

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Days of the Son of Man, Noah, and Lot**

Last time...Jesus healed 10 lepers, but only one was made whole...

The one who returned to Jesus, glorifying God with a loud voice

The one in one accord with Jesus

John 8:29b    **I do always those things that please him**

John 11:4, 40    most recently in His ministry

The one who worshipped Jesus (as Lord God, Ex 34:14)

and expressed his profound gratitude for the touch of God

The one was made whole – his sins were forgiven...and he was given a new citizenship

This time...the Kingdom of God and the “days” of His kingdom

We will be in Luke 17

v20    when the kingdom of God...not by observation:

Jesus is questioned by the Pharisees

What is their tone, their motive?

John 11:47-53

Rome had a Zero Tolerance policy regarding any insurrection and all competitive authorities

Jesus’ forerunner, John the Baptist preached, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Gospel” (Mark 1:15)

From the start of His ministry Jesus has been preaching, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matt 4:17)

The Pharisees, envious and threatened by Jesus, are looking to entrap Him with His own message, setting Him up for a brutal Roman takedown.

This heart is seen/heard soon enough in their conversation with Pilate

John 19:14-15 And it was the preparation of the passover, and

about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews,

Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with

*him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto

them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests

answered, We have no king but Caesar.

Thus, their question: “When will the kingdom of God come?”

Their concept of the “kingdom of God” was that of the “kingdom of Israel” as in the days of King David

- regal king
- vast armies
- enemies underfoot and paying tribute

Thus, they were looking for a king who would throw off the iron yoke of Rome Jesus of Nazareth did not fit this bill so they want to use the iron yoke of Rome to kill Him

To which Jesus, always wise to the thoughts/motives/plotting of His enemies, says, “The Kingdom of God comes not by observation.”

The kingdom of God is not visually discernible like the Roman Empire or any other worldly kingdom (even the kingdom of Israel)  
They won’t be able to say, “Oh, there it is!”

The kingdom of God is like its King – unique,  
requiring spiritual discernment and faith

v21 the kingdom of God is within you:

The Pharisees asked “When”, Jesus answered “Where”

The kingdom of God is within/inside you...unobservable to the human eye,  
not one of the nations of the world defined by borders (but transcends),  
unaffected by political/military intrigues of man

The kingdom of God is

- a mystery
- spiritual, not worldly
- God’s making by God’s will and power,  
not man’s making by man’s will and power

When Jesus went preaching the kingdom of God, His 1<sup>st</sup> order of business –  
cast out the trespassers (demons, spiritual beings)

Jesus taught the kingdom of God in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) and its  
pre-eminence (Matt 6:33)...a matter of the heart, Spirit of the Law

Jesus taught about the kingdom of God with the kingdom parables (Matt 13)...  
a mystery revealed to those that believe

Jesus taught the “inward” nature of the kingdom of God

Matt 18:3-4 Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven

Jesus will speak to the nature of the kingdom of God quite directly to Pilate

John 18:33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

John 18:36-37 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

To His disciples Jesus will “uncouple” the kingdom of God from the kingdom being restored to Israel, their hope as well.

Matt 24:1-2 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Acts 1:6-8 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth

But they will not understand the mystery until it is revealed by and taught to them by the Holy Spirit

John 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. (Good Shepherd)

(with John 14:26 ala John 2:22 and John 12:16)

Matt 20:28	Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many
Rom 1:16	the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek
Acts 26:18	To open their eyes, <i>and</i> to turn <i>them</i> from darkness to light, and <i>from</i> the power of Satan unto God, that <i>they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.</i>
Eph 2:14	For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition <i>between us</i>
Col 1:13-14	Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated <i>us</i> into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, <i>even</i> the forgiveness of sins
Col 1:27-28	To whom God would make known what <i>is</i> the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

The answer to the Pharisees question of “When” is...in the Feasts of the Lord  
The kingdom of God will come at Pentecost to fulfill that feast, after Jesus’ fulfillment of Passover as the Lamb of God, the Father’s sin sacrifice for mankind

The kingdom of God came into being on Pentecost (Acts 2), and it will become fully established when the King/Judge returns to rule and reign

The Holy Spirit foretold this in Dan 2  
4 mighty kingdoms of the world and the kingdom of God...a stone cut without hands that became a great mountain and consumed all the kingdoms of men

Then, and only then, will the kingdom of God be observable...  
when the King is seen/revealed

But to this day the kingdom of God cannot be observed by human eyes or minds since it is spiritual, requiring spiritual discernment and faith

Phil 3:20 our citizenship is in heaven

Citizenship in the kingdom of God is a “2<sup>nd</sup> birth” right, born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God...  
a quickening (making alive that which was dead) of the Spirit

With citizenship (“2<sup>nd</sup> birth right) comes an inheritance

- The Lord is our inheritance (Ps 16:5)
- Eternal life in Christ when the Holy Spirit indwells (Eph 1:13-14)
- Joint-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:16-18)

If you are not a citizen of the kingdom of God, today is the perfect day to be made one!!!

