



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

Prophecy in Perspective!

Focus Verses: Luke 21:25-28 - ²⁵ And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. ²⁷ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Lesson Text: Luke 21:1-28

Truth About God: God has big plans for eternity that we do not yet understand.

Truth For My Life: I will live ready for Jesus' return.

The disciples were impressed by the Temple but Jesus was impressed by the sacrifice. The beauty of the Temple grounds at the time of Herod rivaled some of the ancient wonders of the world. Jesus said: *"Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had"* (Luke 21:3-4). Jesus' simple statement offered His perspective, but the disciples did not quite get it. Most people still do not get it. Most others did not even see her, but God Almighty in flesh saw her and inspired His Gospels writers to write her story so we would also see her.

Prophecy often has multiple horizons and is really God telling His story. We can trust Him with our lives and our resources. The lesson of Jesus teaching about the last days is the same: we can trust God with our lives and our resources, regardless of how bleak things may appear. Jesus' words on the Mount of Olives (Olivet Discourse) had much to say to the first generation of believers, those who heard His words. Yet it also had a second and even more profound message to the generation who would see the end of things.

A couple important principles about prophecy help us truly appreciate it and take out some of the mystery about it. The first is that prophecy is simply God telling His story. Not only are many prophecies in the Bible, but there are many fulfillments to prophecy as well, especially related to Jesus. Jesus came, lived, ministered, and even died in fulfillment of works spoken by prophets. God's promises did prove to be true. And if God could miraculously fulfill dozens of prophecies in minute detail when Jesus first came, we can likewise believe God will fulfill future promises as we anticipate Jesus' return.

One of the most important prophetic passages of Scripture is found in today's text: **Luke 21**. So, we would be prepared for Jesus' return, He offered word pictures, signs, and promises about events that would signal the last days. These signs do not seem to be pleasant at all, and that was purposeful. While prophecy is meant as a warning, it is also meant to build hope for the future. In the end, the earth will be cleansed from evil, the kingdom of God will triumph, and God's purposes will be accomplished. In the end, *"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"* (Revelation 21:4).

It is hard to imagine everything around us could readily pass away, but Babylon thought the same about their city and their day. Like a broom passing through an old cobweb and sweeping it up, so the events of the last days could be upon us. But the Bible has a prescription for these things: Love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8); consciously live a life with Heaven in view, knowing the Lord will appear to those who look for Him (Hebrews 9:28); live a life full of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25); and "covet earnestly the best gifts [of the Spirit]" (1 Corinthians 12:31) so we "come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7).

Finally, when Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church about the return of Jesus, he not only encouraged them to live in a godly way, but he also let them know they did not have to be fearful of Christ's return. They would see their loved ones again. The brokenness and pain they felt would vanish. The same grace that saved them would be present upon Christ's return. Rather than striving to be perfect, he taught them to rest on the grace of God in all aspects of their past, present, and future. That is why he could say with respect to Jesus' return, *"Wherefore comfort one another with these words"* (1 Thessalonians 4:18).