

## The Coming of the Son of Man

Luke 21:5-28

“To Catch an Angel,” is the title of a book written by the late Robert Russell. It’s the autobiography of a young blind man who lived alone on an island in the middle of a river. In spite of his blindness he went rowing on the river almost every day. He did it by means of a fairly simple system.

He attached a bell, with a timer, to the end of the dock. The bell rang every thirty seconds. Robert could row up and down the river, and every thirty seconds judge his distance by the sound of the bell. When he’d finished rowing, he’d find his way home by means of the bell. He explained it like this; “The River lies before me, a constant invitation, a constant challenge, and my bell is the thread of sound along which I return to a quiet base.”

Life is like a great river. God calls us to venture out on it where there is danger and excitement. But our security is in the bell, which is the Word of God, Jesus Himself.<sup>1</sup>

I like that analogy. Our security is in the bell if we hear it and follow it! But if we ignore it, or if there’s too much other noise so we can’t hear the bell, we will be lost.

Not only are our individual lives like a river, so is the broad stream of humanity. And as our individual lives are finite, so is the stream of humanity. God’s Word clearly teaches us that He will bring human history to His predetermined climax – in His timing. Ever since the beginning of time people have had questions about the conclusion of time and humanity as we know them. Today, we’re closer to that climax than at any other time in history.

In our study of Luke’s Gospel we’ve come to chapter 21. In the opening verses of this chapter Jesus observes the people in the Temple placing their offerings in the boxes designated for those gifts. He notes the large gifts of the wealthy and contrasts them with the tiny, tiny amount given by the poor widow. Yet He says “*she put in more than all the wealthy givers because they gave out of their abundance; she put in everything she had.*”

During our study of those verses I mentioned Alfred Edersheim’s report that during the time of the Roman leaders Pompey and Crassus, the Temple-Treasury, after lavishly defraying every possible expenditure, still contained the equivalent of nearly half a million dollars. And the

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Surber, Knowing the Season, 11/24/2009

vessels of the Temple were valued at about 2 million pounds sterling; that's between 4 and 5 million dollars today. The Temple was one of the great wonders of the ancient world.

But the beauty and magnificence of the Temple masked a religious system that was hollow and rotting on the inside - ripe for judgment.

And so our text today brings us to Jesus' prediction of future events. His teaching is in response to some observations and questions from His disciples. I've titled this teaching "The Coming of the Son of Man." Listen carefully as I read this lengthy text, **Luke 21:5-28**.

In this text, Jesus provides several clear INDICATORS that will precede the coming of the Son of Man. Many of them are as pertinent today as they were when He uttered them.

The First INDICATOR is,

### **Spiritual Deception**

Our text begins with Jesus' disciples remarking to Him about the beauty and ornamentation of the Temple. As I said in my introduction, the Temple was one of the great wonders of the ancient world.

You'll remember that Solomon's Temple had been destroyed in 586 BC by the conquering Babylonians. The second Temple was built by Zerubbabel and dedicated in 515 BC. So this Temple had stood for approximately 545 years and had been enlarged and beautified by Herod the Great and others (over a period of about 80 years). The Temple complex was huge; it encompassed about 35 acres. Some of the single stones in the walls ranged in size from 20-40 feet in length and weighed up to 300 tons! No other temple in the ancient world was as magnificent as the Temple in Jerusalem.

The massive columns of the portico were of marble; more than 40 feet high – and there were scores of them. The porches of the Temple were adorned with many votive offerings. Herod the Great had donated golden vines with bunches of grapes as large as a man; there were large golden pitchers given by Augustus. Most of the gates in the Temple complex were gilded with gold and there was lavish gilding throughout the structure. The interior of the Holy of Holies was awash with gold.

History tells us that after the sacking of Jerusalem in 70 AD so much plundered gold saturated the Syrian market that the value of the precious metal fell by half!

