

What on Earth is going on?

Seminar handout 6a Prophecy for the future 3: Jesus gives signs to look for

When Jesus was on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem, what did his disciples ask for, to know about his coming and the 'end of the age'?

_____ Matthew 24:3 ESV

Write down 3 things that Jesus said to his disciples would happen in the future before his return:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Write against each line above, whether the things Jesus has mentioned have happened yet, using the words 'past', 'present' or 'future'.

Fill in the missing words from the following passage from Acts 1:11 ESV

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the _____ as you saw him go into heaven."

In Luke 21:20-24 ESV, what city is going to be occupied by non Jews but only for a limited time period: '_____ will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, **until** the times of the Gentiles are **fulfilled**.'

Compare some other Bible translations for the sense of the message:

*'...will be overrun by foreign nations **until** their time comes to an end.'* Contemporary English Version (CEV)

*'...shall be trodden down by the Gentiles **until** the time of the Gentiles will be finished.'* Aramaic Bible Translated (ARA)

*...'will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles **until** the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (completed).'* Amplified Bible (AMP)

Consider the following prophecy of Jesus about the days before his return.

Underline the main points Jesus makes. (Luke 21:25-27 ESV)

'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, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And **then** they shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.'

In Luke 17: 26,27 (cf Genesis 6: 5 & 11) and Luke 17: 28-30 (cf Genesis 18: 20 & 19:4,5), ESV Jesus explains that the times of Noah and the times of Lot are signs that his return is near.

Describe what those times were like because the world will be the same before Jesus returns:

Noah's day _____

Lot's day _____

Peter, in his New Testament letter writes to followers of Jesus and warns of the following:

'...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "where is the promise of his coming? All things are continuing as they were from the beginning.... The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise ...but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...'(2 Peter 3: 3,4,9,10).

Who does Peter compare the Lord's coming to and why? (An echo to what we have heard before.)

List the 6 signs Jesus gives to summarise what to look for prior to his return as King of God's Kingdom on earth:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

To think about

- How did Jesus know what the future would bring?
- Can I trust Jesus and put my faith in him for my future?
- Do I want to find out more about the future Kingdom of God on earth, as promised in the Bible?

My questions...

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