

“COULD IT BE TODAY?”

Ranchers have many things in common. One of our commonalities we all have is the anticipation of our next “great one” to arrive during calving season. I can remember very clearly the day that 12T arrived. It was back in Jan of 1985. One of my favorite brood cows was bred to my prize herd bull Nick the Butler and boy was I anticipating the calf’s arrival!

Well the day finally came and when the heifer calf arrived, momma hadn’t even had but a few minutes to clean her off before I knew I had something very special. I ran to the phone to call some of my bull partners to tell them about the special heifer calf that had just arrived. JPH Butlers Bonanza 12T went on to win many banners and championships for me and was sold in public auction in the Opryland 88 sale hotel in 1988 for \$25,000.00. The new owners placed her in their ET programs and sold numerous high selling animals from her. Everyone who saw her loved her!

As believers in Christ, there is even a far greater anticipation in our hearts and lives than the coming of the next “great one”! It is the RETURN OF LORD JESUS CHRIST! The Lord’s return and second coming is the next greatest event in Bible prophecy to yet occur. Today, we eagerly anticipate and wait the Lord’s return! Suddenly, without notice believers will be ushered into the direct presence of our Lord!

One commentary states the Second coming of Christ is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament! We can read of the Lord’s return clearly in 1 Thess. 4:13-18 (READ) and Paul is very clear in this text that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming to meet His people in the air! Our hearts should be filled with great anticipation and hope as we wait for this Biblical and Prophetic event to happen. Our Lord is now away, just for a season, preparing a house for His children according to John 14:1-3.

The Scripture says in 1 Thess. 4:13-18 that the “dead in Christ will rise first then we which are alive and remain will be caught up in the clouds, in the air too meet with our Lord!” This is a prophetic word that Paul’s says is the “blessed hope” for the believer and is one of great “comfort.” I cant wait!!

Sadly, however those left behind will endure the seventh week of Daniel. This is a 7 year period of God’s judgment upon sinful mankind which will include the anti-Christ’s, anti - God rule with a one world government. Jesus is clear in Matt. 24 that those days will be like no others days that have ever been or ever will be and will be filled with so much of God’s judgment and wrath upon the earth that if the days were not shortened all flesh would be destroyed, Vs. 21-22. Who wants to endure that?? Not me!

Only one question remains ARE YOU READY FOR THE LORD’S RETURN?

I trust you are ready and that you are greatly anticipating your departure from earth to meet the greatest ranch foreman and shepherd of times, Jesus Christ! He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and He is coming again very soon! But when He does return many will be not be ready and many will therefore be left behind. Only you know in your heart if you are truly ready to meet the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are, I rejoice with you! That's great and awesome news indeed!

If you are not ready then you need repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ as your personal savior and ask Him into your heart and life. This is simply what the Bible describes as being born – again. So if you are in doubt today, simply humble yourself, bow your head and pray from your heart so that you too can experience great “comfort and hope” now as well as for all eternity.

Read Romans 10:9-10; John 3:1-21; Ephesians 2:8-9

In Christ's love

Donn Jibben

HOPE FOR THE RANCHER!!