Now you may ask, “Why is it important for us to know these things?” Because the outward beauty and ornamentation masked a tragic reality – a spiritually bankrupt religion that focused on outward appearance rather than genuine holiness. It was deception on a massive scale! I’m convinced we have some of that in the church today. The apostle Paul tells us in Second Timothy 3:13 this deception will only grow worse as we approach the end of the age.

In response to the disciple’s exclamations about the grandeur of the Temple, Jesus made a shocking statement. He said *“the day will come when these things you are looking at will be completely destroyed. Not one stone will be left on top another!”* In just a few short decades the Roman general, Titus, would order the Temple Mount and the whole city dug up and destroyed. The entire Temple complex was leveled; only a few retaining walls were left standing. One of them we know today as the Western Wall, or the Wailing Wall.

Can you imagine the shock this prediction must’ve been to the Twelve, especially in light of the recent “Triumphal Entry”? The Jewish people had an understanding of eschatology; that is, they had a view of how the Messiah would come and set up His kingdom. We’ve already talked some about that in previous studies.

They knew that Isaiah and others predicted a time of peace and prosperity where Messiah would reign over the whole earth. He prophesied that the nations of the world would bring their wealth and their glory into the Holy City.

But they also knew the prophecies of Joel, Daniel, and Zechariah who prophesied times of great trouble and tribulation related to the Day of the Lord. So the disciples didn’t deny Jesus’ statements. They didn’t say “that can never happen.” They evidently accepted what He said at face value.

If someone gave you information about some startling event in the future, what would your response be? Much like the disciples I suppose. *“When is this going to happen and what signs will precede it?”* In Matthew’s record of these events they connected this predicted destruction of the Temple with the Day of the Lord.

Jesus’ first words of response are so instructive; *“pay attention and don’t allow anyone to deceive you.”* This is interesting because, like many prophetic utterances, Jesus’ words refer to the near future and to the distant future; and He doesn’t spell out the difference. We must discover the time indicated through what is prophesied and by the input of other Scripture texts.

It seems as though Jesus answers the question by working at points in the discourse backward in time. In other words, He starts with the end and works back to the time in which He's speaking; so verses 7 to 11 describe conditions that will prevail just before His return. Verses 12 to 24 describe the fall of Jerusalem and the events that will precede it. And then in verses 25 to 28 He returns again to things predicted in the distant future.

But let's focus on Jesus' warning about this first indicator of the coming of the Son of Man. **He told them not to be deceived** because *"many will come claiming my authorization; even claiming to be THE Christ and proclaiming the fullness of the kingdom – "the end is here."* DO NOT follow them! There were many "false messiahs" in the first century; the great teacher, Gamaliel, lists one of them in Acts 5:35. Great deception will also characterize the days just before the return of Christ, or the coming of the Son of Man.

As followers of Christ, we need discernment today like never before! We must be people of the Book. We must know what the Word of God says and we must test every philosophy, every teaching, and every practice to the authority of God's Word. It is our only hope of avoiding deception and eternal ruin.

Another practical lesson you and I can draw from this warning is this; things that appear to be immovable can be destroyed in a short space of time. Just like it was hard for the disciples to grasp how the Temple could be flattened so thoroughly, so it is hard for many people in the free world to think that those freedoms could suddenly disappear.

Many nations trust in their military and economic might to preserve their existence, but they can be quickly overrun under the right conditions. As those who live under the conditions of freedom and prosperity we must be aware they are not guaranteed! Our community, our state, and our nation are not invincible. We must be alert and pay attention to the times in which we live. We must stay firmly anchored in the truth of God's Word revealed by the Holy Spirit.

The Second INDICATOR is,

### **Political Commotion**

Jesus goes on to say (in verses 9 and 10) that they will hear about wars and insurrections or civil wars; but they shouldn't be terrified. For these things must come to pass FIRST. Even after these things happen the end is not immediately following them; that is, Christ's return

would not be at the same time as these commotions. These kinds of events have been going on almost since the beginning of time. But they will increase in intensity as we near the end.

