

MONDAY, JUNE 22**Finally, Face-to-Face**

- We were created to be close to God = from very beginning
 - Intimacy —not distance— was His design

Genesis 2:7 The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life

- Humanity's first breath = God's gift
 - Humanity's first experience = nearness to Him
- Created to live face-to-face w/ our Creator
- When sin shattered relationship / God did not withdraw
 - He moved toward us = to restore what was broken

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"

- From Genesis to Rev = Scripture tells / story of a God who
 - refuses to give up = on restoring His children to Himself
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** God has "put eternity in their hearts"
- We feel = ache for something more
 - Longing that nothing on earth / quite satisfies
- Yet even / eternity stirring inside us = we cannot fully grasp what God has been doing "from the beginning to the end."
- Live in middle of great controversy = cosmic conflict
 - that rages around us / and even within us
- Too often = we become consumed w/ our immediate struggles
 - our daily battles / our personal disappointments
- We forget staggering cost /already paid = to bring us home
- We forget = we're citizens of Heaven

Phil. 3:20, 21 "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior / Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body"

- As world plummets closer to its final moments = Scripture lifts our eyes beyond / chaos = to promise that steadies our souls

- One day = small white cloud will appear in / eastern sky
- At first = barely noticeable against / horizon
- But as / draws nearer = it will become / most magnificent sight universe has ever known = Christ will sit upon that cloud

Revelation 14:14 “One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle”

- Not quiet / secret event = Jesus will return in power / glory
Matthew 25:31 He will /accompanied by “all the holy angels”
- Heaven will empty =when Christ comes /to claim His redeemed
- **Revelation 1:7** assures us that “every eye will see Him”
 - No one will wonder what is happening
 - No one will need explanation

- Long-anticipated return of Jesus = will be unmistakable

- As He descends = silence of / grave = will be shattered

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

- That trumpet will not merely announce His arrival
 - It will call forth = sleeping saints
- Those who trusted Him = fell asleep w/ hope in their hearts
 - will awaken = recognize His voice / calls them by name

John 5:28-29 “All who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to resurrection of condemnation.

- **1 Cor 15:52-53** When trumpet sounds/ redeemed will changed = In twinkling of eye = put on immortality

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord”

- No more separation / no more loss / no more goodbyes.
- We will never again = be apart from Jesus

- What follows = echo thru/universe

Philippians 2:10–11 “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”

- Truth of who Jesus is = will no longer be debated
 - Lamb who was slain will be recognized
 - as King of kings/ Lord of lords
- What an utterly incredible / magnificent thought
- One day we will see Jesus—really, truly see Him
- Not thru pages of Scripture alone = Not by faith alone
- But face-to-face = One we have read about
 - prayed to / spoken of / trusted / longed for
- One who carried our sins / wiped away our tears
 - we will finally behold Him
- We can be absolutely certain of this hope
 - God fulfills / what He promises
- **Revelation 22:6** “These words are faithful and true”
- Heaven / earth may pass away = but His promises will never fail
- In moment trumpet sounds /every eye sees Jesus
- Everything will make sense = every persevering prayer
 - every choice to prioritize time w/Him
 - every courageous witness = every quiet act of obedience
 - every tear shed in trials we did not understand
- All of it will be gathered into = one **overwhelming realization**
 - **it was worth the wait**
- Final reward = not simply place / city / or restored earth
 - Greatest gift = Person
- **Revelation 22:4** “They shall see His face”
- Broken fellowship of Eden = will be fully restored
- Distance created by sin will be forever gone

- Until that day = we live w/ expectancy
- We walk by faith = anchored in hope
- Lifting our eyes toward the eastern sky
- Knowing that when we see Him = our waiting will turn to joy
and our faith will become sight