FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

THE BATTLE FOR FAITH
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• **FAITH IS BASED ON TRUTH** WHICH SATAN DISREGARDS AND DEGRADES

• **SATAN IS A DECEIVER** MAKING THINGS THAT ARE BAD SEEM GOOD

• *(2 COR 11:14 NIV)* ... **SATAN HIMSELF** MASQUERADES AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- **There is a War going on** -- a **Battle between**: **God & Satan**
  - **Good & Evil** -- **Truth & Deception** -- **Faith & Unbelief**

- **We declare by faith in the power of the Lord God Almighty**: **Satan’s Deception** -- **Dishonesty** -- and **Delusion** are defeated!
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• **THE DEVIL IS THE RULER OF THIS WORLD FOR A LITTLE WHILE...**

• **JESUS IS THE ONLY RULER OVER ALL CREATION -- AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

\[1 \text{ John 3:8 NIV}\] HE WHO DOES WHAT IS SINFUL IS OF THE DEVIL, BECAUSE THE DEVIL HAS BEEN SINNING FROM THE BEGINNING. THE REASON THE SON OF GOD APPEARED WAS TO DESTROY THE DEVIL’S WORK
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

(Phil 2:10-11 NIV) (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• (REV 19:16 NIV) ON HIS ROBE AND ON HIS THIGH HE HAS THIS NAME WRITTEN: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

• (JOHN 16:11 NIV) AND IN REGARD TO JUDGMENT, BECAUSE THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD NOW STANDS CONDEMNED.
(2 Cor 4:4 NIV) The God of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• **Your Faith in God is not in vain**

• **Our faith is going to end in sight**

• **We can live in Victory today -- by faith God meets every problem with a promise**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• (2 Th 3:3 NIV) BUT THE LORD IS FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT YOU FROM THE EVIL ONE.

• THE LORD IS FAITHFUL --HE WILL PROTECT US -- AND HE HAS GIVEN US AUTHORITY EVEN OVER THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY – JESUS IS OUR FRIEND

• THE DEVIL IS AGAINST US – ADVERSARY JESUS IS FOR US – OUR ADVOCATE

• WHILE SATAN TRIES TO DENY US JESUS DEFENDS AND DELIVERS US

• THE DEVIL IS A DESTROYER OF LIFE – JESUS IS A GIVER OF LIFE

• THE DEVIL IS THE EVIL ONE JESUS IS THE HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ONE
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• THE DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF LIES  JESUS IS THE TRUTH
• THE DEVIL ATTACKS THE SHEEP  JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD
• THE DEVIL IS THE FALSE LIGHT  JESUS IS THE TRUE LIGHT
• THE DEVIL IS THE RULER OF THIS WORLD  HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED
• JESUS IS KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS  HE REIGNS FOREVER
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• There is a reason for excitement and joy -- we have the promise of victory.

• Your faith will seal your destiny.

• (1 John 4:4 NIV) You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• GOD’S FINAL PLAN DEALS WITH THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS

• JESUS SPEAKS OF AN ETERNAL FIRE PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.

• SATAN WILL BE VANQUISHED IN THE END --ETERNAL FIRE IS WAITING FOR HIM -- HE WILL BE DEFEATED BY A SINGLE WORD

• THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL OVERTHROW HIM BY THE SPLENDOR OF HIS COMING
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• **JESUS** **HAS** the **ANSWER** – **JESUS** **IS** the **ANSWER**

• **HE** is **THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER**

• **HE** **ANSWERS** the **FERVENT FAITH-FILLED PRAYERS OF BELIEVERS**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• **FAITH is NOT just a SHORT-TERM OR SHORT-SIGHTED FIX**

• **FAITH is what OPENS US UP TO OUR FOREVER**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 (NIV) (13) BROTHERS, I DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF YET TO HAVE TAKEN HOLD OF IT. BUT ONE THING I DO: FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND AND STRAINING TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD, (14) I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS.
FORE THE LORD HIMSELF WILL COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, WITH A LOUD COMMAND, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL AND WITH THE TRUMPET CALL OF GOD, AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. 

