

Luke 17.20-37

Jesus Christ is King: Now and Forever!

2nd Gospel Written – Early 60's 1st C – Gentile, writes > 1/3 of NT

Medical DOCTOR, Historian, accompanied Paul on M journeys

9.51 “Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem” > ch 19 Arrives / Cross-Resurrection

10 chaps TEACHING of Jesus > 3 Miracles > 17 Parables in 10 chapters

Much Content NOT found in Other Gospels > Including this Story

v. 11 “on the way to Jerusalem” > Pharisees @ GOOD Question!

Phar > Custodians of Law of God v. 20 “when kingdom of God come?”

Old Age wonder WHEN World End? Revelation when Jesus RETURN?

1st C Israel > Strong Expectancy GOD coming to Deliver Chosen People

Israel under Roman Occupation / When would God RESTORE Israel?

Huge Response to John Bapt > KILLED > Focus shifted to Cousin Jesus

World: Sorrow, Pain, Death > Dreaming Better Place: OR Fear Unknown?

1. The Kingdom and Secrecy

v. 20 “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed 21 nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’

Kingdom NOT Obvious > Pharisees looked for King’s Mighty Acts: Crush Romans, Punish Gentiles > Judgment, Punishment, Praise

Today Xtians yearn for God to Step In & Solve CHAOS in our World

As God often Does > Kingdom NOT Coming as People EXPECTED!

v. 21 “for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

Kingdom = Rule of God, Sovereign Authority in a Peasant from Galilee??

God’s PEOPLE in God’s PLACE under God’s RULE

No Castle – No Flag – No Army – No Website – No Political Party

Pharisees BLIND to See King > Majesty in their Midst > King in House!

2 Stages Kingdom > Has COME AND Is COMING

Not see Kingdom by Outward Observation > Only way to ENTER by Faith

BICF 100 Nations: Fellowship> Young Lady enters: “Uruguay is HERE!”

Woman Born & Raised in Uruguay as close to U. as Most of us will GET!

Pharisees NOT SEE the King who CAME > Born a King in Bethlehem
 Jesus is KING Right Now > Rules in Hearts of His People
 Building His Church > Drawing People to Faith & Follow Him
 By His Spirit works thru Jobs, Friendships, Outreach, Witnessing
 Last Sunday > Most Watched Xtian Meeting in Human History
 Memorial service 4 Charlie Kirk drew at least 20 million viewers
 90,000 State Farm Stadium, Glendale, AZ > 20 million views round World
 Thursday Night State Farm Stadium > Repurposed home AZ Cardinals!

2. The Kingdom and Suffering

v. 22 Change in Audience > “he said to the disciples”

a. Stereo Pharisees > Kingdom HERE / Disciples > Kingdom COMING

Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3.2

NOW / NOT YET

v. 22 And he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.

DAYS when Jesus Reign & Rule will be VISIBLE and UNSTOPPABLE

Reason for LONGING: Hatred, Hardship, Hypocrisy, Sufferings for X

Difficulty SO Great > LONGING for One of Days of Son of Man

b. Speculation Long for Return > Wrong to Live by Wild Speculation

v. 23 they will say to you, ‘Look, there!’ or ‘Look, here!’ Do not go out or follow them.

Do Not let GOOD Desires lead you into ERROR of Deceptions

Millions \$’s / Thousands Hrs WASTED Speculating WHEN Jesus Comes

Jesus said NOBODY Knows > GOD Not given us COSMIC PLAYBOOK

We NOW live between ALREADY & NOT YET / King Coming Again!

Corrective v. 24 For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day - U won’t MISS IT!

Return of Jesus > Public, Visible, Unmistakable > “a no doubter!”

SON of MAN = Daniel's Prophecy: Jesus receives Eternal Kingdom!

Cyril of Alexandria 400 AD "At the end time of the world, he will not descend from heaven obscurely or secretly, but with godlike glory"

c. Suffering 25 first he must suffer many things & be rejected by this gen

Jesus VIEWS Kingdom thru lense of Cross & Resurrection

FIRST Suffering v. 25, THEN Glory v. 22 God's Order & His Divine Plan

Before His COMING there will be HIGH COST to Pay in Suffering

Do not Let Wishful Thinking / Fervent Desire / GRASP at False Straws

v. 23 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them.

You will KNOW! v. 24 For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.

Suffering comes before Kingdom > So ENDURE the Suffering God Sends

SAME for US > > Enter by Faith > Endure w Jesus by Faith

thru many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God Acts 14.22

3. The Kingdom and Secularism

a. Terrible Days vs. 26 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man 28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot

Noah & Lot "periods of intense wickedness"

Noah worked Long, Hard Days 100 yrs: Neighbors Constantly Ridiculed

BOAT? Miles away from an Ocean > NEVER Rained up to This POINT!

Rain Never Seen > Preaching about God they've Never Seen!

