

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Luke 21:25-28**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. We continue to read Luke chapter 21. Today we read verses 25 to 28.

Yesterday we read from the latter half of verse 24, which says that Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. This is equivalent to Jesus answering the disciples' question: When exactly will the time come when not one stone will be left upon another in the temple? Jesus told them directly that when Jerusalem is surrounded by armies, you must leave the city of Jerusalem. Then the whole city of Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Israel was originally God's chosen people. In the Old Testament, God wanted the Israelites to be separated from the Gentiles in order to preserve the purity of the Israelites. Then a Messiah would be raised up from among them. Jesus is the Messiah foretold by the prophets. And when the Jews rejected Jesus and crucified Him on the cross, in the parable of the vineyard tenants, Jesus clearly revealed that this salvation would come to the Gentiles. Therefore, there would come the times when the number of the Gentiles is fulfilled. God further told His disciples that the city of Jerusalem would be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. What Jesus was going to speak about next was concerning the end times and the things that would happen when He comes again.

**Verse 25: "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring."**

At the end of this world, there will be different signs in heaven. The sun, moon, and stars will show strange signs. On the earth, the nations will also be in distress. Then

there will be the roaring of waves in the sea, and therefore people will be anxious and perplexed. Let us look at the conditions around us: abnormal climate, typhoons becoming stronger year by year, floods and droughts occurring frequently, and all kinds of supernatural disasters becoming more and more severe.

**Verse 26: “men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”**

In the beginning, God created man in His own image, according to His likeness, so that man might manage the whole earth properly. But because of man’s fall, sin, and corruption, man is no longer able to manage the earth appropriately. As a result, all kinds of disasters are becoming more and more severe.

The problem of global warming, the melting of ice at the North and South Poles causing sea levels to rise and flood coastal cities, and the change in hydrology also altering the weather—these various signs all show that the last days are drawing nearer and nearer. When people think about the things that are about to come upon the world, everyone is scared out of their wits.

**Verse 27: “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”**

This clearly speaks of the time when Jesus comes again; this is Jesus’ second coming. His first coming was as the Lamb of redemption, dying on the cross for the sins of all people. From His first coming to His second coming, the period in between is called the age of grace. People can receive grace by believing in Jesus Christ. Through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross, people can receive eternal life by repenting and believing, and become children of God.

Therefore, Jesus’ first coming into the world was to prepare citizens for the kingdom of God. His people and His citizens are all born again through faith. Then,

through this born-again life, they are being justified and sanctified in their daily living, gradually maturing. But this world, because it is held in the hand of the evil one, will become more and more corrupt. This is already determined. It will continue until the end of the world, when Jesus comes on the clouds with great power and great glory to reestablish His kingdom on earth.

Therefore, when the end of this world comes and people are scared out of their wits because of all kinds of increasing disasters, this is also the time for God's children to receive glory. Through the revelation of the Scriptures, we must have a correct understanding of this world: this world is becoming worse and worse, people's morals are declining more and more, and all kinds of natural disasters are becoming more and more severe. These things are inevitable.

In such a generation, what we need to do is to seek and save the citizens of the kingdom of God. Together in God's household we learn to live a holy life in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ. Until one day we will all see Him coming on the clouds with power and glory.

**Verse 28: "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."**

Just when the people of the world are scared out of their wits because of all kinds of things, our testimony is exactly the opposite. Because we know that when this world comes to an end, it is the time when our Lord Jesus Christ is about to return to reign. Therefore, in such a generation, we should look up and lift up our heads.

Why should we look up and lift up our heads? Because we have hope. Jesus has already told us these things very clearly through His disciples. What we hope for is not in this world. What we rely on is also not in this world. When this world gradually comes to an end, it tells us that the day of the Lord Jesus' return is near. Therefore, we should look up and lift up our heads, because our redemption draws near.

What is the day of redemption? It is the redemption of our bodies. Today we are still in this age. Every one of us who has received grace and been saved has had our spirit born again. Our soul is in the process of being gradually sanctified and transformed. Yet our body is still the old body, decaying and aging day by day. Until one day when Jesus returns, our bodies will be changed. That is called the redemption of the body. If the saints have already fallen asleep, they will rise and receive a spiritual body.

When Jesus returns, it is not only God's children whose bodies are redeemed. All creation will also be delivered from the bondage of corruption. In Romans 8:18-21, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

Because of Adam's sin in the beginning, the entire natural order was changed. Not only was man subjected to sin and death reigned, but at the same time all creation also fell into corruption because of Adam's sin. Therefore, it is not only man, but all creation is also longing for the day when the Lord Jesus returns, the day when the sons of God are revealed in their glory. At that time, all creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption.

Romans 8:23 says, "Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body." Therefore, when Jesus returns, it is also the day of the redemption of our body. Thus, Jesus tells us here that when we think of these things, we should look up and lift up our heads.

For Christians, what we hope for is not in this age. The things in the world are all temporary and will pass away with time. What we hope for is eternal. And when this age gradually comes to an end, it is also the time when the Lord Jesus is about

to return, the time when the sons of God will be revealed in glory. Therefore, we should look up and lift up our heads.

Every Christian begins his salvation with faith. By truly believing and accepting the Son of God as his salvation, he receives regeneration. Then his whole life is kept in the love of God. And the direction he advances toward is this hope—the hope of the redemption of the body. May God help us to be delivered from the struggles of daily life, knowing that we are a people with hope. And this hope of the redemption of the body is actually not far from us.

Let us pray together: Lord, help us to fix our eyes on eternal things, to fix our eyes on the hope of Your return. Help us to be Christians who look up and lift up our heads, no longer hindered from following Your footsteps by all kinds of trivial matters happening around us. Let us no longer be anxiously busy with these temporary things that will soon pass away. Instead, because of all kinds of tribulations that come upon us, let us have even greater hope in You. Because You have told us that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. Hope does not disappoint us. Hope enables us to look up and lift up our heads every day, because our redemption draws near. Lord, help me today to live out such a transcendent life. Let the people around me see the glorious image of the sons of God from me. Thank You! We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.