

## The Coming of the Kingdom

### Answer for Pharisees

**20**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.

### Answer for disciples

**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.

## Luke 17: Christ's Return

V. 20 - The Pharisees now asked Jesus - when was the kingdom coming? Most likely, they observed that John the Baptist and Jesus preached the kingdom was at hand (Mark 1, Matthew 3). Yet, Jesus had also started speaking that this kingdom was going to be deferred (such as Luke 13:34-35). They may have been asking to try tip him up or to see if He intended to physically reign over them now.

V. 20 - 21 - **Most likely, the Pharisees wanted certain signs for Messiah's return**, and Jesus is saying - look, the signs you want are not going to precede the Messianic kingdom. They could not \*make\* it begin (though there are other ideas on what exactly is meant here for seminary students). Bottom line: the Pharisees ideas of what would begin the kingdom of God is not in line with Christ's teachings on the Kingdom of God; besides, the Kingdom of God would start inside a person before the physical manifestation on the earth. **"Within you"** seems to imply a spiritual reign inside, but many scholars believe that modern English would better understand the old english rendering as **"in your midst"**; **in other words**, the Kingdom of God was among them. Yet, they didn't want to believe, so the kingdom had to be postponed.

1. **When will Jesus return? What is imminence?**

V. 22 - **A longer explanation for the disciples.** *One of the days of the son of Man-* or that is, Christ's earthly reign upon the earth. The day the son of man is revealed (v. 24-25 or 30).

V. 23 - Some will say see here, see there - don't be deceived. This goes along with other strong admonitions that we do not know **a) the day or the hour of Christ's return** (Matthew 24:23) or **b) even the times and the seasons** (1 Thessalonians 5). The disciples asked Him if He would restore Israel now after His resurrection (Acts 1:6-7). So false alarms about His coming are no good; we will not know the times or the seasons of His return. But we know He is returning; the promise of His coming married to the unknown time of His coming makes His coming **imminent - at any time undisclosed to us** yet certain.

V. 24 - We will **know** when it has happened just as we know when lightning strikes the sky - so also shall the Son of Man be. **However, before the Son of Man begins reigning**, He must die first. He will be rejected of the chief priests and crucified 9:22, 41; 11:29; Matthew 16:21; Acts 17:3)

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

V. 26: **As in the Days of Noah ...** Here, we are seeing a comparison between the days of Noah and the days right before the Son of Man begins reigning (end of v. 24). In the days of Noah, people will not heed the warning. (Matt 24:37-39 & 2 Peter 2:5) - People were thinking evil thoughts continually and the earth was corrupt in the sight of God!

V. 27 - This gives the indication that people's lives were proceeding as 'normal'; that people were ignoring the warning of God's impending judgment. As in the days of Noah, so right before the Son of Man comes in the Day of His Reign and Glory - unprepared and living life with no regard to God.

V. 28 - 29 - This second example (the example of Lot) reinforces the first idea. Some will escape divine condemnation when the Son of man returns - namely the righteous living on the earth. Evil was occurring all around them; we know this is the case from Revelation with Babylon, economic and religious Babylon involving themselves with all manner of sin and greed. So destruction comes upon them, so destruction came upon Sodom.

V. 30 - 31 - **Son of man appearing**; apocalypse literally means unveiling ... the Son of man appears, is revealed, is unveiled for all to see. When it begins, everyone will flee for cover. [Matthew 24:17-18; Mark 13:15-16; Luke 21:21] **Some people will be so in love with STUFF**, that they will want to rescue their STUFF and go back to their old life, just like Lot's wife. We don't know if she was saved, but we do know that failing to come fully out of Sodom, she perished. (Genesis 19:26; Matthew 10:39)

**Parable of One Taken and the One Left: v. 34 - 36 followed by DO YOU WANT TO BE TAKEN OR LEFT BEHIND?**

**A. There will be** a separation of people when Jesus returns, when He comes back. The purpose of Jesus' return is judgment.

**B. Two in one bed:** The greek word is 'dyo', literally means two males. This might suggest the moral climate of the world when Jesus returns. **One will be taken, one shall be left.**

**C. Two women grinding corn.** The idea is instantaneous and world wide; in other words, two will be sleeping in one part of the world, two others will be working in another part.

**D. V. 37 -** Where are they taken? Wherever the body is, there will the eagles be gathered.

*In Luke 17:34-36 or Matthew 36-42,*  
**Do we want to be TAKEN or LEFT BEHIND?**

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Luke 17	Matthew 24
<p>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.</p> <p>35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.</p> <p>36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.</p> <p>37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.</p> <p>38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,</p> <p>39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.</p> <p>40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.</p> <p>41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.</p> <p>42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.</p>

**A. REVIEW RAPTURE.**

- a) Event, for Christians. Happens at any time, right before the time of Jacob's trouble/tribulation. Christians are taken, unbelievers are left. We are taken to heaven, unbelievers are left on the earth.
- b) **Are the unsaved judged immediately?** No, there is a period of 3.5 years where things are set up; Jesus is in total control of all of this of course, but the unrighteous are not immediately judged.

**B. Context of Matthew 24.**

- a) Speaking of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Jesus where there are signs that occur; there is no indication that these people didn't see those signs.
- b) Matthew: Jesus is King over the Jews, even though they did not accept His kingdom yet.
- c) Matthew's point is to show Christ's kingdom to the Jews, the Messianic Kingdom. He is King and has loyal subjects. The Rapture does not contribute to that promise to Israel in Christ's Matthew 24 narrative.

**C. Context of Luke 17 - What is occurring?** Contextually, Jesus has given a number of parables now to suggest that the Jews and the Pharisees did not take Him seriously or God's kingdom seriously.

- a) Has a Jewish flavor.
- b) 10 lepers, 1 returns to thank them and is Samaritan. **The Jews do not believe in Jesus**
- c) **Rich Man and Lazarus:** This was specifically for Pharisees who were covetous. In general, the Jews looked down on their fellow man, especially the unclean or social outcast and would not allow them to come to Jesus.
- d) **The parable of the Wayward or Prodigal Son:** Again, wayward people were coming to Jesus - and the Pharisees and Jews in general got mad at them coming to Jesus.
- e) *In none of these are we talking about the church. But the Jews specifically, so too the ones taken and the ones left.*

**D. Word Usage.**

- a) **Question:** What is the *past* tense of TAKEN? **Took.**
- b) In the Rapture, who is taken away? **Believers.**
- c) **In Matthew 24, who is taken away?**

**“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, <sup>39</sup>And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

Not the Christian; not Noah and his family because in Noah 7, God literally tells Noah when it's time to board the Ark. They were HEEDING the warning. Who is TAKEN AWAY? Those who *\*are not ready\**; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

**E. What, therefore, is happening here?**

- a) **Preparation for the Millennial Kingdom, where Christ rules and reigns 1000 years.**
- b) In other words, when Jesus returns - there will be a SEPARATION. Some to judgment, some to His kingdom. The righteous will remain on the earth, whereas the unrighteous will be judged.
- c) Then the righteous GO INTO the Kingdom. This is a pre-cursor of the end of Matthew 25. Where both the righteous and the unrighteous are gathered before Him, and the righteous enter the Kingdom.

**CONCLUSION: You want to be taken in the Rapture. If you are *\*not\** taken in the Rapture, then you want to be LEFT on the earth in Matthew 24 and Luke 17.**

**Be smart, though. Get saved today and be taken in the Rapture! :)**