Sodom: Injustice, Immorality, Flagrant Homosexual Sin, Abuse Women

Terrible Disaster > God's Justice poured out on Corrupt Community

Quickly Perished to their Everlasting Surprise > Gone Forever

b. Normal Days vs. 27,28 "eating, drinking, marrying, buying/selling, planting/building"

Nothing Wrong w These Necessary Activities > All Need to be Done

Wrong: Preoccupied by Routines: Completely Absorbed in Own Interests

Not just Non-Xtians that are Consumed w Stuff > So are We Xtians!

“There is a word here to a modern disciple. You too are liable to be so taken up with brushing your teeth, choosing your earrings, closing real estate deals, building houses, going to work, getting through school, passing your exams, taking kids to music lessons, running Junior to Little League, going to church, the beauty shop and the grocery store, text messaging, mowing the yard, finding a new hair salon, paying the orthodontist, getting allergy shots, that it’s almost like you are in Sodom. It’s the frenzied pace of one thing after another that loses sight of the coming of the Son of Man.”

Dale Ralph Davis

c. Shocking Day

vs. 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Noah entered Ark: Began Rain, Rain, Rain, Never Stopped till DEAD!

Sept 11, 2001: Beautiful Autumn Day – Dropping Children Off at School

Riding Subway to Work – Pick Up a Coffee – Check Email

Take Elevators up to Offices in Twin Towers of World Trade Center NYC

Exact Same Thing happen Moment Jesus Returns: Eating Dinner –

Watching TV, Walking Dog, Working Factory, Kiss Children Goodnight, Stuck in Traffic,
Shopping at Mall, Checking Stock Market, Empty Trash

Like a Shocking Bolt of Lightning across Night Sky! Jesus RETURNS!

Only way to be SAFE on Final Day > Enter Ark of Jesus by FAITH

4. The Kingdom and Separation

a. Urgency > Jesus 2 Pictures: Man on Roof, Worker in the Field

v. 31 “On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back”

Airplane: If Emergency don’t Take Luggage w You > GET OUT!

Think about Grabbing > Phone, Laptop, New Jacket > NO TIME!

If Jesus is REALLY Coming > We should have LOSE Grip on STUFF

Coming of Jesus will be RE-RUN of Days of NOAH & LOT

Too Focused on STUFF > then Cannot Focus on Savior, God, Judge

One Meets KING in the Air > OTHER meets the King in JUDGMENT

b. **Conflicted** vs. 32Remember Lot's wife. 33Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

Feel SAD 4 Mrs Lot: Loved New Curtains, Big Screen TV, Roses Bloom

Not WHERE she Looked but WHAT She Loved > Loved the WORLD

Lot & Wife wanted get CLOSE to Sinful World as Possible: Not Burned

Her Life LAY Ahead of her NOT Behind her > Leaving Here, With GOD

Longing for World was FATAL Attraction > Heart Burned Up w SODOM

Yahweh's agents could try to get to Mrs. Lot out of Sodom but couldn't get Sodom out of Mrs. Lot. She 'looked back' – her eyes followed her affections. D.R. Davis

Our HOME is where God calls us to BE

“Her story is one of the saddest in the whole Bible. She was almost saved, but not quite”

Charles Spurgeon

c. **Sobering** vs. 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. 35There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left.”

God will DIVIDE the Human Race > For/Against, Heaven/Hell

People Share Life Together > Separated from E/Other FOREVER

Not taken Up in RAPTURE > taken Away to Judgment, Other Spared

When Christ comes KINGDOM will be Fully DISPLAYED All See

What about Your Family, Siblings, Children, Colleagues, Neighbors

Will they be Lost at Last Day? Will Find Safety of Trusting in Jesus?

v. 37 And they said to him, “Where, Lord?” Those LEFT BEHIND...?
 Where? Are those Taken Going? Where will Final Judgment Happen?
 Dessert? Valley of Armageddon? Jerusalem? Where will END Occur?
 Cryptic Answer > Jesus keeping Cards of Providence close to his Chest

“Where the corpse is, there vultures will gather.” Difficult, Many Interp!
 Kingdom will be PLAIN TO SEE like Vultures hovering over Corpse
 Be like Vultures > Very Far-Sighted & Quick in seeing Presence of Food
 Judgment will Occur wherever it Needs to Occur > Vultures will find Prey
 Terribly Grim story! Should be Judgment of God > Not Palatable
 One Day will be Final, Eternal Separation > bow down to Son of Man
 Jesus is KING NOW and we will See His Kingship in Fullness, Forever!

Theater > Large Crowd > Fire Backstage > Actor Runs on Stage Warning!
 Excited Gestures > Dramatic Voice > Standing Ovation for Performance
 Not a Show, Not Make Believe, God Warning from Heaven! REPENT!
 God’s Word WARNING > Calls us to Turn from Stuff to our Savior

Pharisees NOT SEE the King who CAME > Rule began @ Resurrection
 Disciples KNEW Jesus KING Not Sure WHEN: Rule Revealed @ Return
 Jesus Christ is KING > Now and Forever

Psalms 27 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,

my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

he will lift me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, **and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Amen and Amen.