

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place.” –Matthew 24:6

The signs of the second coming of Jesus are like pointers on a map confirming that we are getting closer to our destination. A woman shared with me how her young children had learned different road landmarks to know when they were getting closer to their grandparents' place. As they recognized these signs, they grew more and more excited. Then she said: “This is the role of the signs of the second coming of Jesus. They are there so that we may recognize His closeness and get more and more excited!” I absolutely agree.

The signs of the coming of Christ were never meant to frighten us but to encourage us. The second coming of Jesus is the great hope of the Christian faith. Having died in His first advent in order to pay the ransom for humanity, the risen Christ will come a second time to take us to be with Him forever. It means the end of pain and death. It means that, just like in the beginning, we will be with our Beloved Creator and Redeemer. As we recognize the signs of His coming, we are to grow more and more excited! But Jesus knew that revealing troublesome times preceding His coming, His disciples, and we, could become fearful. Therefore, He gave this exhortation: “See that you are *not frightened*, for those things must take place” (Matthew 24:6). The original word translated as “frightened” may also be translated as “*alarmed*” or “*disturbed*.” The reason not to be disturbed is because God is sovereign, and He is in total control of the redemption plan; these things “are necessary”; they must take place before the end. We often respond with fear to things we don't understand. It even happened to John when he saw a vision of Jesus. But Jesus said to him: “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last ...I was dead and behold, I am alive forevermore” (Revelation 1:17, 18). The word “last” is *eschatos* in Greek, which is the root of eschatology, the study of last day events. Jesus reminds us not to fear, because He is the first and the last (*eschatos*); He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. We will never be alone!