



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. ²³ And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

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. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life*

will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. ³⁶ Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

³⁷ 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.

V 23, *And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them*

If somebody comes along and says, "Jesus is coming over there. or He has come over there, or He has already come over here," do not go away.

Don't run after them.

V 24, *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.*

Now His first coming was quiet and obscure in Bethlehem in a manger with no real fanfare.

But the second time He comes there will not just be a few people who know about it. The next time He comes, everybody is going to know about it because it is going to be visible all over the world.

This is a good warning because even believers come to the point where we get a little eager for the coming of the Lord. We get a little susceptible to the deception.

When people running out buying prophecy books that Jesus was going to come, and it started in 1948 and a generation is forty years.

There have been lots of people who have predicted that He is going to come.

There are people who say, well He already came, He came in 70 A.D. That is the only coming that He will ever have, that was it, and it was a spiritual one.

Or there are those Christians who say He comes whenever somebody is saved and that is it. You cannot see it. The world cannot see it, but it is happening spiritually.

There are some cults who say He came at a certain time and did some cleansing work and established a false religion while He was here, strange thing for Him to do. And only the people who were in the secret knowledge know that. There are all kinds of views.

Whenever a false teacher says, "Look there, look here," do not believe them.

Luke 21:8, *And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.*

Do not go after them.

Do not chase every so-called Messiah, every so-called date.

Do not run after everybody who says, "I am the Messiah," or who says, "The Lord is at hand, He's coming here, He's coming now."

Do not do that.

Again, in Matthew 24, the same warning is given by our Lord.

Matthew 24:23-27, *"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴For false*

christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

What Jesus is saying?

Jesus is saying it is not going to be anything somebody has to point out to you. It is going to be obvious!

It is like lightning,

It is like a lightning storm and it starts at one end of the sky and flashes across to the other end of the sky.

That is the imagery here.

The Second Coming of Christ is not some secret event that happened in the destruction of Jerusalem. It was not some private thing that occurred to a group of apostles.

It is not something that happens personally to individual believers. It is a worldwide, global event that is visible.

Reject all other ideas.

When the King returns to judge and when He returns to set up His kingdom, no one will need to give us the secret knowledge. Everybody is going to know.

It is going to be like lightning flashing from one end of the sky to the other end of the sky, and it is a Greek idiom.

How visible will it be?

Matthew 24:29-30, *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

The sun will be darkened,
The moon will not give its light,
The stars will fall from the sky.
The powers of the heavens will be shaken.

That ought to be clear to everybody. Nobody could possibly miss the collapse of the universe. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky."

Revelation 1:7, *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

Even so amen, it is time for His vindication. Let the unbelievers mourn. Every eye will see Him.

When Jesus comes, nobody is going to be wondering if it happened.

Revelation 19:11-12, *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.*

He comes when

- The universe is black and dark.
- There is no sky, as we know it.
- There are no stars, no moon, no sun as we know it.
- The whole thing rolls up.
- One blazing, flaming Shekinah light, the sign of the Son of Man in heaven.
- He appears.

He is distinguishable in this vision as one whose eyes are a flame of fire.

Revelation 19:13-16, *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the*

winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

There is no question that this is going to be visible globally.

It is like lightning.

It goes from one end of the sky to the other.

It is unmistakable. Everybody who can see sees the lightning.

The lightning expresses suddenness and unmistakable visibility.

Now remember, this is not the rapture. The rapture is that event where the Lord takes His church to glory, then starts the judgment, precursors to the day of the Lord, redeems Israel and a massive multitude, as we learn in the book of Revelation.

When that time is completed and Israel has come to faith, a fountain of cleansing has been opened to them, then He comes back to bring the promised kingdom for them and for all the saints and establishes His kingdom on earth after having judged the world of ungodly men and women.

His coming will be desired,

His coming will be visible.

3. Delayed

His coming will be delayed. It will be delayed.

V 25, *"But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation."*

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

It is good that He said that. He said it often, in Luke's gospel He told them He was going to suffer.

Luke 9; Luke 12; Luke 13. It comes up again in chapter 18 and in chapter 24.

Luke 24:6-8, *He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,⁷ saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'* ⁸*And they remembered His words.*

The women who came and realized what had happened to their Lord, it says, remembered what He had said. It helped to strengthen them. He kept telling them that He is going to suffer.

