

Luke 21:5-28 ESV

Jesus Is Coming!

Let us know, live, and share God's Truth!

Sunday, November 17 9:00

Monday, November 18 at 7 PM

26th Sunday after Pentecost / 25th Sunday after Trinity – 2013

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, *as we move toward the end of the church year*, we also turn to the topic of Jesus' return! ⁵ **And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he [Jesus] said,** ⁶ **"As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."** ⁷ **And they asked him, "Teacher, WHEN will these things be, and WHAT will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"** // Jesus not only answered their two questions, but He also drew a parallel between *the destruction of Jerusalem AND His return at the end of the world!*

1. **Things Pointing to Jerusalem's Destruction AND Jesus' Return:** ⁸ **And he [Jesus] said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them [back then and today, false Messiah's have tried to lead people astray].** ⁹ **And when you hear of wars and tumults [disturbances], do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."** ¹⁰ **Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom [as back then there were many uprisings throughout the Roman Empire, so today in many places].** ¹¹ **There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven."** // Great earthquakes, severe famines, and

heavenly terrors – THEN they pointed to Jerusalem's destruction, TODAY to Jesus' impending return!

2. **The Treatment of Jesus' Disciples Then AND Now:** Dr. Kretzmann wrote: **"Here are some signs which concern the disciples of Christ in the interval between His ascension and the destruction of Jerusalem in particular, but which find their application to the treatment and fate of the believers of all times."** (NT I:379) ¹² **But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake [like Paul before Felix, Festus, Agrippa, and Nero].** ¹³ **This will be your opportunity to bear witness [so let us seize such opportunities].** ¹⁴ **Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer,** ¹⁵ **for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict [even now let us grow in God's Word and be at peace].** ¹⁶ **You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death [but the LORD will help us; Psalm 34:19; 46:1; 55:22].** ¹⁷ **You will be hated by all [by all who are unrepentant – not sorry and not believing] for my name's sake.** ¹⁸ **But not a hair of your head will perish [at least not apart from God's will for us].** ¹⁹ **By your endurance you will gain your lives.** // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: **"By faithful perseverance, by undaunted continuance in the confession of Christ's Word and doctrine, they will preserve their souls."** (NT I:380) *May the LORD grant such perseverance and continuance to us!*
3. **The Destruction of Jerusalem AND the NT Era:** ²⁰ **"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, THEN know that its desolation has come near [so it was ESSENTIAL for people to immediately take heed].** ²¹ **Then let those who**

are in Judea [in the land where Jerusalem was located] **flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city [of Jerusalem] depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it,** ²² **for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written** [since Jerusalem was a walled city, it would have been tempting to run into it for safety; those of the world did just that, while those who trusted in Jesus did what He said and fled to the mountains]. ²³ **Alas** [woe or how dreadful it will be] **for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people** [even for the unrepentant Jesus grieved over what would come upon them]. ²⁴ **They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations** [So what happened in A.D. 70? “According to the account of Josephus, over a million Jews were slaughtered during the siege of Jerusalem and after its fall, and 97,000 were dragged in the provinces (of the Roman Empire) as prisoners...” (Kretzmann, NT I:381)], **and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.** // Now, since A.D. 70, various Gentiles (non-Jews) have been the primary occupants of Jerusalem. Even among the Jews who live there today, very few are true sons of Abraham. St. Paul wrote: “...it is those OF FAITH who are the sons of Abraham.” (Gal. 3:7 ESV)

4. **Jesus’ Return:** ²⁵ **“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,** ²⁶ **people fainting with fear and with foreboding [expectation] of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** [Recently some in the Philippines, as they experienced super Typhoon Haiyan, must have thought about Jesus’ return. According to the LA Times (11/8/13): “The U.S. Navy’s Joint Typhoon Warning Center said maximum sustained winds in the Category 5 storm were 195 mph with gusts to 235 mph.” Let us have compassion on them

by praying for them and supporting them through today’s door offering!] ²⁷ **And THEN they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** [When Jesus did His saving work He was meek and humble, but when He returns it will be in all His exalted glory! Consider this description in Revelation 6: “...the stars of the sky fell to the earth....” ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,’ ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” (ESV) So who can stand? **We can – through Jesus!** He said:] ²⁸ **Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.** // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “The events upon which the children of the world will gaze with helpless terror should be for the believers a voice awakening in their hearts the most joyful hope and expectation.” (NT I:381) We are so blessed that the Almighty God has had mercy upon us by sending His Son; then Jesus, taking away our sins; then God – *by grace through faith*, uniting us to Jesus as our Savior!

Conclusion: Since Jesus is certainly coming – *in fact the day has already been set (Acts 17:31)* – let us grow in → knowing Him, → living for Him, and → sharing Him with others!

And all God’s people said: *Amen!*