



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Visible King and Invisible Kingdom

#### Luke 17:22-37

**Luke 17:22-37**, *Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. <sup>23</sup> And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. <sup>24</sup> For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. <sup>25</sup> But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. <sup>26</sup> And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

<sup>31</sup> *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. <sup>32</sup> Remember Lot's wife. <sup>33</sup> Whoever seeks to save his life*

*will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. <sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. <sup>36</sup> Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”*

*<sup>37</sup> And they answered and said to Him, “Where, Lord?”*

*So He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”*

The first phase of His Kingdom is spiritual, personal, internal. If you are not a part of that kingdom, you will never be a part of that external, worldwide, physical kingdom.

The internal, personal kingdom described by Jesus in verses 20 and 21.

The external, visible, manifest, earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ is been described following verses.

Jesus launches that second aspect in His Second Coming. It is crucial then to any understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus to major on the Second Coming.

It is the most important of all doctrines because it is the consummation of all doctrines. Every other doctrine, every other element in redemptive history ends up with the glorification of Christ in His kingdom, which is earthly and then

in its final phase eternal. You cannot minimize the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us come back to Luke 17:

Jesus teaches us about the nature of His coming in judgment.

1. Desired,
2. Visible,
3. Delayed,
4. Unexpected,
5. Revealing
6. Deadly.

### **1. Desired**

Saints long before us longed for it since they haven't seen it yet. We are all under the altar, "How long, oh Lord, how long?"

### **2. Visible**

It will be visible globally.

### **3. Delayed**

His coming will be delayed. It will be delayed.

First, He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

## 4. Unexpected

**V 26-30**, *And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed*

This is telling us some very, very important things about people's attitudes and life at the time when the Lord comes in judgment.

This is not looking at the rapture of the church.

This is looking at the devastating return of Christ in judgment.

In the days of the Son of Man, days, plural, not just the one great epoch but the days, the sequence of events, the components that make up that return. Just before He comes to judge and establish His kingdom, in that period that we call the tribulation period, it is going to be lifelike it was in Noah's day.

It is going to be lifelike it was in Lot's day.

Judgment like in Noah's day and Lot's day, and

Deliverance like in Noah's day and Lot's day.

## **How was it in the days of Noah?**

### **How was it in the day of Lot?**

Genesis chapters 6 to 8 records the Flood that drowned the entire world, the days of Noah.

There were millions of people alive at that time. Since creation, before the Flood, people lived a long time. They lived nearly 1,000 years, plenty of time to proliferate massive families which would then proliferate and fill the earth very rapidly. When the great Flood came, it drowned the entire world of millions of people and spared only Noah, his wife, their three sons and three wives. Totalling only eight people survived.

Genesis chapter 19 has the story of God's destruction of the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, and other cities of the plain out at the south end of the Dead Sea. They were all buried under molten lava, fire, and brimstone. It was a holocaust from which only three people were delivered. Lot and his two daughters. Not even his wife survived because of her sin. So that is the factors that we must keep in mind as we recall the story of Noah and the story of Lot.

### **Define the days of Noah?**

They were wicked days.

**Genesis 6:5**, *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*

They were evil. Evil was rampant. Evil was dominant. Evil was singular. It was such a wretched and evil period that demon-possessed men were ravaging women. It was a culture of demonic possession and it was a culture of sexual abandonment and all manner of wretchedness. So vile that God drowned the entire world.

### **Define the days of Lot?**

Lot lived in a city called Sodom. We have a word today called sodomy. We know exactly what that means. That is a homosexual sin.

That is a vile kind of behaviour drawn out of that city in the plains south of the Dead Sea.

### **What did God do to Sodom?**

Buried Sodom under fire and brimstone completely.

### **What kind of people lived in Sodom?**

Genesis 19th chapter we find that when two angels came to visit Lot, the men of that city tried to rape the angels. When God blinded the men of that city, they still tried to feel their way to smash down the door to get to those angels. That was a vile, wretched place.

