***The Time is Near***

**Summary of the week’s post on the cry:**

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”  
Revelation 1:3 NKJV

Peter spoke of the end of the world, not simply to paint a vivid, apocalyptic picture, but rather to give us instructions for the present hour (Dr. Michael Brown).

**The Practical Purpose of Biblical Prophecy**

But, to repeat, all this is understandable, and the Bible itself says much about the future. Moses spoke about the future in the Torah. Prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah and Ezekiel spoke about the future in their books. Jesus and Paul and John and Peter spoke about the future in the New Testament. But none of it was to satisfy our curiosity or scratch our itch about the future. And not a syllable of it was given for sensationalistic purposes. Instead, prophecy was ultimately practical, and the main reason the prophets spoke about the future was to tell us how to live in the here and now.

**To Live in Obedience to God in Light of Future Realities**

They prophesied about judgment that was coming tomorrow to call us to repentance today. They predicted a glorious, hope-filled future to encourage us to continue in our faith even during the darkest of times. They delivered messages that proved the reality of God to bolster our confidence in His reality. They spoke of the coming of the Messiah to help us recognize Him when He came and to prepare the way for His coming.

As Paul wrote to one of his closest disciples, “Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith” (1 Timothy 1:18-19). By remembering these prophetic words about his future, Timothy could stand strong today and take hold of faith for tomorrow.

**Peter’s End-Times Teaching: ‘What Kind of People Ought You to Be?’**

More broadly, Peter spoke of the end of the world, not simply to paint a vivid, apocalyptic picture but rather to give us instructions for the present hour. He wrote:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.   
2 Peter 3:10-14

Yes, the big question, as asked by Peter, is not, “What is going to happen tomorrow? Instead, it is, “In light of what is going to happen tomorrow, what kind of people ought you to be?” That’s where our focus needs to be.