AFTER THAT, WE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE AND ARE LEFT WILL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. AND SO WE WILL BE WITH THE LORD FOREVER. 

THEREFORE ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WITH THESE WORDS.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• There is more LIFE that REALLY IS LIFE... for those who believe in Christ

• You were MADE FOR your ETERNAL not your TEMPORAL DESTINY
THE BATTLE FOR FAITH IS NOT JUST ABOUT LIVING FOR THE HERE AND NOW. IT'S ABOUT ADOPTING A LONG-TERM FAITH VIEW!
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) (20) But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- We hold our true citizenship in heaven.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- We are going to a place we can think about - but we really can’t understand.

- (1 Cor 2:9 NIV) "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- **Heaven is the place of our eternal reward**

- *(2 Pet 3:13 NIV) ... in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- (REV 21:1 NIV) THEN I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH, FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH HAD PASSED AWAY, AND THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA.

- THERE WILL BE A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH

- THE OLD HEAVEN & EARTH WILL PASS AWAY
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• There will be **a new order of things:**

• God will bring about an everlasting **end to sin and death**

• All things associated with **human sorrow and misery** will pass away
**FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW**

*(REV 21:5 NIV)*  He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making EVERYTHING NEW!" Then he said, "Write this down, for THESE WORDS ARE TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE."

*“ALL THINGS NEW” = Totally recreated & new*
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• LONG TERM FAITH = I CAN TAKE WHATEVER LIFE HAS TO DISH OUT KNOWING THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS A HOME FOR ME IN GLORY!!
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- (REV 21:6 NIV) ... HE SAID TO ME: "IT IS DONE. I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END. TO HIM WHO IS THIRSTY I WILL GIVE TO DRINK WITHOUT COST FROM THE SPRING OF THE WATER OF LIFE.

- "IT IS DONE" MEANS = GOD'S PLAN IS FINISHED.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

**GOD’S PLAN:**

- **SIN & DEATH ARE DEFEATED**
- **HEAVEN & EARTH ARE RENOVATED**
- **ALL THINGS ARE MADE NEW**
- **GOD MAKES HIS DWELLING PLACE WITH MAN**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• GOD through CHRIST JESUS is going to FINISH what HE STARTED

• (REV 21:7 NIV) HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL INHERIT ALL THIS, AND I WILL BE HIS GOD AND HE WILL BE MY SON.

• WE MUST BE OVERCOMERS = THERE MAY BE A BATTLE -- BUT WE MUST OVERCOME
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- There is a **battle for our faith** and we must determine that **we are going all the way with Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith**

- We are going to **meet him face to face**

- We are going to **be with him—for eternity**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• **HEAVEN IS A PLACE WHERE THE GLORY OF GOD FILLS THE CITY**

• *(REV 21:22-23 NIV)* I DID NOT SEE A TEMPLE IN THE CITY, BECAUSE THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY AND THE LAMB ARE ITS TEMPLE. (23) THE CITY DOES NOT NEED THE SUN OR THE MOON TO SHINE ON IT, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD GIVES IT LIGHT, AND THE LAMB IS ITS LAMP.
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- **THE GLORY OF GOD GIVES THE LIGHT** -- THE LAMB IS THE LAMP
- A MOST AWESOME AND **RADIANT SPECTACLE**
- FAR GREATER AND **MORE GLORIOUS THAN WE CAN IMAGINE**
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL WHEN WE SEE JESUS
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

• (REV 21:27 NIV) **NOTHING IMPURE** will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is **SHAMEFUL** or **DECEITFUL**, but **ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE.**

• **HEAVEN WILL HOLD** the redeemed from all the ages
FAITH’S LONG-TERM VIEW

- **Heaven is open to all** = “**Whosoever will may come**”
- **Believe** that Jesus shed His blood for you, personally
- **Confess** that you need forgiveness
- **Repent** of your sinful life
- **Receive the gift of salvation**