

If We Know What's Coming We Won't Be Afraid

If you are watching a scary movie, and you know that when the heroine opens the door someone is going to jump out, when it happens it doesn't scare you. Why? Because you knew it was coming. Walking a familiar path gives your steps confidence because you've been over the ground before and you know where the dips and stumps are. You don't trip or stumble because you've been there. You are not afraid.

In today's scripture lesson, Jesus is trying to give the disciples and us a glimpse into the future. He is showing them the path that lies ahead. He's showing them where the dips and stumps are. He's telling them that there is a scary guy behind the door they are about to open, so that when the scary guy jumps out, they won't be afraid. Knowledge put into practice develops wisdom and gives confidence. Fear or respect for God is the beginning of wisdom. (Psalms 111: 10)

End time prophecies in the Bible are there for two purposes. The first is to move readers who are neutral about God into action. If you see there is danger coming you will want to take steps to avoid it. The second purpose is to give active practicing Christian advanced knowledge so that they can be prepared and not be afraid.

Maybe you're wondering, "Why does Jesus have to come back at all?" Well the short answer is that God wants to restore the earth to its pre-fall condition.

So now we are faced with two choices. We can either ignore this warning, believing that it is not going to happen or we can take action to prepare ourselves for the coming events so that when they come, we will be ready. You might say, "Pastor what if we prepare ourselves and nothing happens?"

So what if we prepare for the coming scenarios that Jesus spoke about, and they do not come in our lifetime—we will have lived full productive lives and be remembered as Christians. We might appear to be foolish by those who do not believe, but I would rather be foolish in the eyes of my fellow man and considered wise by God, than the other way around.

Jesus prepares us for the future so that we will not be afraid. The consequences of the preparation may make us appear foolish to those who do not believe, but remember Noah. He must have looked like an idiot building an ocean liner in his backyard until the rain started falling.