He Will Return

Luke 21:25–36

You may know the scene from the action movie The Terminator. It’s a late night in a quiet and calm police station. A large man walks in the front door wearing a leather coat and leather pants. He looks tough. He looks menacing. He glances around the station. The sergeant at the desk asks him what he wants. He’s greeted with silence. The visitor glances around again and promises he will return. Soon the police station is filled with mayhem and destruction as the visitor returns by smashing through the front of the station in an automobile.

Somewhat like a Scene from The Terminator,  
Jesus Will Return.

I.

When the Bible speaks of Jesus’ return, of Jesus’ second coming, it does sometimes liken it to a scene from The Terminator. The second coming will be a time of mayhem, terror, and power. St. Luke tells us in our text, **“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken”** (vv 25–26).

The judge of all mankind will return, and no one will escape his judgment. Judgment will come due to man’s sin. Luke tells us, **“Watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth”** (vv 34–35).

Whether or not our world today takes sin seriously, God does and so should we. Luke tells us, **“But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man”** (v 36). Look around us today. Sin is covered up and even renamed to make it seem less evil than it is. It is no longer murder; it is “termination of pregnancy.” It is not adultery; it is “sexual freedom.” It is not perversion; it is “alternate lifestyle.” It is not turning our backs to God; it is being “open-minded” or “politically correct.” And all the above is being shoved down our throats these days as “normal.”

And lest we simply point fingers at others, what about believers in the Christian Church? Is “church” a priority or a pastime? Is “church” a commitment or a convenience? Are the treasures of our Christian faith and the treasure that is Jesus being passed on to the next generation, or are we following the lead of our godless neighbors? Judgment Day is coming for all people, believers and unbelievers. Again Luke reminds us, **“For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth”** (v 35).

II.

However, we can be thankful that Jesus’ return will not be like a scene from The Terminator. It will be a blessed time for those who have trusted Jesus and repented of their sin. Luke tells us, **“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory”** (v 27).

Time after time in Holy Scripture, God’s glory is connected to his love for his people, his forgiveness for his people, and his deliverance for his people. Jesus himself prays these words in Gethsemane’s garden just before his crucifixion, **“And now, Father, glorify me”** (Jn 17:5). This glory Jesus speaks of is the glory of God to be seen on the cross and at the empty tomb as Jesus defeats the powers of sin, death, and the devil. This victory and redemption is the same victory and redemption Jesus will bring at Judgment Day for all who belong to him. God’s redemption is God’s glory! Luke tells us that Judgment Day will be a good day. He says, **“When these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”** (v 28).

We can lift up and not hang down our heads. When I go into the house, I ask my dog Bella, “Wanna go for a run?” She is so very glad to see me at my return! She doesn’t hang her head. She lifts up her head, wags her tail with joy and anticipation.

Oh, my dear friends, when Jesus our Savior returns, it will be time to lift up our heads with joy! He has come back for us, just as he promised. Our redemption has drawn near

Jesus said he would come back and, and he will keep his word.

A long time ago, a baby was born in a manger. He was the Savior of the entire world. He was a sign to us, a sign that tells us that this is not an abandoned world. We, as Christians, are not an abandoned people. Jesus is “Emmanuel” which means God with us. We have the promise of forgiveness from our Lord and the promise that he will come back. He will return. You can bet your life on it!

In the name of Jesus. Amen.