The peoples of the world will rise in opposition to one another; religious, ethnic, and sectarian wars are active in many parts of the world today. Nation states are in open conflict with one another. There is a rising tide of nationalism, prejudice and xenophobia. These are all signs pointing toward the end.

But let us be careful of trying to assign every instance of war and turmoil a specific place on God's prophetic timeline. Many have tried to do this and the absurdity of their position and the failure of their predictions have damaged the cause of Christ.

Now in verse 12 of our text, Jesus begins to point out events in the near future; that before the wars and commotions of verses 9 and 10 Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies. Eventually the city will fall by the edge of the sword and the inhabitants that survive will be led into captivity. And Jerusalem will be under the domination of Gentile powers until that era of Gentile domination is ended by the return of Christ.

What applications are here for us who are alive today? First of all, we know that the predictions Jesus made about the fall of Jerusalem were completely accurate. And the circumstances He predicted leading up to that event were accurate too. Therefore we can have confidence that the things predicted, in this case, wars and tumult among the peoples of the world will all be fulfilled too.

In fact, if you read the prophet Zechariah you will learn that Jerusalem and her people will go through a great time of suffering in the last days. She will be again surrounded by hostile nations bent on her destruction. Zechariah chapters 12, 13, and 14 describe the desire of the nations to destroy the people of God once and for all. Just when it seems Israel and Jerusalem are about to be completely wiped out, God steps into the picture to rescue His people. These events are yet in the future.

However, as we see these things happening around us we are not to be terrified or dismayed. God has a plan for humanity and He is fulfilling it according to His schedule. We can rest assured that He can control what He has created.

The Next INDICATOR is,

### **Religious Persecution**

In verse 12 Jesus clearly states that before the wars and commotion, before the earthquakes, famine and disease, and before the destruction of Jerusalem, the followers of Jesus would experience significant persecution. We know clearly from the book of Acts and from early church history this is exactly what happened.

After Pentecost, the apostles were called before the religious leaders numerous times and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus. They were imprisoned by both religious and civil authorities for the sake of the Gospel. Some of them even gave their lives. The authorities did all they could to stamp out this new sect of Believers.

Jesus had specific encouragement and instructions for them during this time. He said their suffering would turn out to be a witness (*marterion*) to those who looked on. This has been true down through the centuries, so much so that in certain eras the authorities executed followers of Christ privately. They did this because when these faithful ones were executed publicly their testimony brought many more people to faith in Christ.

Jesus also instructed them not to prepare their defense beforehand; not to write out or memorize what they were going to say. (And by the way, this has nothing to do with preaching. Some people say sermons should be spontaneous, like the testimony Jesus' commanded here; you shouldn't write anything down in preparation. But this text has nothing to do with preaching in the assembly of Believers. This is about giving testimony before unbelievers.)

Then notice Jesus' promise. "I will give you both words and wisdom, which all your adversaries will not be able to withstand and they will "go down" before the power of Christ!" We have an example of this very thing in Acts 6:8 to 15.

*"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. **And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.** Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel."*

Jesus warned His disciples they would be betrayed by their most intimate acquaintances – their own family members. The pain of betrayal is great, but when it comes from those who profess to love you it is especially excruciating. These betrayals would lead to imprisonment for many and some would even be put to death by the testimony of their family members.

And they would be hated by all people for the sake of Christ; as He told the disciples in John 15:18 to 21 it will always be so. He said *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.”* Jesus’ name stands for His complete revelation about Himself and who He is; because of this He is hated.

In the western world, where most of us have known religious freedom all our lives, these are difficult words for us. We see things changing around us with a growing intolerance of truth and moral absolutes. We must realize the freedoms we’ve enjoyed as followers of Christ are not the norm; they’re an anomaly. The vast majority of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world suffer some form of harassment and persecution. Why should you and I expect to be exempted from suffering?

