

God's Prophetic Telescope 1 of 16

What Is Jesus Doing

#0766

Study given by W.D. Frazee—February 10, 1967

[Tape started in progress.]

...the Bible. This book deals with God's effort to make everybody happy. That's a colossal task even for God. Did you ever try to make somebody happy? Did you ever find people working at the job of trying to make you happy?

We human beings have so many desires, so many wishes, so many ambitions, and yet it is our Creator that has implanted those within us, and this book tells us that He wishes to satisfy the desire of every living creature. To understand His plan to do that, is to have a satisfaction in this life and a hope of the future life that's worth everything.

Tonight, for a few moments, we want to notice something of the work of Jesus, our Savior, in His endeavor to make it possible for every human being who will cooperate with Him to share that hope and happiness here and hereafter.

In the book of Hebrews, the 9th chapter, and the 28th verse, I read:

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” Hebrews 9:28.

You notice this scripture speaks of two comings of Jesus. He came the first time as the sin bearer, as the Lamb who died for us. He's coming the second time as the King—the King of kings and Lord of lords.

When He comes, there will be no more war. Our boys won't have to go out to the battle fronts. There'll be no more sickness. We won't need any more hospitals. There'll be no more jails, for crime will be no more. There will be no more poverty. Everybody will have everything necessary, not only for comfort but for enjoyment of every kind.

And this is not some utopian dream. This is the promise of the One who made this world. I'm so glad tonight that my hope in these realities does not rest upon tradition or upon taking somebody's word for it. This book contains within itself evidence appealing to every reasonable mind that the God who is back of it can foretell the future, and that's what we're dealing with.

When I look at this building, I know that the men who built it know how to saw and hammer and plane. I have certain friends that, when I go to their homes, I

always come away with a good feeling because I've been well fed. I know that the ladies who preside in those homes are good cooks. I've tasted the evidence.

And so it is with this book, dear friends. God in this book offers to prove that He can foretell the future by foretelling it. The prophecies of this book for the last 3,000 years have been turned into history, and the records of men are but the fulfillment of what Daniel and John and the other prophets wrote down in the long ago.

If you'll come with us from Friday night to Friday night here, we shall study a number of these wonderful prophecies. These deal not with theories but with facts—with evidence that, as I've said, appeals to every reasonable mind that this book is what it claims to be—the word of One who can and does foretell the future—and it is His word which assures us that Jesus is soon to return to this world.

Let me tonight examine one of the prophecies of this Bible given by our Lord Himself just a few days before He suffered on the cross and rose again. We'll find this in Luke 21. Jesus is seated with His closest disciples on the Mount of Olives. He has spoken of the coming destruction of that temple, and He has also spoken of His return to this world at the end of the age.

And as the disciples asked Him questions concerning this and requested signs of His coming, Jesus willingly answered them. The whole chapter gives His reply, but I turn just now to the 25th verse, and I want to read what sounds like yesterday or today or tomorrow morning's newspaper.

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” Luke 21:25-27.

You note that Christ, in answer to the question, What sign will there be of your coming, outlined certain world conditions which will indicate the end of the age and the near approach of the coming of Jesus. What are these conditions? I note three, in His words here:

“...distress of nations...perplexity...Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” Luke 21:25-26.

No news commentator could give a picture of present world conditions in so few words and do so well. Jesus, with prophetic insight, had this put down 2,000 years ago, that you and I, arriving at the fulfillment of these words, might recognize that the next thing is His coming.

And so He says, in the 28th verse:

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up,
and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”
Luke 21:28.

Ah, my friends, while we sorrow with those that sorrow all over this world, we would point them to the fact that the very world conditions which bring fear and perplexity to those who are absorbed with them—those conditions are the tokens, the sure signs, that deliverance is near. Jesus is coming, and when He comes, all these troubles will end—no question about it—and He’s coming soon.

As He says here, His coming:

“...is near, even at the doors” Matthew 24:33.

I’d like to look at one of those statements we just read here:

“Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth...” Luke 21:26.

You heard Dr. Harmer, our medical director, a few minutes ago, tell you that next Friday night he’s going to tell how to have a heart attack, and of course, in that, you’ll learn how *not* to have a heart attack. He won’t mind if I come in ahead with just one point.

Recently, the publishers of *Time Magazine* and *Life Magazine* put out a special report called *The Healthy Life*, and this entire book is devoted to America’s number one health problem which is heart disease—heart attacks.

