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THE SKY IS FALLING!

There's A Great Day Coming – For Sure!

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Do some of you remember the 2005 Disney animated movie *Chicken Little*? Or, for those of you older, like me, do you remember the old classic book we read as children called *Henny Penny*?

The idea behind this movie, and book, dates back centuries to an old fable about a chicken who believes the sky is falling after an acorn falls on his head. He runs around trying to get other animals to believe him when he screams "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" The chicken, named Henny Penny, tries to get his barnyard buddies named Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey, Gander Lander and Foxy Woxy to believe him. In the original story the fox took advantage of these silly bird-brains and ended up taking them to his den for safety, only to eat them for dinner. Later versions tried to alter that grim ending to make it a little happier. The idea that everyone must run for their lives because "the sky is falling" is now in the English vocabulary as an idiom for hysterical belief that imminent danger is upon them.

Another such tale that we have all heard from Aesop's Fables that taught somewhat the same idea was *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. Whereas Henny Penny really believed the sky was falling, the shepherd boy in this story repeatedly tricks the villagers into thinking a wolf is attacking his flock, so they keep coming to his rescue. He thinks it's funny that they fall for it. But finally a wolf does attack and he cries for help and they refuse to come. The wolf kills his flock. The moral to both stories can be summarized as "don't believe everything you hear."

When Noah cried, "Flood! Flood!" only seven people in the world believed him. Not even his own siblings believed, for we know he had some because it says, "*After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters*" (Gen. 5:30).

Imagine Noah trying to convince his younger brothers and sisters that "The rain is coming! The rain is coming!" only to be laughed at in disbelief. For 100 years he tried to convince them, but after so many calls of a coming day of judgment all they could hear was "Wolf! Wolf!" When that rain finally came and the flood waters rose it was too late to be saved. It had to just break this big brother's heart to know his family was perishing in that storm outside the ark. As the boat rocked from stem to stern and side to side he had to be weeping for his loved ones who were drowning.

This godly man had preached his heart out, but the only ones on earth who believed him could all be counted on two hands and embraced in a group hug inside this zoo they would be trapped in for the next year.

Look at the New Testament documentary (commentary) about this unique man:

Hebrews 11 ⁷ *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*

2 Peter 2 ⁴ *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly."*

I'm no prognosticator (that's obvious as I invested in Atari and not Apple, and bought an AMC Gremlin instead of a Ford Mustang, thinking it was the car of the future). But while I am neither a prophet or the son of a prophet, I am a gospel preacher and can tell you how all the news about climate change, world wars, presidential elections, and dozens of other headlines will all turn out. Unlike Chicken Little (aka Henny Penny) or the boy who cried wolf, I'm neither hysterical, nor lying, when I tell you "The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!"

The world scoffed at Noah in his day, and the apostles in their day, and scoffs at us in our day. They call us hysterical and liars for warning of the end of the world. They think us strange for not getting overly worried about politics, rumors of wars, global disasters, and other threats to the world.

Scoffers have always been among us, as Peter reminds us with these words:

*"scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...**" (2 Peter 3:3-10).*

Pandemics, climates, wars, and other frightful things will someday pass and be recorded as but a blip on the radar screen of history. But what won't pass is the promise of judgment in which the world will end in a blaze of fire and our souls will be sent to heaven or hell. Let us therefore spend our remaining days on earth, not worried about whether the sky is falling from some news story, but instead concerned about our soul's standing before God. Let us not be afraid to cry out "The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!" That is not crying wolf. That is crying truth.

"There's a great day coming, a great day coming, there's a great day coming by and by,
When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left, are you ready for that day to come?"