punishment in hell*) , but to you of salvation, and that of God.

²⁹ For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

³⁰ Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

5. Paul had previously told them. That the road to Christ was full of thorns. They needed to expect hardship along the way.
 6. As a Christian, you can agree with being a Christian it is not easy following after Jesus Christ.
- Paul reminded the church at Philippi as he reminds us today by writing what he did to them in Philippians 2.
 - ✓ In that reminder he placed what was far more important, and that was not to take your eyes off the LORD even in the hardship and trials which would come.
 - In fact he said that when they come, we should even consider what happened to our LORD in the same circumstances.

See Philippians 2.....

Philippians 2 King James Version (KJV)

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

² Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; **but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

⁴ Look not every man on his own things, **but every man also on the things of others.**

⁵ **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ **But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:**

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ **Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:**

¹⁰ **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;**

¹¹ And that every tongue should **confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,** to the glory of God the Father.

¹² **Wherefore,** my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, **but now much more in my absence,** work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

¹³ **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

¹⁴ **Do all things without murmurings and disputings:**

¹⁵ That **ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God,** without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

- ✓ Remember that - Blameless is not sinless?
- ✓ But you are still the sons of God.

¹⁶ **Holding forth the word of life;** that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

¹⁷ Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸ For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

²⁰ For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

²¹ For all seek their own, **not the things which are Jesus Christ's**.

²² But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

²³ **Him therefore I hope to send presently**, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

²⁶ For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

²⁷ **For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him**; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

²⁸ **I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice**, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

³⁰ **Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.**

- Here was a man, who was not interested in putting himself first.
- He was willing to serve Jesus Christ first.
- The miracle in all that was that the LORD saw his service in the ministry and as such saved his life through a miracle of bringing him back to good health, as others also prayed for him.

❖ **Praying for others is one way of showing that you are not a selfish person.**

1. We should - Expect miracles to happen.
2. We should - Expect God to work in our life?
3. We should - Expect God to answer our prayers if you ask anything according to his will?

- ✓ In the book of Matthew we see the disciples ask Jesus about the unexpected.
- ✓ What did Jesus say in reply to those questions he had been asked.
- ✓ Well here is the answer from Jesus.

- ✚ They had asked Jesus about when he was coming back.
- ✚ This is what Jesus said.

Matthew: ²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

1. Expect Jesus to come in the clouds.
2. How is he coming and when?
3. What Jesus said in Matthew 24, also echoes in Acts 1.

Acts 1:9-11 ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.**

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus**, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

- ✚ Expect Jesus to come back in the clouds

Matthew 24: ²⁹ **Immediately after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven** with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and **they shall gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

4. He is coming in the clouds to gather his elect?
5. When is that? It is after the tribulation?

When? – you shall see the anti-Christ sitting in the temple of God saying that he is God.

Matthew 24: ¹⁵ **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Matthew 24: (speaks about the principle found in Daniel. The abomination of desolation?)

³² **Now learn a parable of the fig tree;** When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

³³ **So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things**, know that it is near, even at the doors.

³⁴ Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

1. **The abomination of desolation is the sign like the fig tree putting forth the new growth of its leaves.**
2. The abomination is that sign of the new growth of the fig tree. It is the sign of the event taking place. When the abomination of the antichrist.....is when he declares himself to be God.
3. Expect the unexpected?

Matthew 24: ³⁶ **But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**

³⁷ **But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, **until the day that Noe entered into the ark,**

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, **and took them all away;** **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

⁴⁰ **Then shall two be in the field;** the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ **Two women shall be grinding at the mill;** the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴² **Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

⁴³ **But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched,** and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

⁴⁴ **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

⁴⁵ **Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?**

⁴⁶ **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.**

⁴⁷ **Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.**

⁴⁸ But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, **My lord delayeth his coming;**

⁴⁹ And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

⁵⁰ **The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of.**

⁵¹ And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. Jesus told us what to expect did he not.
2. He told us as well as his disciples to expect the unexpected.
3. He told us to expect the antichrist and he told us also to expect himself.
4. He also told us when that would be.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 King James Version (KJV)

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,**

² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, **as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: **for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

⁴ **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

1. The Lords expected return would play out as in the days of Noah and as in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.
2. In the same day – Judgment came about.

In both of those examples it says in the bible that in the same day that the believers were taken out, judgment was placed upon the unbelievers.

- ❖ The believer should expect the expected to come.
- ❖ The un believer will not expect the unexpected.

Therein lies the difference.

- ✓ Whilst we cannot meet together at this time because of the current events going on in the world due to this Covid-19 virus, let us still rejoice in the fact that we have Jesus our Lord and our Saviour who is the keeper of our souls.
- ✓ Let us cause the message of the gospel to shine as the brightest light in the world today.
- ✓ The lost world has no hope for themselves, therefore every opportunity let us help them expect the “unexpected”.
- ✓ Let’s keep looking up to expect the unexpected Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....