So, the first thing you know about the days of Noah and the days of Sodom is that they were days of wretched, vile, massive, sweeping, consummate evil.

That is the way it will be in the days when the Son of Man comes.

There is no room for the world getting better and better.

- It is not going to get better.
- It did not get better before the judgment fell in Noah's day.
- It did not get better before the judgment fell in Lot's day.

How anybody can be a post-millennialist with that clear teaching of Scripture. It is going to get worse and worse. Evil men grow worse and worse, says the Word of God.

There is another very important thing to keep in mind. When we read the book of Revelation, when we get to this world, evil is going to be rampant because hell is going to open up and belch out a force of demons that have been kept captive for a while. There are some temporarily bound demons who are going to be released from their place of being bound in the pit. Revelation chapter 9 details that for us.

They are gulped out of hell and they run amok across the earth.

Until that future time the Spirit of God restrains evil in the world. The Spirit of God is called the restrainer!

Holy Spirit holds back evil.

But in the future, it will be removed.

**2 Thessalonians 2:6-7**, *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.*

So, we have hell bring forth demons who heretofore had been bound do their damage in the world and you have the restrainer pulling back all restraint and letting evil run its maximum level.

Bible calls that as the mystery of lawlessness which so far has been kept in check, so we didn't know what it looked like in its full expansion.

It will be like the day of Noah and like the day of Lot in the massive, consuming, widespread evil of the world.

**Judgment will come suddenly.**

It came suddenly in the days of Noah. The door was shut on the ark and it began to rain, and the flood drowned the whole world, and they had no hope.

It came suddenly in the days of Lot. Lot was taken out of the city. His two daughters went with him, they escaped and as soon as he was gone, the city perished. It comes fast, it comes immediate, it comes inescapably, and it comes devastatingly.

When the day of the Lord comes, it is coming that day of the Lord, that final horrible deadly judgment. It is coming at a day and an hour. They know the general time.

The prophetic clock in the tribulation so they know but they do not know the day and they do not know the hour.

So, when it comes, it comes suddenly, and it comes devastatingly, and it comes deadly and it is too late.

- Before the Flood, Noah is taken into safety in an ark.
- Before the fire and brimstone, Lot and his daughters are taken to safety on a mountain.
- Before the unfolding of judgment, God will rescue His own.

The ark of safety is the rapture of the church, the gathering together of His own, and then the judgment begins to be poured out.

- Noah and his family are caught away. Then comes the judgment.

- Lot and his daughters are caught away. Then comes the judgment.
- In the future, the redeemed and the beloved of the Lord are caught away in those marvellous rapture passages, we have no hint of judgment.

**John 14, 1 Thessalonians 4, and 1 Corinthians 15**, we are caught away and then comes judgment.

It is a time of entire devastation.

- When the earth flooded, it is entirely devastated.
- When the area of the cities of the plain buried under fire and brimstone, it is a time of entire devastation.
- When the Lord Jesus comes, He will so devastate this earth that He must reshape it.

This is not the final new heaven and new earth, but He reconstitutes it in a Edenic like restoration. That is why it's called the times of restoration in Acts 3!

So, there are parallels for the time of Noah, the time of Lot, and the time of the coming of the Son of Man. It will be so devastating, so terrifying, so fast that it will sweep the ungodly away.

**It will come after a time of warning.**

Noah, according to 2 Peter, is a preacher of righteousness.

Lot is identified to us as “that righteous Lot.” Lot was a righteous man.

Before the judgment came, righteous men like Lot warned people. Righteous men like Noah, Noah for 120 years while he was building an object lesson of what is going to happen. Noah was building a boat in the middle of the desert where there is no water and there has never been anything like rain. He was giving a sermon of judgment and it is there every day for everyone to see for 120 years.

The judgment of God will only fall after a time of warning. During the time of the tribulation, the first warning will be the church removed.

