

Soaring with Eagles

Text: Luke 17:20-37 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. 22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. 23 And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. 24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. 25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. 26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. 34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. 35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Introduction: When will Christ Return? A question that has been debated and argued about throughout the centuries. A question Bible scholar from every generation have tried to answer. What is the correct answer to this difficult question? Can we even know the answer? The answer cannot be found in personal opinions or by reading the confusing writings of biblical scholars. Today, I hear numerous answers concerning this question. Some of the answers are as follows:

- ❖ *Many people scoff at the ideal of a Rapture!* They think that any person believing in such an event is unbalanced and in need of a mental health institution.
II Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
- ❖ *Christ won't come until things get much worse – “as in the days of Noah”* - They say, *we aren't at that level of wickedness yet!* **The danger with this statement is:** no one living today was present in Noah's day for a comparison. We do not know and will not know when we will have reached that same level of evil. Also, we do not have an instrument to measure sin in a society. Therefore, we shouldn't trust our own private assessment of the sin level of today vs the sin level at the time of Noah's Flood.
- ❖ Christ won't come until after a certain event occurs such as the war of Gog and Magog or the Battle of Armageddon.
- ❖ *Some say Christ won't come until the mid-point of the great tribulation (mid-tribulation). Others say after the great tribulation (post-tribulation).*

But what is the true answer?

JESUS WAS CONFRONTED WITH THE SAME QUESTION -- THIS IS HIS ANSWER:

Luke 17 - OUR TEXT - And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, **when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:** Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. And as it was in the

days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

SINCE THIS IS THE ANSWER OF JESUS – THIS IS MY ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHEN CHRIST WILL RETURN!

SIX THINGS JESUS SAID ABOUT HIS RETURN TAKEN FROM OUT TEXT:

- (1) *The return of Christ (or the kingdom of God) will come without an initial sign or open observations:*
Luke 17:20-21 *the kingdom of God cometh not with observation:* Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there!
Matthew 16:24 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.
- (2) *It will come after a long season of stress and deception upon the earth (THE ENDTIME SEASON):*
Luke 17:22-23 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them.
Romans 8: 22-23 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.
Luke 17:26-29 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.
- (3) The Kingdom of God will come suddenly and the world will know it when He returns for His people:
Luke 17:24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.
I Corinthians 5:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be change.
REST ASSURED THAT SATAN KNOWS JESUS IS COMING BACK. HE ALREADY HAS A PLAN READY FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION! THE FALLEN WORLD WILL BE AN EASY TARGET FOR THE MARK OF THE BEAST BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE IN OUR FALLEN WORLD ALREADY HATE GOD. YOU SEE IT TODAY IN THE DEPRAVITY OF REBELLIOUS AND SINFUL LIFESTYLES. ALSO, IN HOW THE FALLEN WORLD TREATED GOD'S ONLY BEGGOTTEN SON BY CRUCIFYING HIM. ONE WRITER STATED, "THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS SHOWED WHAT A FALLEN WORLD WOULD DO TO GOD HIMSELF IF THEY COULD ONLY HAVE REACHED HIM"!
- (4) The Kingdom of God will come at a set time and during normal daily activities on earth:
Luke 17:31-36 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
 - A Set Time - it will be in daytime for some people of the world and night-time for others.

- working on a roof in the daytime – in bed sleeping together at night
- During Normal Daily Activities on Earth –
 - grinding grain for bread – working in a field – working on a rooftop – sleeping
 - eating and drinking – buying and selling - marriage and giving in marriage – and knew not!

(5) *The kingdom of God has already been planted into the heart of a Believer:*

Luke 17:21 behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

- *In God's Eyes – although they are currently still on earth, God's people on earth are already a part of His Kingdom – a currently divided kingdom of earthly and heavenly children!*
- *The Rapture will be a Gigantic Unification of both His Earthly and His Heavenly Kingdom!*
- *A GREAT HOMECOMING for all past and present saints of God – NEVER TO BE SEPARATED BY DEATH AGAIN FOREVER!*

(6) There is and will always be (until He comes) watchful Believers – **Eagles** – who will not be taken by surprise!

Luke 17:37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

We will fly like an eagle – one day soon!

Isaiah 40:31 They shall mount with wings as an eagle

Isaiah 60:8 Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as a dove to their windows?

I John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is

Who are “The Eagles”? Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

- *Those who are watching and waiting for his return – SAINTS WITH EAGLE EYES!*
- *Those who have oil in their lamps while they wait*
- *Those who soar above the difficulties of life through FAITH IN CHRIST – like an eagle flying high in the sky - above the difficult river crossings – above the tall mountain terrains, above the dark, swampy areas of life - above the dangerous animals below – above the traps and snares of sin and deception*

THROUGH OUR FAITH IN GOD, WE RISE ABOVE IT ALL –

WE FLY TO HIM IN PRAYER AND HE LIFTS US UP ABOVE IT ALL – WE GO FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY IN CHRIST!

WE ARE LIKE A FISHING CORK - WE MAY TOUCH THE WATERS (PROBLEMS) OF LIFE BUT THROUGH FAITH IN GOD, WE RISE ABOVE IT ALL TO SOAR IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS! ** WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERERS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US!***

Luke 12:35-37 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching...

Closing: *The “Days of Noah” and the “Days of Lot” – The End-time Season - is like the coming of winter for the church in many ways:*

While in prayer recently, I saw a vivid picture of a winter scene in my mind. It appeared to me before I spoke my first word in prayer. It was a beautiful picture of freshly fallen snow that blanketed the entire area. The snow covered a beautiful old farm house with a picturesque surrounding farm yard. The world seemed to be silent. All was quiet and no one was moving around in any direction.

The scene of winter was beautiful but it was the entirety of what I saw!

What did it mean? I believe it means this: The Soul Harvest Season of the church is quickly changing into another season!

WINTERTIME IS COMING - The season of GRACE in America is quickly coming to an end - The Great Falling Away is upon us - DAYS OF NOAH AND DAYS OF LOT SPEAK OF A SEASON OF GOSPEL REJECTION AND PREPARATION OF HEARTS FOR THE COMING TRIBLATION!

– BUT -THE GOOD NEWS IS – God came for Noah and Lot before the bad things began to happen!