I noted in a recent *Newsweek* that every name in the obituary list—heart attack, heart attack, heart attack. Over half the deaths in the United States are now from heart attacks and related conditions.

Now, doctor is going to tell us next Friday night some of the things that are responsible for this and what we can do about it, but in this magazine, printed not by a church but by secular publishers, the number one picture, for this is a pictured report—the number one picture in dealing with this heart attack problem is emotional stress. Emotional stress—tension, worry, anxiety—is one of the number one causes of the heart attacks that are killing men by the hundreds of thousands every year in our nation.

Now, what did Jesus say? About the last days?

“Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” Luke 21:26.

Here is the prophecy, here is the fulfillment, but oh, thank God, *here* is the remedy:

“...when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”
Luke 21:28.

May I suggest, friends, there are two reasons for looking up tonight. One is, as He says here, His coming is near, even at the doors, but there is another reason, and a most wonderful reason.

In introducing this, may I raise this question. Nearly 2,000 years now since Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up, gave His life in ministry and then gave it in sacrificial death, rose from the tomb, and went back to heaven.

What has He been doing since? Why is He there? Is that a fair question? When He was here, it was evident that He was pouring His whole life out for the salvation of men. When He died upon the cross, it was evident that nothing was too dear, no sacrifice too great. He gave His all.

And just before He left, He said to His disciples:

“...It is expedient for you that I go away...” John 16:7.

In other words, He is saying, There is something I can do for you in heaven that now becomes more important than my staying here on earth.

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

...He said to the little band gathered around Him there at the last supper table.

“...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:2-3.

And a few days after that, as His hands were uplifted in blessing, He was slowly taken from among them, and the apostles saw Him as a cloud of angels received Him, and the two angels who stood by said:

“...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” Acts 1:11.

Jesus, a real person, that they could handle, talk with, who ate with them—He was taken up into the heavens. Heaven, according to the Bible, is no imaginary or mystical place. It’s just as real as the moon or Mars, my friends—just as real as this planet—and a real Jesus is there in a real heaven, and He’s coming back—this same Jesus, the Bible says.

But meanwhile, what’s He doing? There are three books of the Bible that are written especially to help us answer that question, of what Jesus has been doing and

is doing in these 2,000 years between the cross and His second coming. Those three books are Daniel, Revelation and Hebrews.

We shall study much of these during these coming Friday nights. This evening, we can only introduce the subject, but I submit to you, dear friends, that were there a telescope here tonight that could be set up and that, as we passed by, we could get a look of heaven itself, everybody would want to be looking in that telescope. Am I right?

God has done something better for us than that. He has in these three books of Daniel, Revelation and Hebrews, given us an inspired telescope which we can use, not merely here tonight, but everyone can use in his own home, as you open the Bible with this question, Dear Lord, what are you doing there in heaven? Help me to understand what you have revealed so that I may cooperate with you and make it possible for your mission there to be accomplished, so that you may return and put an end to all this war and trouble.

Well, friends, anticipating what we shall study, let me make this statement. When you and I understand what heaven is doing, when you and I understand what our part is *in* that, we shall have an entirely different attitude toward life here in this world at the present time.

Turning to the book of Hebrews, I find that Jesus, from the time that He went back to heaven on, is set forth as our great High Priest. We might note that in Hebrews 4:14:

“...we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God...” Hebrews 4:14.

Again, in Hebrews, the eighth chapter, and the first verse:

“...of the things which we have spoken this is the sum...” Hebrews 8:1.

That is, the chief point.

“...We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man” Hebrews 8:1-2.

You will note these verses tell us that Jesus is in heaven as our High Priest, and that He is a minister of the sanctuary or true tabernacle. This ministry is for *us*, as Hebrews 9:24 says:

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” Hebrews 9:24.

Yes, it is for us. It was for us He was born in Bethlehem, it was for us that He died upon the cross, for us He rose, for us He ascended, and for us He is ministering, this says, in the holy places, of which figures or copies were made in this world. I wonder where those copies were. Wouldn't it be interesting if we could learn something about them—copies of things in the heavens, figures of the holy places in the heavenly sanctuary.

May I point out, friends, that this scripture you see deals with heaven as a very real, literal place. If there are holy places there, copies of which can be made down here in this world, you can see there's something very real and literal about it.

