

LUKE Lesson 46

Events Surrounding Christ's Second Coming. (Chapter 17:20 to Chapter 18:8)

19 April 2019

In this section of the Bible, Jesus Christ instructs His disciples and tells them what the world will be like before He returns with His Bride at the end of the Great Tribulation (Jacob's Trouble, Jer 30:7) to take His throne in Jerusalem and establish His earthly kingdom.

20-21 The Pharisees demanded that Jesus tell them the timing of the establishment of the "Kingdom of God."

- Kingdom of God: an invisible, spiritual kingdom which can be entered by believing on Jesus Christ and being born into that kingdom. God is a spirit (Jn 4:24); therefore, the kingdom of God is spiritual (Rom 14:17).
- Kingdom of Heaven: the physical, earthly kingdom which God promised to establish on earth with its headquarters in Jerusalem (Mt 8:11). Heaven is a physical place; therefore, the kingdom of heaven is a physical place.

22-23 These are the days when the Son of man cannot be seen because He is physically in Heaven. Jesus said if anyone says they saw Him, they didn't see Him (Mt 24:26). The kingdom of God is about what you believe (faith, Eph 2:8, Heb 11:1), not what you see (i.e. baptism, healing, tongues, miracles).

Vs 24 When Jesus Christ returns to Earth, it won't be a private visit to a few people. **Every eye shall see Him** (Rev 1:7, Mk 13:26, Mt 24:30). Everyone on Earth will be aware of His return. The "lightning" in this verse is a reference to the sun as it rises in the morning and shines across the sky throughout the day (Matt 24:27, Mal 4:2-3). No one could miss it! Jesus will return as the Bridegroom coming out of His chamber (see Psalm 19:1-6), which is pictured by the sunrise. Jesus' light is "above the brightness of the sun" (Acts 26:13) and He's the light of New Jerusalem (Rev 21:23)!

25-27 In the days of Noe (Noah) people were so busy with everyday life that they had no time for God, so God had no place in their life.

28-29 In the days of Lot people were too busy for God and were not concerned that Hell was waiting.

In this technologically advanced age, people have too many things to keep them busily occupied. The abundance of entertainment available today competes for our time with God.

Noah pictures a Tribulation saint who is saved (physically) through the Tribulation. Enoch pictures the Church; he was caught out of this world (Heb 11:5, Gen 5:24) right before great tribulation (the flood).

Lot pictures a Tribulation saint who escaped God's judgment by fleeing to the wilderness until the indignation was over (Rev 12:14).

30-32 Jesus' Second Coming is going to be a revelation; He will reveal Himself to all mankind. In that day, don't look back; forget your old life; remember Lot's wife. She looked back and it cost her very life.

Lot pictures a believer who married an unbeliever. It resulted in the loss of his testimony, influence, wife, children, property, etc.

Lot's wife pictures someone who escaped tribulation but looked back and brought judgment upon herself. Her love of the world doomed her. That same love will cause many to "look back" and take the mark of the beast in order to continue enjoying the things of the world.

33-36 Remember that this is a Tribulation/Second Coming passage! A person who seeks to save his (physical) life (by taking the mark of the Beast) shall lose it (he'll lose eternal life with God).

Characteristics of that time:

Two men are in bed with each other (vs 34).

Two women are "grinding together" (vs 35). They're not grinding grain! (See Job 31:9-11).

These statements indicate a prevalence (commonness) and acceptance of homosexual activities on the earth right before the Lord Returns.

"One shall be taken" means that his life will be taken. It is not a reference to the rapture! **"The other shall be left"** means his life will be spared.

References to **"taken:"** Acts 8:32-33, Eccl. 7:26, 9:12, Job 34:20.

God will select individuals for destruction (Deut 32:39, Job 12:10) like he did among the Egyptians (Exod 12:29).

Vs 37 The **"eagles"** of this verse are a reference to the scavenging "fowls of the air" that will feed on the dead bodies of those who will be trampled by Jesus Christ at His Second Coming (see Rev 19:17-18).

Chapter 18

1-8 In this passage, the Lord Jesus encourages tribulation Jews to pray to Him to avenge them of their adversary (Antichrist), promising them that He will answer that prayer and avenge them speedily.

Jesus will return when a believing remnant of Jews finally cry out to Him under persecution asking them to deliver them and punish their oppressors. That is going to require faith. Will Jesus find that faith?

References to the Lord responding to the cries of His children: Psalm 9:12, Isaiah 63:1-4.

The Lord comes speedily, (not soon): Hebrews 10:35-37, the Lord's "little while" is different from our "little while."