### **How is the world going to understand what happened?**

That is a huge reality to try to deal with.

That does not mean people will not still go to church.

Most of the people who were part of the visible church aren't going to be gone in the rapture, so church will go on which will confuse the world to some degree, but it's still an issue to be answered.

Then we have judgments starting to fall. But as those judgments start to fall, the gospel will be preached. It will be preached by two witnesses, Revelation 11.

The two witness will be killed in Jerusalem and the whole world will see and then they will rise from the dead and everybody will see it because it will be on all news channels.

Then 144 thousand Jews are converted, they become evangelists, they are sealed so they can be protected from the deadly threats of Antichrist.

They will cover the world.

They will preach the gospel.

So many people will be saved from every tongue and tribe and nation that they cannot even be numbered. The gospel will be preached by an angel in heaven, who will fly through heaven preaching the gospel from space.

An angel flying in heaven, something far more supernatural. The gospel will be preached everywhere, and the warning of judgment will be given again and again during that period of time.

- ✓ In the days of Noah when righteousness and judgment were being preached by Noah.
- ✓ In the days of Lot when righteousness and judgment were declared and testified by Lot.
- ✓ In that way it will be that the gospel and the warnings of judgment will be preached in that day.

The parallels then are striking when you think about the coming of Christ.

They will be in the future days marked by the same kind of indifference that the days of Noah and Lot were marked by.

- They were eating.
- They were drinking.
- They were marrying.
- They were being given in marriage.

Nothing wrong with any of that. Life as usual.

You eat, you drink, you have marriages, make families, life as usual. They did it in the days of Noah in spite of the judgment warnings, in spite of the preaching of righteousness.

They did the same thing in Lot's day.

- They were eating,
- They were drinking,
- They were buying,
- They were selling,
- They were planting,
- They were building.

Nothing sinful about that, that is just life as usual.

They carried on life as usual before the Flood. They carried on life as usual before the holocaust of fire and brimstone.

They will in the middle of all these precursors to the day of the Lord,

- all these horrific judgments coming out of the seals,
- the trumpets and the bowls in Revelation,
- in the middle of all of that with their world collapsing around them,
- with the tides changing because the moon is changed,
- with the sea turned to blood,
- with fresh water being poisoned, with crops dying,
- with stars in the sky being rearranged,
- with a third of the population of the world dying,
- a fourth of the population of the world dying,
- all these things going on,

They are still trying to carry on life as usual because that is all they know, ignoring the warnings, ignoring the heavenly preachers, the earthly preachers, the miraculous resurrection of the two witnesses, and they just carry on life as usual.

That is the way it is going to be in the time of the coming of the Son of Man.

This is the pattern that we need to understand because this is what the Lord has given us.

How could the world, seeing judgment falling all around them, how could the world hearing supernatural preachers preaching the gospel still reject?

In the book of Revelation, they actually shake their fist at God, curse Him, because they know it's coming from Him.

The world goes on with its busy routines.

The world goes on engulfed in its sin.

The world rejects all the warnings, all the messages.

## 5. Revealing

**V 31**, *"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.*

*"On that day,"*

that is the day called the Day of the Lord, that day involving many days, but one epoch day when the Lord Jesus sends judgment culminated in His coming in final judgment and establishment of His kingdom.

When Jesus comes on that day His coming will disclose where people's hearts are. This is a warning not to cling to the stuff of this world.

**Matthew 24:15**, *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),*

Daniel prophesied an event in which the Antichrist will go into the temple in Jerusalem which will be rebuilt and desecrate it.

At that moment break a pact that he made with the Jews, a peace pact, and begin a slaughter of the Jews. Massive slaughter of the Jews, which will not only be the work of Antichrist. This may be the judgment of God which was promised by Zechariah the prophet in which two thirds of the Jews, the unbelieving ones, will be judged.

