

Context

- 1] Jesus ends His 3-year ministry a couple of days before His death
- 2] He has warned His disciples of the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 40 years' time, AD 70, and has foretold of the end times yet to be fulfilled (21:5-24)
- 3] Now He turns to that end time / the return of Jesus (21:25-38)

The end (25-28)

- 1] ***“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, (25)***

Nb signs in the heavens – but Jesus had declined to give a sign (21:7; cf Matt 12:39)?

Cf signs in the stars (Matt 2:2) Roaring of the seas (Ps 65:7; Is 17:12,13)

Expect the signs of the end amongst creation and creatures

- 2] ***people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world” (26)***

Cf When man fell, all creation was affected (Gen 3:14ff). Similarly, the flood was precipitated by man's sin and the whole world suffered (Gen 6:5ff). At the end of time, Jesus tells us to expect calamity 'natural' disaster.

Nb. eco concerns but most importantly spiritual concerns

- 3] ***+then they will see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory (27)***

Nb in OT Ezekiel used 'son of man' of himself. Jesus uses it of Himself, stressing His humanity.

Cf Son of man coming in a cloud with power and with great glory (Mk 9:7; Acts 1:9; Rev 14:14,15))

Every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Phil 2:10)

JESUS will return with power and great glory

- 4] ***Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near (28)***

Cf raise your heads (Ps 24:7,9)

nb redemption = release on payment of a price

cf redemption of Jerusalem (2:38) Redemption (Rmns 3:24)

GRACE He will redeem His people

**Look up for 'the redeemer'*

The parable of the fig tree (29-33)

- 1] ***and he told them a parable – look at the fig tree and all trees (29)***

cf the parable of the fruit on the fig tree (13:6,7)

- 2] ***as soon as they come out in leaf you see for yourselves + know the summer is near (30)***

- 3] ***so also when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near (31)***

Nb Kingdom of God – proclaimed (4:43; 8:1; 9:2) near (10:9; 17:21; 21:31) yet to come (22:18; 23:51)

The Lord is King

**Understand – signs that the Kingdom is near. **

4] ***Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place (32)***

Nb 'Truly I say to you' = "extremely important" (18:29; 23:43)

Nb generation can mean 'race or family of people'. If this refers to the Jews, then God has preserved them till now through rejection, persecution, and holocaust.

Cf This generation (17:25)

5] ***Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away (33)***

Cf Easier for heaven and earth to pass away (16:17)

My Words (6:47; 9:26)

The Word of God is immutable

A warning (34-36)

1] ***but watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation+drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day will come upon you suddenly like a trap (34)***

Cf Cares and riches and pleasures of life (8:14)

2] ***For it will come on everybody who dwells on the face of the whole earth (35)***

Nb everybody... whole!

3] ***But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the son of man (36)***

JESUS will judge

The final setting (37,38)

1] ***Everyday He was teaching in the temple but at night He went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet (37)***

Cf as was His custom to the mount of olives (22:39)

Nb Olivet - Bethany and Bethphage (19:29) – mt of Ascension (Acts 1:12)

2] ***And early in the morning all the people came to Him in the Temple to hear Him. (38)***

? Why did all the people keep coming to hear Him when his teaching made such little sense? (38)

Nb they came to hear Him as he spoke with authority (4:32,36)

Nb Contrast? The people hung on His words (19:48) cried crucify him (23:13,21)

Conclusion

1] Are you ready for Jesus' return (or your own death)?

2] Be alert and prepared.

Summary

The whole of creation will be upset, causing fear in the world, as the son of man returns.

When this happens, welcome it (25-28)

Israel, when you see these things, know the Kingdom of God is near. You will persevere. You have my Word. (29-33).

Be watchful and prayerful at all times. (34-36)

He slept on Mt Olivet at night and taught in the Temple by day. (37,38)

MP *My people will persevere to the end – you have my Word*

KV *Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. (32)*