Now, don't misunderstand me. I do not mean that you and I can understand all there is about heaven, but friends, if we'll look through the telescope of prophecy, we can understand what God wants us to understand about heaven.

And while men are racing to get to the moon, let's you and me look through this wonderful telescope and look far beyond the moon. What do you say?

Now, what is this copy that was made in this world? Hebrews, the eighth chapter, verses 4 and 5:

“...if He...” Hebrews 8:4.

That is, Jesus.

“...were on earth, He should not be a priest...” Hebrews 8:4.

Why not?

“...seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law” Hebrews 8:4.

You see, when Paul wrote this, the Jewish temple there in Jerusalem was still carrying on its service day by day. Lambs were offered at the altar of burnt offering, incense was offered in the holy place. The round of service went on from day to day.

And Paul says, If Jesus were down here in this world, He wouldn't be a priest. There are already priests doing that. But now, he tells us something interesting about these priests, and this opens up a vast wonderful view. Listen:

“Who...” Hebrews 8:5.

That is, these priests in the Jewish sanctuary.

“Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things...” Hebrews 8:5.

These priests down here in the earthly sanctuary:

“...serve unto the example and shadow of...” Hebrews 8:5.

What?

“...heavenly things” Hebrews 8:5.

And then, he quotes:

“...as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount” Hebrews 8:5.

Yes, something like 3,500 years ago, our Lord called Moses up into Mt. Sinai, and there on the top of that mountain, He gave him directions for the building of a sanctuary or tabernacle in the midst of the camp of Israel.

It was a wonderful building. It was made portable so they could carry it from place to place in their trip through to Canaan. The boards were overlaid with gold, beautiful veils or curtains formed the ceiling and the partitions between the various rooms, golden furniture was there, and all of this, our verse that we have just read says, was:

“...the example and shadow...” Hebrews 8:5.

Of what?

“...heavenly things...” Hebrews 8:5.

“...heavenly things...” Hebrews 8:5.

Therefore, if we study the copy, we shall understand something of the original. If we look at that which was patterned after the things in heaven, we shall understand something of the sanctuary in heaven. In fact, that was God’s whole purpose in having it, for when we come to study the services in this sanctuary, we see that these services dealt with the sin problem.

And I submit to you that sin is a very real problem in 1967. Think of the crime, the riots, the vice, and all the rest, that are giving a headache to policemen and lawmakers and all who have the good of society at heart.

But my dear friends, while we pray for all good men who are seeking to deal with these terrestrial problems, let me assure you on the authority of the Word of God, the solution of the sin problem does not lie in this world. It lies in the heavenly sanctuary. You will appreciate that more as we study together next Friday night, more of what went on in this earthly building, more of what is going on tonight in the heavenly sanctuary where Jesus our High Priest is the minister.

Let me anticipate and deal with the heart of this whole matter. If you were to go back there to Moses’ sanctuary and were privileged to look at the various rooms and observe the priests in their ministry from hour to hour and day to day and year to

year, you would observe that sacrifice after sacrifice was offered. Lambs, bullocks, goats, and other animals, were brought to this court, and there they were sacrificed.

In some cases, blood was taken in and sprinkled before this beautiful veil, and finally, in the closing service of the year, blood was sprinkled upon the mercy seat in the most holy place.

What does this suggest? Ah, my dear friends, it suggests that sin is expensive business—sin is expensive business. It suggests that for every sin, death comes.

“...the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23.

And that was written in blood in the court, it was written in blood in the holy place, it was written in blood in the most holy place:

“...the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23.

But ah, there was some good news in that writing, for my dear friends, in every case, it was not the blood of the sinner that stained those altars, it was the blood of a substitute. The lamb that died in that court was not a sinner. An innocent substitute took the stroke that the sinner deserved, and you recognize in that the picture given in this wonderful service long before Calvary—the picture of:

“...the Lamb of God, which taketh away...” John 1:29.

Beareth away.

“...the sin of the world” John 1:29.

Yes, in every bullock, in every lamb, slain there in that service, we may see in symbolic representation, the Son of God giving His life for the sins of men.

And so, tonight, dear friends, you and I are face to face with this great fact, as I mentioned—sin is expensive business—and may I say to you, the only reason men continue in sin—they do not realize what it costs.

But now, watch. If all there is to dealing with the sin problem is merely that a substitute shall be slain, I say to you that happened 2,000 years ago on Calvary. The only sacrifice that could ever take away sin was offered upon the cross as our Lord gave His life. Why, then, is not the sin problem settled in this world? Why does crime and lawbreaking mount month by month and year by year?