Then notice Jesus’ promise in verses 18 and 19; this is precious! He told them (and us) not a hair of their head would perish. What does that statement remind you of? In Matthew 10:30 Jesus told His followers that their Heavenly Father had the hairs of their head numbered. This showed them and us the extent of Divine providence and protection we enjoy. This promise was given in the context of being willing to give up physical life in order to gain eternal life. So the promise Jesus is giving to the disciples here in our text cannot mean they won’t suffer physically; some of them were martyred for their faith.

The soul is the eternal part of us that cannot be destroyed. The body will die and decay; that is inescapable – if not today or tomorrow, at some point all of us will experience physical death. Jesus was promising them spiritual deliverance, spiritual victory. This point becomes clearer with a proper understanding of verse 19.

Some versions, including the New King James Version, which I read, render it *“By your patience possess your souls.”* But we have a different understanding of the word possess than

how it's used here. In Luke 18:12 the self-righteous Pharisee is recorded as saying “...*I give tithes of all that I possess.*” But we know that tithes were not required on possessions, but rather on profits, or gain. I prefer the rendering of the English Standard Version on this verse. It reads “*By your endurance you will gain your lives.*” This dovetails perfectly with Jesus' earlier teaching about being willing to lose physical life in order to preserve the soul for eternal life. By their steadfast faith in Jesus they would gain eternal life. The same is true for you and me.

The next verses of the text detail for us the imminent destruction facing Jerusalem. The disciples had asked about a sign indicating the destruction of Jerusalem. In verses 20 to 24 Jesus honors their request by giving them specific things to look for.

First, beware when Jerusalem is surrounded by armies. The Roman general, Vespasian, was assigned the task of bringing the revolting Jews under control in 67 AD. He began by subduing the region of Galilee, but the death of Emperor Nero in the year 68 left Vespasian without clear orders. Later, Vespasian was recalled to Rome and became emperor. His son, Titus, was left to finish the task; which he did in September of 70 AD. The only account we have of these happenings is from the Jewish-Roman historian, Josephus.

Jesus warned the disciples to watch for this gathering of armies. The grammar used here indicates that this gathering had already begun, that is, Rome was already in control of the city. That would be a sign that the destruction of Jerusalem was near at hand. He advised those outside the city, in Judea, who could to flee to the mountains, to do so. For those in the city, they should get out before the city was completely encircled. Those who were in the country should absolutely not enter Jerusalem. And he had a special warning for expectant mothers and those nursing infants. He said their plight would be extremely perilous in the coming distress.

Why all these warnings? Because Jesus said these are the days of vengeance when all the prophecies of judgment against this rebellious nation would be fulfilled. He had already clearly spoken of this destruction in chapter 19 and verses 42 to 44, and connected its fulfillment to the fact they were blinded to who Jesus really was.

The slaughter that took place in the destruction of Jerusalem was horrendous – on both sides. Many thousands fell by the sword (as Jesus noted in verse 24), and thousands more were taken into captivity. The city was almost completely destroyed, except for the three great towers of Herod's Palace. Titus left those standing to show the great strength his forces had to overcome

in conquering the city. Also, some of the retaining walls were left; but the rest of the city was a smoldering ruin. Pious Jews today still mourn this tragic event.

Jesus said that Jerusalem would be dominated by Gentile powers until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. You and I are currently living in that time. But you say “Israel is back in the land since 1948 and is an independent state.” True, but who controls the holy sites and the Temple Mount? What other country has its every move scrutinized and criticized? It’s still under Gentile domination. And so we wait for the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise.

There are some today who say “God is through with the Jew. The church is the new Israel.” Not so fast! That flies in the face of Romans 11:25 and other Scriptures. Paul writes; *“Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob’; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”*

Note that Jesus used the word “until” when speaking about the time of the Gentiles. That suggests a time limit on their domination of Jerusalem. God will keep His promises.

