

# God's Last Message 2 of 12

#0237

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1958

The most wonderful invitation to space travel in all the history of the world is found in John 14:1–3. Jesus was seated at the table at the last supper with His disciples. It was the night just before His betrayal and crucifixion. I want you to listen to this invitation to space travel, for it is for you and me as well as for them:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. 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 14:1–3.

Where was Jesus going? To the Father's house. Where does He want us to be? Where He is. What's He going to do to make it possible? He's going to come again, and receive us unto Himself, that where He is, there we may be. How far is that? I don't know, but it's a long way as men measure distances. With the speed of light at 86,000 miles a second, men have sought to measure distances in this vast universe. Where the center is, where the throne of God is, there Jesus Christ is today. What's He doing? Oh He says, He's preparing a place for us.

I'd like to see that place He's preparing, wouldn't you? And what a trip it will be. There's nothing imaginary about this, nothing mystical. It's a trip just as real as the trip of any of these jet planes or these satellites, these various things that are being launched today to explore the universe. Here is something that's real and that will not fail, for it's backed by the Creator of the universe—a trip through space to the center of the universe, the throne of God.

In all ages, this has been the blessed hope of the children of God. To appreciate it, we must see it in its setting, for the coming of Jesus in glory is the climax of a series of events that began long ago in the beginning.

The first great event that we fix our eyes on in those far off ages is the creation of the world. That started things off as far as you and I are concerned, didn't it? The second event that I would like to have us think about this morning is the cross of Calvary. And the third is this climax—the coming kingdom.

You remember in our last study, we looked at the history of the world as God showed it to king Nebuchadnezzar. What did we see? A great image of gold, silver,

brass, and iron, and clay mixed with iron in the feet and toes. Then a stone smiting that image on the feet and toes and breaking it into pieces and that stone becoming a mountain that fills the earth. Thus did God picture the climax of the history of this world—the kingdom of God overcoming and superseding all the kingdoms of men.

Now you notice that in each of these events—the creation, and the cross, and the coming kingdom, there is a central figure. That central figure is always the same. It is Christ, the Son of God. If we go back to creation, whom do we see there? Oh, we see Christ. For as Genesis 1:1 begins with that sublime statement:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”  
Genesis 1:1.

So in the Gospel of John we hear those wonderful words:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” John 1:1–3.

And concerning that Word through whom and by whom all things were created, the 14<sup>th</sup> verse says that He was flesh and dwelt among us, the only begotten son of God.

Paul tells us the same:

“For by Him were all things created...” Colossians 1:16.

Yes, at creation we see Jesus, the Son of God, the active agent of the Father in making this world, and making it a wonderful home for you and me. What a pity that our first parents failed to appreciate that wonderful love that gave them such a wonderful world. What a pity that they broke His heart by breaking His law; that they sinned, and by sin brought death.

But no sooner had that night of despair settled upon this world than the star of hope arose in the promise of a Redeemer, a Savior, and for thousands of years, poor men and women look for the coming of the Deliver. Finally, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son to redeem us—Galatians 4:4. He gave Himself for our sins—Galatians 1:4.

And as we stand at the cross of Calvary, we see that Figure again, that One who made the world, giving His life to redeem the world. That hand that hung the world in space is nailed to the tree for me. Oh, I think that's a wonderful love, don't you, friends? And thank God, it's the same One, that One that made the world, that One that gave His life upon the cross for our redemption, is that same One that is coming again in glory.

Oh, gather with those disciples on Mount Olivet as gazing up into Heaven they catch the last glimpse of their ascending Lord. And hear with them the message of those angels who stand by them in white apparel. Read it in Acts 1: 9–11. What did those angels say?

“...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” Acts 1:11.

Yes, the One who suffered upon the cross is coming again as conquering King, and oh what a day when He comes!

One of my favorite Scriptures is the description of this glorious event as penned by Paul:

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” 2 Thessalonians 4:16–17.

There is space travel, my friends, in glory. We shall meet Him in the air, and shall we ever be with the Lord, never to be separated. Always to be with Jesus and with those we love that have been torn from us by the hand of death. What a re-union. No wonder He says wherefore comfort one another with *these* words. Here is the blessed hope.

When will it be? Ah, that’s the question that the children of God have been asking through the ages. You know that last week that Jesus spent on earth before he suffered upon the cross, that question was raised. Thank God, Jesus didn’t pass it by as of little importance. He devoted the answer to that question of when. He devoted some of the most important statements. We find them in Matthew 24 and 25. You can read it also in Luke 21. Those chapters are worth reading.

In Matthew 24, we see Jesus seated upon the Mount of Olives surrounded by some of His nearest friends, His disciples—very close to Him. Just that day, He had left the temple for the last time, and had indicated that the temple would be destroyed because those within it had rejected Him as Lord and Savior.

And now, here on the mount, they ask Him, these disciples—when shall these things be? In other words, when will Jerusalem be destroyed, and the temple be overthrown? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming and the end of the world.

There is the question. That’s what they wanted to know. That’s what we’d like to know, isn’t it? When shall these things be that we’ve read together this day? When? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming and of the end of the world? And thank God

the next verse says, Jesus answered. He gave them the answer. We shall note very briefly in this little study, some of the wonderful waymarks which He called attention to. You will be interested in reading in verses 6 and 7, that the signs of His coming, Jesus set forth great events in the world about us: Wars, famines, great pestilences or epidemics, and earthquakes.