He would have to suffer for sin as a substitute or there would not be any internal kingdom or external kingdom because He had to redeem His own who would then inhabit His kingdom.

So, Jesus cannot set up His kingdom until He suffers. Jesus said that He must be rejected by this nation.

What nation?

Israel.

The Pharisees, of course, but the nation Israel, they rejected Him.

How did Jesus characterize that generation?

With great sadness.

Luke 9:41, *Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here."*

You are an unbelieving, faithless, perverse nation, speaking of Israel.

Luke 11:29, *And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet."*

Luke 11:50-51, *that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation,⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.*

They murdered the prophets.

They killed the prophets.

They killed their Messiah.

It is a perverse and faithless and wicked and murderous generation.

Luke 7:31-32, *And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like?"³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.'*

No matter. You are like children. Somebody wants to play a game with happiness, and you will not play. Somebody wants to play a game of sadness, and you will not play. You are just indifferent, apathetic, and obstinate. This is the generation that rejected Jesus Christ.

When the rejection of Jesus Christ by Israel ends and Israel is saved and they will be, all Israel will be saved. Paul says that in Romans unequivocally. Then they will be purged from their sins and the kingdom will come. Not until.

Now we are not waiting for that because the rapture of the church happens first, then the judgments begin to fall on the earth.

It is during that time of Tribulation, that seventieth week of Daniel, that Israel is converted. There is nothing that needs to happen prophetically before the rapture, and we are gone.

Then all hell at the hands of God breaks out in this world.
But He cannot come until He suffers many things.

His death, but also His rejection, ongoing rejection by the people to whom the covenant of a kingdom was first promised. There will be a day when Israel repents and believes and are cleansed and receives that glorious kingdom and we will come back with Christ to establish that kingdom and reign forever with Him.

It will be delayed, and it will be delayed by rejection.

V 25, *"But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation."*

He must suffer many things. Suffering meaning particularly His death which He suffered at the hands of Roman executioners but by the will of the Jewish nation, and He suffered death also and more importantly at the hands of God by the determinate counsel of God as God's chosen sacrifice for sin.

He cannot come until He suffers. This is part of His work. That is the reason why He has been saying that He must suffer again and again.

Luke 9:22,

Luke 9:44,

Luke 12:50,

Luke 13:33.

Luke 18:31-33.

He says that after His resurrection in Luke 24 that He had to suffer.

The gospel preachers who go out in the book of Acts talk about how the Messiah had to suffer. He had to be the sacrifice for sin. So, His coming will be delayed by His suffering.

Also rejected by this generation.

Jesus cannot return until Israel's rejection ends.

The church is born in chapter 2.

- Christ has gone back to heaven.
- The feast of Pentecost has come.
- The Spirit has descended.
- The church has been established.

Now the gospel begins to be preached.

Peter is the preacher.

Acts 3:12-15, So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

Peter indicts them for the crime against the Messiah, the One whom God raised from the dead. Makes it crystal clear that they were on the opponents of God, to which we are witnesses. They were all, the apostles, and eyewitnesses of His resurrection.

Acts 3:16-18, And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

That does not lessen their guilt, that does not lessen their punishment for having rejected and executed the Son of God. But it did fit the purpose of God.

God overrules the worst that men can do to accomplish the best that He can do.

Israelites killed their Messiah in the worst act of rejection in all your history. They have been guilty of killing the prophets and those that were sent to you throughout your history.

Now they have done the worst, by killing their Messiah. But in the midst of that, God accomplished His purpose in Christ's suffering.

Acts 3:19, *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

that times of refreshing is a phrase that refers to the kingdom.

The kingdom will not come until you repent and turn to God.

How do we know that?

God may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.

God cannot send Jesus back until you repent and return.

As long as the nation Israel stays in unbelief, Jesus will not return.

Acts 3:21, *whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

times of restoration of all things another term for the kingdom.

Peter is referring to all the Old Testament prophecies about the kingdom, all the Old Testament prophecies about the fulfilment of promises to Abraham and promises to David.

It cannot come until the Messiah suffers. (That has been accomplished) and until the rejection of Israel ends.

When they repent and they return, and their sins are wiped away.

Prophet Zechariah foretold about this.

Zechariah 12:13-14, *the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹⁴ all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.*

His coming will be desired,
His coming will be visible,
His coming will be delayed.