So what can we learn from Jesus’ words? First, whatever the Scriptures predict will happen. It may come early or late, according to our timetable, but God is not bound to our puny understanding. He is Sovereign! He will fulfill ALL His will.

In addition, we see the need for unity among the people of God. Josephus tells us about the terrible division happening in the city of Jerusalem even as it was under siege by the Romans. Different Jewish factions were fighting and killing each other instead of focusing on the common enemy outside. Oh brother/sister, doesn’t that sound a lot like the church today? The time may well come when we will be under such stress that we’ll gladly lay aside our petty divisions and embrace all who are genuine followers of Jesus. Let’s not wait – start doing that today!

Religious persecution will be one of the indicators of the coming of the Son of Man.

The Next INDICATOR is,

### **Cosmic Disruption**

That’s right; Jesus said there will be signs in the heavens and on the earth. There will be cosmic disruption. You can see the list in verses 25 and 26.

Now it becomes obvious right away that these things are only distantly connected with Jesus' prophecies about the end of the age. The destruction of Jerusalem was at the beginning of this long time period. The things mentioned here in the last part of our text come when the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled; that means we're still waiting for them.

This mixing of prophecies shouldn't surprise us; they're mixed all through the Old Testament. God, through the prophets, didn't make a clear distinction between events in the near future versus events in the distant future.

Let me give you an example by way of Peter's words on Pentecost. He said *"Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on my menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'*"

Did you hear it? Peter quoted Joel's prophecy, but the last part of it didn't happen at Pentecost. There were no wonders in the heavens; there was no blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. The sun still shone in its brightness and the moon didn't turn to blood. There was some of that at the destruction of Jerusalem, to be sure; but the ultimate fulfillment of those things will happen just *"before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."*

Mark's Gospel states *"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken."* That's Mark 13:24 and 25. Notice, he equates these cosmic disturbances with a time of unprecedented worldwide persecution of God's people. Matthew 24:21 says of this persecution; *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be."* Revelation chapter six and verse 13 records the falling of stars from the heavens to the earth.

Jesus further states that the powers of heaven will be shaken. The root of this word, translated, shaken, is the same as the word used of the roaring waves of the sea in verse 25. The motion of the oceans will be dramatically affected by these disturbances in the heavens. Well, that certainly makes sense; we know the moon and the sun have a tremendous affect on the tides of the ocean. So the normal processes of the universe will be out of kilter. And that leads us to the next indicator of the coming of the Son of Man.

The Final INDICATOR is,

### **Social Dysfunction**

When all of these visible cosmic disturbances begin, the peoples of the world will be in great anguish and perplexity. The social structure will disintegrate. They will not know which way to turn; they will see no way out of their predicament! The events of verses 25 and 26 will happen simultaneously. It will be so severe that their hearts will fail them for fear. That means they will literally stop breathing. Some will die - simply from fright! Wow, that's amazing.

Matthew tells us that *“the stars will fall from the heavens, the sun and moon will be darkened, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.”* The cycles of nature will be disrupted. Daniel's prophecies and the book of Revelation give us further details of the great social upheaval these cosmic changes will initiate. People will wish to die but will not be able. They will be tormented to the point of insanity!

Fear is a powerful motivator; it can be good and protect us from harm. Or it can be bad and lead us to acts that are irrational. Often, we fear things we don't know or understand. Not knowing and understanding how other cultures think and live creates uncertainty and hostility. We fear that outsiders will bring major changes to our culture. The easiest way to deal with that issue is to keep them out of our country, out of our community, and out of our lives. During the time Jesus foretold, that fear will be magnified by the cosmic disturbances.

This social breakdown is already occurring in our world. In my country, the United States, there is a polarization of belief. Maybe you see that in your country too. The divide between rich and poor is growing. The divide between those who embrace God's moral principles as outlined in Scripture and those who reject moral absolutes is growing. We are expected, not just to permit open perversion, but to sanction and promote it! Unfortunately, some

churches (with a small letter c) do promote it. Even our language is becoming coarser and common courtesy is being discarded.