We know that since sin began, these marks of sin have been seen in this world. But it is worth noting that in this 20<sup>th</sup> century you and I have seen the greatest wars in all the history of the world; the most terrible famines that have ever been known; the most devastating epidemic, and the greatest earthquakes of all time. They've all been crowded into these last few decades. Your lifetime and mine have seen these great signs of the soon return of our blessed Lord.

Now in the 15<sup>th</sup> verse, Jesus begins a picture of succeeding events from His day on down to our time; from the time when He sat there upon the Mt. of Olives, till He should come again in glory. He calls the attention of His disciples first of all to the destruction of Jerusalem, concerning which they had asked. He gave them a special sign of that destruction in the coming of the Roman armies round about the city. That's a wonderful story, but we haven't time for that in this little study. Read it in the book *Great Controversy*, the first chapter. Following the destruction of Jerusalem, which was a type of the coming destruction of the world, Jesus foretold a period of great persecution for His church; read that in the 21<sup>st</sup> verse, 22<sup>nd</sup>—a long period of tribulation, this had been spoken of by Daniel, the prophet, in the seventh chapter of his wonderful prophecy. And then following this tribulation, Christ comes directly to the special signs of His second advent, which would be hung out in the sky that all His people might see.

“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...” Matthew 24:29.

Here are three great signs of the coming kingdom, celestial signs, heavenly signs, signs that all may see: The darkening of the sun, followed by the darkening of the moon, followed by the falling of the stars.

I have before me here reports of the observations of astronomers and other students of the phenomena of nature telling of the fulfillment of these signs.

It was May 19, 1780, that the dark day, as it has come down to us in history, took place. From about 10:00 o'clock in the morning through the rest of the day, the sun was so obscured that men had to light candles. Midday bore the appearance of midnight. That night, although the moon was at its full, the darkness was as intense as though every illuminist body in the universe had been struck out of existence, as one scientist describes it.

Then on the morning of November 13, 1833, occurred that great meteoric shower which has come down to us in history as the falling of the stars. All of us have seen

falling meteors at times, 1, 2, perhaps half a dozen, or a dozen—very unusual to see even a dozen in the sky at once, but on this night, the falling of the stars, Professor Armstead of Yale University calculated that there more than 200,000 meteors visible in the air at once on the horizon at Boston.

The great sign that Jesus had promised was being fulfilled. Everywhere those who had been studying the prophecies, as they looked up into the glory and grandeur of that celestial sign, recognized that Christ was fulfilling His Word. And that great sign called the attention of thousands to the fulfilling prophecies and focused their minds upon the promise of our Lord that He was soon to return again. That was exactly what God intended. That was what Jesus had in mind when He gave this prophecy.

The next event here in Matthew 24 is the appearance of Jesus Himself upon the clouds, surrounded by the myriads of angel hosts, coming toward His people. And to you and me He says:

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh”  
Matthew 24:32.

Yes, the bursting buds of the fig tree, and as Luke puts it down, all the trees, those bursting buds tell us that spring is here and summer is near.

“So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled”  
Matthew 24:33–34.

Oh, what a word of courage there is in these wonderful promises for us this morning. This dark earth is soon to witness the dawn of eternal day. No longer will war fill the earth with sorrowing bereaved ones. No longer will diseases lay its victims low. No longer will sin rule this planet. No, no, there’s coming a change in this, our day. Jesus is coming.

He’s coming, and He’s coming for us. He’s coming for you and me. Oh, watch the picture there in that 31<sup>st</sup> verse:

“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. 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”  
Matthew 24:30–31.

Thank God, that’s the great climax of history.

Now friends, as yesterday, as we studied these wonderful things, I challenged you to take into the laboratory of your own lives these great truths and kneel down and ask God to make them real to your hearts.

So this morning I suggest this while He is preparing a place for you, He wants to prepare you for that place. Listen to this wonderful invitation:

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him...”  
Revelation 3:20.

A moment ago, we read that as we see the dark day and the hidden moon, as we see the falling stars, we’re to recognize in those signs the evidence that He is near, even at the door.

Oh friends, before He ever crosses the threshold of this world, and appears as conquering King, He comes to the door of your heart and knocks for admittance. If we would welcome Him as King, we must first accept Him as King on the throne of our hearts.

For that purpose, He made this world and gave us life. For that purpose, He came as Redeemer and gave Himself upon the cross. For that purpose, He’s coming again in glory that we may know Him as our Creator, Redeemer, Ruler, and that we may know Him as our best friend. And each of us can choose that, that experience shall be ours. How many would like to say yes to Him? Thank God. May we bow our heads in prayer?

Our blessed Lord and Savior, Thou who didst make this world, Thou who didst suffer for us upon the cross, we thank Thee that Thou art coming soon. With the beloved John on rocky Patmos, we breathe the prayer, Even so come, Lord Jesus. And that Thou may come soon and welcome us with joy.

We pray that Thou will come into our hearts this very hour as we welcome Thee with joy. We thank Thee that as we open the door, Thou dost come in. As we yield our lives, Thou dost take control. And we thank Thee in Thine own blessed name. Amen.

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