

on the wait list for glory

"now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes: is today not the wheat harvest?" 1 sam 12:16

friends, i think we are all just spectators at this point. we have watched the times and anticipated the seasons. we have prayed our prayers and yes, they will continue. we have pointed to likely times and hopefully spurred others to close in on their relationship with the Lord. we have beautified the glory of the Lord in hopes that others would be drawn to Him, either by fear of judgement or love of rewards. as the apostle paul said, "i have become all things to all men, that i might by all means save some." 1 cor 9:22

it's not just seeing the travail of jerusalem that grabs our attention, but the turmoil of the earth and the urgency in our spirits alerts us too. the time of jacob's trouble is nearing. certainly we fight and strive for the stragglers that continue to linger, but if Christ has alerted any to His plans i wasn't privy to them.

and so, now i watch each day for our Lord; ever expectant. i pray for eyes to be opened and hearts to be chastened. and yes, i pray for the wholly oblivious to learn the fear of the Lord for "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." heb 10:31 "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." prov 9:10

my heart is fearful and peaceful at the same time. wasn't it thoreau who talked about "quiet desperation?" i would think it impossible to have both feelings at once, but i do. i fear for what soon is coming upon those without the Lord while i entertain the peace of God in my own heart. the suffering and destruction we are now witnessing is just a foretaste of that to come. there will soon be no peace anywhere other than His presence and our presence will be with Him. the tribulation saints will have much to endure.

we watch for the next shoe to drop; for the next sign of the man-child birthing to appear. and who has heard of such a thing? he gave us all the signs to watch for and now we are drowning in them; more than i ever thought the church would have to witness. only the willingly blind could fail to notice. "for the hearts of this people have grown dull. their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." matt 13:15

the wheat is ripe for harvest and the bride's heart longs for her groom to return. "whom have i in heaven but You? and there is none upon earth that i desire besides You." psa 73:25 the time nears for our nuptials; the completion of what He promised us. "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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." john 14:2-3

just think, soon we will be awaking in His loving arms. our dark night of separation will have ended. we have loved the light more than the darkness and we have ever crawled closer to that light. i think of the line i love from a poem - "and worms have learned to lisp Thy name."

we have learned of His greatness, His goodness and His glory. we have been awestruck by the grace that lifts up our heads to behold Him - face to face. "and he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of 'grace, grace to it!'" zech 4:7

yes, we are spectators indeed - and more, wonderers. "do not be afraid. stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. for the egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever." exo 14:13

soon we shall see this world no longer. at least not a world dominated by sin as it now is. our stay in paradise may be brief as we await our return under our Lord's sovereign rule. then, after a brief final rebellion, it will be on to eternity and the things God has prepared for those who love Him.

watch the happenings with wonder. "many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." matt 13:17 soon you will see them no more.