With that kind of tension already in place you can see what will happen when the whole system collapses. People will do whatever it takes to survive and things will most likely get ugly real fast!

**And in the midst of that turmoil, distress, and hopelessness, the Son of Man will come in a cloud with power and great glory. Hallelujah!**

Jesus closes this section of teaching with these words; *“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*

From our perspective today, the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD is long past. We are in the “time of the Gentiles.” We understand the ebb and flow of history is controlled by God, the one who will bring it all to a conclusion in His timing. The teaching Jesus gives us here is specific enough to keep us watching and alert for His return. It is general enough that we shouldn’t try to attach dates to His return or try to find prophetic significance in every major world event.

Remember, when the disciples asked Jesus specifically about the time of His return, in Acts 1:6, He basically told them to mind their own business. He was more concerned they should live out their calling and commitment faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is important to note in the Acts passage I just mentioned that Jesus doesn’t say the kingdom will never be restored to Israel. He just tells them that event will come when the Father decides its time.

There are warnings here for us. We must not become so preoccupied with the future that we neglect the present. God has us here for a purpose; we are his ministers of grace to a lost and dying world of humanity. The main part of our mission is to fulfill Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:14; *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”*

As we observe the nation of Israel, we see they lost Solomon’s Temple to the Babylonians because the people had rejected God and His Laws. They were about to lose their magnificent Temple a second time because they trusted in their own righteousness rather than in the righteousness Jesus was offering them. That should be a sobering warning to us.

As we close this time of teaching let’s review these indicators of the coming of the Son of Man. I believe Jesus listed “spiritual deception” first because it has the greatest potential to

destroy us and our faith in Him. If we succumb to spiritual deception we may survive physically but we will be eternally lost. Let's hold fast tenaciously to the Word of God and filter the events of life and our choices through that Word.

Most of you listening to me have lived long enough to know that political commotion is a regular part of our world. Nations war against one another; some disappear and new ones rise. Old alliances break apart and new ones form. These changes point to an instability that will only be ended when King Jesus sets up His everlasting kingdom.

Religious persecution is widespread in our world today; and it is increasing. We, who live in the West must realize that the blessings of freedom we've enjoyed so long are the exception in God's program, not the norm. We should prepare ourselves for suffering as our culture becomes less and less willing to hear God's truth or to see us live it out. Suffering will have a purifying effect on the Church, on the people of God.

Cosmic disruption is another indicator of the coming of the Son of Man. Whether that is increasing is hard to say. It may be that we are just much better informed because of our instant, worldwide communications. There have always been earthquakes, famine, and disease. But the cosmic disruption that will take place just prior to Christ return will be unmistakable. As the saying goes "you ain't seen nothin' yet!"

All these events will lead to the final breakdown of society, leading to social confusion. As I mentioned, we're already well on the way with a growing lack of civility in public discourse and the neglecting of common courtesies. You know, this is one area where our witness and testimony should shine brightly! Every human being has value in God's sight and we should treat every person with respect and dignity; whether WE think they're worthy or not.

My friend, are you ready for the coming of the Son of Man? He is the only escape route from the coming judgment.

You can scoff like those, in the days of the apostle Peter, who said "*Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*" But I warn you, God will not be mocked. Peter goes on to remind us that "*...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.*" You will NOT escape!

Or, you can prepare for the day when the Son of Man appears in the clouds of heaven in power and great glory. Romans 14:11 is clear; "*As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to*

*Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*” By faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ you can send your sins on beforehand to judgment. He died so you could be forgiven of your sins. He rose from the dead so you could walk in the power of a new life; life in Him.

The Son of Man is coming; that’s a fact. The only variable is whether or not you’ll be ready. I urge you to get ready today!