

The Ultimate Solution

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your all. Amen.

Revelation 22:20,21

The book of Genesis records God's creation of a perfect world. At the conclusion of His creative work the Lord declared all that He made was very good. Unfortunately, Adam used his free-will, which God grants to all of mankind, to disobey God and plunged the world into the resultant curse. From that point and on through all of the biblical account, trouble plagued all of earth's inhabitants. God in His mercy promised the remedy that made forgiveness and eternal life available to all who trust in the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When someone comes to saving faith in Christ their life is made better in two ways. First, they gain an eternal hope that goes beyond their earthly existence, and then they have the presence of the Lord in their life as they navigate the tribulations of this world. In the Book of Acts, as the apostle Paul traveled about preaching the Gospel, he confirmed the souls of the disciples and exhorted them to continue in the faith, while reminding them that they must *through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God*. We all know too well that even for the Christian life has its many troubles. Believers are saved from their sins, but won't be delivered from the presence of sin until Jesus returns.

The ultimate solution for the Christian is the Lord's return. His return will be in two phases. First, He will descend in the clouds to call up His people to be with Him forever in heaven where all the pains and sorrows of this life will be no more. Later, He will return to the earth to set up His kingdom. This is what we are asking for in the Lord's prayer- *thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven*. In His kingdom the crooked things will be made straight, swords will be beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall learn war any more (Isaiah 2:4). Finally, peace will return to earth because the Prince of Peace will reign.

Christians often understand by experience the dilemma that Paul expressed in Philippians when he said *"I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better; Nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you"*. Every believer has a purpose, and with the indwelling Holy Spirit they are able to live their lives with hope and joy. Yet the effects of the curse are observed daily. All a person need do is watch or listen to the daily news. Wars, crime, famine, plagues, and the deeds of evil men dominate the headlines, and each of us have personal burdens that cause us to yearn for something better. As we pray for relief from life's crushing effects, may we conclude our prayer with- *Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen!*

J. Ekis