

DAY 14: ROMANS 13:11-14

I. IT'S LATER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN BEFORE

The scriptures often talk about night as being a time of spiritual darkness and the morning as being a time of the glory of God breaking forth. ([Lamentations 3:22-23](#), [Mark 16:9](#))

- A. We are nearer to the day of Jesus' return than anyone has ever been before. How are we running our race?
- 1) Mindset is a collection of thoughts, attitude, and values that determine how you act.
 - a. The "me first" mindset: seeks to fulfill its own indulgences first
 - b. The "not my fault" mindset: the victim mentality, the mentality that someone else has caused one's unhappiness; it allows one to take offense towards anyone who does or says something they don't like
 - c. The "Mr. Facing Both Ways" mindset: it says, 'I'll follow You, God, if it's convenient; but if not, I'll expect You to follow me.'
 - d. The "Maranatha" mindset: one with an eternal perspective, looking to the return of the Lord. ([Titus 2:13](#))
 - 2) The Old and New Testaments are filled with prophecies about Jesus' second coming
 - a. 1,845 references in the Old Testament; 17 books in the Old Testament that give it prominent consideration; 318 references (1 out of every 30 verses) in the 260 chapters in the New Testament; 23 of the 27 New Testament books refer to it; for every prophecy in the Bible concerning Jesus' first coming, there are 8 which look forward to His second coming.

II. MARANATHA AND ANATHEMA

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. ([Romans 13:11-14](#))



- A. “Anathema”
 - 1) The only explicit use of the word “maranatha” in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 16:21-24)
 - 2) Anathema: to set something apart and devote it
 - a. Paul’s use is almost always negative.
 - b. In Jewish mindset there were three levels of separation. “Anathema” was used to describe the third level of separation: completely cut off.
 - c. To those who do not love the Lord, Paul said, “Anathema.” Against that, “Maranatha.” ‘Lord, come, be the judge and separate those who are anathema from those who are with You.’
- B. Anathema started at the beginning (Genesis 3)
 - 1) Adam and Eve bought into the serpent’s lie and shame entered.
 - 2) The first words out of their mouths were words of shame.
 - 3) The Lord had to deal with this rupture.
 - a. The man would toil in labor and the woman would have pain in childbearing.
 - b. However, her offspring would crush the head of the serpent’s offspring.
 - 4) The Lord introduced grace by covering up their nakedness with skins of an animal.
 - 5) Then the Lord had to put them out of the Garden and maranatha gave way to anathema.
- C. Maranatha restored at the end (Revelation 22:20)
 - 1) The very first words we hear humankind utter to God are words of distance and shame and fear. But the very last words in the Bible we hear humankind utter to God are words of longing and hope and the maranatha cry.
 - 2) At the end of the Bible, we see anathema has fully given way to maranatha.
 - 3) In between these two events, we see Jesus coming into the story.

III. THE MARANATHA MINDSET

“I think if I could have seen the shore I would have made it.” - Florence Chadwick

- A. Perpetually longing for the return of the Lord
 - 1) Enjoying one’s life does not mean we are not longing for the “blessed hope,” but earthly joys *are* temporary.
 - 2) We need a deep sense of longing for the eternal perspective that causes us to live for the blessed hope.
 - a. “If you read history, you’ll find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next...Precisely since we cannot predict the moment, we must be ready at all moments.” - C.S. Lewis



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- B. Maranatha mindset practices
- 1) Sabbath
 - a. Most of us need to recover from “an unusual attitude.”
 - 2) Prayer
 - 3) Fellowship and the Table
 - a. Any group of people can experience community, but fellowship brings with it the presence of the Lord. ([Luke 24: 30-31](#))
 - b. Fellowship is the basic building block of the Kingdom of God.
 - c. The Lord’s Supper/Communion/Eucharist is past, present, and future. ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#))