



dc 49.⁵⁻⁷— meditation

⁵Thus saith the Lord; for I am God, and have sent mine Only Begotten Son into the world for the redemption of the world, and have decreed that he that receiveth him shall be saved, and he that receiveth him not shall be damned—⁶and they have done unto the Son of Man even as they listed; and he has taken his power on the right hand of his glory, and now reigneth in the heavens, and will reign till he descends on the earth to put all enemies under his feet, which time is nigh at hand—⁷I, the Lord God, have spoken it; but the hour and the day no man knoweth, neither the angels in heaven, nor shall they know until he comes.

This reading is sobering, indeed. First, there is the juxtaposition of salvation and damnation with the announcement and promise of damnation upon those who do not “receive” Jesus. If we ask what it means to not receive him, we can hardly be forgiven for thinking of the very next line in which we are reminded that “they have done unto the Son of Man even as they have wanted.” We can also be forgiven for wondering who the “they” is. We wonder if “they” are only those Romans and Jews who, alive at the time of his earthly minister, had opportunity to kill him. We wonder if “they” include those who would kill him if they could; if he showed up some other time somewhere else; if he showed up today as he showed up then.

It seems unlikely that the Romans and Jews of the first century A.D. were all that different from everyone else, wherever or whenever they have lived on earth. So, we really do ask ourselves, “What do I wish to do “unto the Son of Man”? How receptive am I of him and his teachings? How hard do I strive to live my life consistent with his teachings? We certainly hope not to be numbered with those who will not receive him when he comes next time; for next time those who feel enmity with him and his principles will not be able to do whatever they want to him. There will be no crucifixion. Rather, those who do not receive him will be “put...under his feet.”

I am O.K. with being *at* Jesus’ feet, but I don’t want to be under them. It’s always a good idea to review his life and teachings and be sure that I am not at odds with him or them. That when he comes he can do with me what I hope and want him to do with me.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

(edition: October 25, 2024)