I say to you, friends, while the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary once for all is all sufficient, there is something that Jesus went to heaven to accomplish for us that, if you and I can understand it, will fully and finally deal with the sin problem. Study in your private devotions this week Hebrews, the 9th chapter, verses 22 to 28, and come back next Friday night, and we shall go further with the study.

We shall find out what Jesus is doing in the heavenly sanctuary, what He has been doing there since He left, what must be finished before He returns, and the part that you and I can act in this.

Oh, friends, if we'll study these things together and live them out, we'll bring joy to the One who is devoting His whole life to ransoming us, redeeming us, putting an end to sin, and opening the way for the eternal reign of peace. Isn't it worth everything? He thinks so. He's put all *He* has into it, not only here but in heaven. All heaven is harnessed to this.

And believe me, as we study, heaven will become more real to us, what Christ is doing there will become more real to us, more vivid, and we shall understand the joy of fellowship with Him as we cooperate with Him as He moves from step to step in the heavenly service, as the priests of ancient times moved from step to step back there.

Now, at this time, I'm going to give you an opportunity to indicate your desire for a copy of this study tonight. If the ushers will pass out the cards, we're going to give you an opportunity to get a digest of tonight's sermon. We know that many of you would like to have these Bible texts to examine in your homes and you would like to look over these comments, and this will be given you if you will write your name and address on these cards and put down the address at which you get your mail so that these reports can be given you. They'll have them presently.

While they're getting them, just let me direct your attention to this, friends. Give me your ears again while they get the cards. There's something that you and I can do tonight, not next Friday night, but tonight, to make our Lord happy.

When you stop and think that every day since He went back to heaven 2,000 years ago, He's been ministering there in the sanctuary as our Priest, holding up His wounded hands and praying for us. Oh, friends, it makes me know that His heart is with us still. What do you say?

If you had done something for somebody that involved almost giving your life, wouldn't you be glad if they appreciated it and indicated it? He has not almost, but entirely, fully, given his life, and oh, I'm so glad tonight that we can make Him happy.

I'm going to ask the girls who sang *Only Me* to come again and sing for us. This is impromptu, but we're studying tonight of Jesus giving His life for us, and let's remember, friends, He would have done it for just one. His whole sacrifice in Gethsemane and on the cross, and the devotion of His life up there in the heavenly sanctuary, would have been gone through just for one of us tonight.

And so, tonight in this little chapel, as we have this opening service, wouldn't you like to send a silent word to your Savior, and tell Him that you appreciate the fact that He has done it all for you. You can do that. There's a radio between earth and heaven. There's a way you can get a message through to Him up there in the heavenly sanctuary.

And so, as the girls sing for us, I invite you, friends, to make your own commitment to Jesus tonight, and as we open this building to His presence, oh, I pray that every heart may be opened to the presence of the Savior who has given *all* for each one of us.

They have the cards now. All you'll need to do is just write your name and address, the way you get your mail, if you'd like a digest of tonight's meeting. It's free, without obligation—glad to share it with you.

[Special music—For Me.]

The ushers will take your cards at the door as you pass out. We invite you to worship with us tomorrow morning in Sabbath school here at 9:30, preaching service at 11 o'clock. The young people have their special program at four o'clock, and then next Friday night, the musical meditations and song service at 6:15, and at 7 p.m. we shall continue with the study which we have introduced tonight.

After the benediction, if there are those of you that would like to come a bit closer and get a closer view of the sanctuary, come up. **Brother Felt and I, Brother Forrester**, will be here to answer questions. We'd be glad to meet any of you.

And now, our Father, we thank Thee for this chapel, this building, where God is worshipped and His message echoed, but oh, we thank Thee most of all tonight for the building in the heavens where Jesus, our great High Priest, carries on His work to deal with the sin problem and eradicate it forever from the universe.

As tonight we sense something of the cost of this service, we pray that Thou wilt make each of us heart to heart with Thee in the longing that the pain that sin has brought to Thee shall soon end.

And so tonight, as we are standing here, we would ask Thee, not only to take possession of this building in which we worship, but to take possession of each of our hearts that we may share with Thee the love and the joy of heaven, and then share it with those around us.

Dismiss us and bring us back to learn more of these glorious truths, for Jesus' sake, amen.

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