The judgment will begin then with a slaughter. This is one of the preliminary judgments to the final judgment three and a half years later at the return of Christ. When that begins, we know the end is near and the judgments are going to escalate into the final sealed judgments, the horrific trumpet judgments and bowl judgments described in Revelation.

**Matthew 24:16-22**, *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.*

This is the beginning of the horrific final judgment that culminates in the return of Christ. The general time is known, the day and the hour is not known.

So, Matthew's text gives us our Lord's words with the same warning.

Housetops in the land of Israel were the patios. They were the gardens. They put potted plants up there and they had some chairs and some places to recline up there and they enjoyed the outdoors on the patio at the top of the house and they had an outside staircase down to the ground.

The warning is, if you are up there and you see the judgment precursors, the preliminary judgments begin to come, do not even go down and inside to get something. Do not do that. Just get out of there. Judgment is coming.

If you are out in a field do not go back to the house to get something.

All going to feel the judgment.

All going to feel the destruction.

If you do go back, demonstrates what you love.

This shows that what is in their heart.

**1 John 2:15-17**, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

This is a warning to people to make sure that they put the value where the value ought to be. It would be normally reasonable to say if there was some hurricane coming, go down and get your stuff and get to safety, or if there was a fire sweeping your way and you are out in a field, run to your house, get the things that are precious and save them. But there is no future for this world in this day. It is all going to be destroyed. The whole earth is going to be transformed, reconfigured. Nothing of the past needs to be taken into the glory of the kingdom.

The emphasis here is not on details but on a general attitude.

Leave everything in this world behind. To point out clearly, exactly what our Lord means He says, "Remember Lot's wife."

What triggered it was probably the "turn back," at the end of verse 31. Don't turn back to the house.

Lot's wife was a story in herself, but she is a rigid salt pillar in the mind of every Jew for centuries. She is the archetypal

person who was near deliverance and was destroyed because she looked back.

### **Genesis 19.**

Lot had settled in Sodom. His wife and two daughters were there. It was exceedingly sinful.

**Genesis 18:20**, *And the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,*

The place was so sinful it needed to be completely obliterated from the world, from the earth and there could not even be ten righteous people found in the whole place.

Two angels come.

**Genesis 19:15-17**, *When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."<sup>16</sup> And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.<sup>17</sup> So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."*

Lot panicked.

**Genesis 19:18-26**, *Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! <sup>19</sup>Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup>See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."*

*<sup>21</sup>And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup>Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. <sup>23</sup>The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. <sup>24</sup>Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup>So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.*

*<sup>26</sup>But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

Destroyed on the brink of safety!

She came close but she never could let go of the world.

She was that rocky soil, springs up for a little while but no true repentance there and it dies under pressure.

She was that weedy soil, springs up for a little while, never bears any fruit. The love of the world riches chokes it out.

She belonged to Sodom. Her stuff was there, her heart was there, she looked back longingly, and she was destroyed with Sodom.

She was a Sodomite. Her heart was there because she loved her sin.

She could not forsake the sins she loved.

She loved darkness rather than light.

She loved iniquity rather than righteousness.

She illustrates the person who has come to the edge of salvation but looks back.

There are many in the present day who go a certain length in religion. They conform to the outward ways of Christian relatives and friends and they speak the language. They use all the outward ordinances of religion but all this time their souls are not right in the sight of God.

**Their world is in their hearts and their hearts are in the world.**

On the other hand, there are those of us who say

- my heart is in heaven,
- my Lord is in heaven,
- my name is in heaven,
- my home is in heaven,
- my Father is in heaven and
- my eyes are fixed on heaven.

**V 33**, *Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*

You hold onto the world, you hold on to sin, you keep what you want of this life and you will lose it forever in hell.

You give it up, which is what “lose your life” means, and forever you will gain all that heaven has.

If you want the best that God has prepared, then you let go of this world and its sin, you give it all up, you take your life and lose it.

**Luke 9:23-25**, *"Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup>For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"*

Escape to the Saviour alone who can save you from judgment.