Why?

v22 unto the disciples...ye shall desire:

The Pharisees seemingly leave, perhaps to discuss amongst themselves what Jesus meant by what He just said to them

Now, Jesus speaks to His disciples about...the days of the Son of Man, Noah, and Lot

Jesus came from heaven and is going to return to heaven when His work is done He tells His friends in advance that they will long to be with Him as they are now, but those days (in God’s Plan) will be past

John 7:33-34 *Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*

John 13:33 *Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you*

Telling them in advance of those days, His disciples will long for Him to return, will long for the days when He is ruling His kingdom from earth

Jesus is now speaking of His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, when He returns to earth as King and Judge to fully and completely establish the kingdom of God

v23-24 go not after:

During His physical absence from them, Jesus forewarns His disciples to NOT be deceived and to follow after false christs and counterfeit kings with their false gospels

There will be many false christs, false teachers, and false gospels while Jesus is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and while the Holy Spirit is gathering a Bride for Him

They will claim to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ

They will proclaim false gospels

Gal 1:6-9

They will claim to know the very day Jesus is going to return to earth (date setters)

They will make merchandise of and feed on the flock of God, speaking perverse things to draw disciples after themselves

2 Peter 2:1-3, Acts 20:29-30

Using lightning as an illustration, Jesus tells them/us that He will be revealed suddenly at an unpredictably exact time

We know when to expect lightning, but no one knows the exact time or place of a lightning bolt (that lights up the sky)

When He returns, every eye will see Him (Rev 1:7)

v25 But first...suffer...be rejected:

But first – before

- The Suffering Servant returns to heaven, to the Father
- The Conquering King returns to earth, from the Father

Jesus Christ MUST

- suffer many things
- be rejected by the Jews (John 1:11)

This is God's Plan of Redemption for fallen man

God's Messiah will

- humble himself and become obedient unto death, even death on the cross
- suffer death to destroy the devil, who had the power of death
- conquer death with His Resurrection
- allow His suffering and "murder"

1 Cor 2:6-8

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time Jesus has so told His disciples...

but they aren't "on board" with the Plan of God

So Jesus warns them about not heeding the warning of God

v26-27 as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be:

The days of Noah were spiritually fierce times

Gen 6:5-7 the wickedness of man was very great, every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually  
God was grieved in His heart; "I will destroy..."

Thus, a world-wide judgment...after 120 years of preaching by the righteous man Noah while he built the one and only God-ordained way to escape the wrath of God, the Ark

God's warning of judgment went unheeded

Life on earth went on as if God had been silent...

- "normal", as it always had
- spiritually undiscerning (Luke 12:54-56)
- in open rebellion and hostility toward God

until the righteous Noah

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

entered the Ark, God closed the door behind him, and the judgment of God came suddenly and destroyed all who did not believe Him

v28-29 as it was in the days of Lot:

Another witness to heed God's warning: the days of Lot (Gen 18-19)

Lot was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:7-8) in a wicked and perverse place

But God's warning of judgment thru him went unheeded and life carried on

- "normal", as it always had
- spiritually undiscerning
- in open rebellion and hostility toward God

until the Lord snatched righteous Lot out and suddenly rained down fire and brimstone upon all who did not believe Him

In both testimonies (Noah and Lot), there was no escaping the judgment of God once the righteous witnesses were removed/preserved

v30 Even thus...when the son of Man is revealed:

As it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so it will be in the days when King Jesus is revealed

God's warning of judgment thru Him will go unheeded and life will carry on

- "normal", as it always has
- spiritually undiscerning
- in open rebellion and hostility toward God

until the Lord snatches His righteous witnesses out of the world and suddenly destruction/judgment comes upon all who did not believe Him

1 Thes 1:10 to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come

1 Thes 5:9 God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Peter 3:1-10

The righteous will be removed/preserved and then the sudden judgment of God will fall, and there will be no escaping for those who have not believed God and have not heeded His warning

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished

As is true of knowing "when" to see lightning but not knowing the exact time or place, so is knowing when the return/2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ happens

We have "signs of the times" we can by faith know/discern, however.

- Israel re-born as a nation (Ezk 37)
- Jerusalem restored to Israel (Zech 12)
- a great falling away of the faith (2 Thes2)
- the love of many waxing cold
- lawlessness rising
- Russia/Iran invade Israel (Ezk 39-39)
- The Lord striking and healing Egypt (Is 19)
- perilous times...spiritual fierce (2 Tim 3)
- perverse attack on the image of God; homosexuality accepted as normal, even "cool"
- the 4 Gentile nations to lord over Israel in the "times of the Gentiles" and the 4<sup>th</sup> starting fall apart (Dan 2, 7)



v31-33 Remember Lot's wife:

In the days when those who believe God can discern the signs of the times,  
in the days when the righteous will be removed/preserved before the judgment of  
God falls on those who do not believe Him,  
in the days when God's judgment is upon a Christ-rejecting world,  
remember this warning:

“Don't go back to get your stuff, it cannot save you from the wrath of  
God; flee to God's Refuge, King Jesus”  
“Leave the things of the world behind or be left behind.”

These are days of preparation and watching, days to choose our treasure –  
the Lord our King or possessions of the world

Those who will be removed/preserved will not be taking anything of the world  
with us!

So do not cling to it now...desire the Lord Jesus as your inheritance/portion (v22),  
do not desire worldly stuff as your inheritance/portion (Luke 12:15)

Remember (be not like) Lot's wife –  
in her double-mindedness she longed for her “lovely stuff” and looked  
back...  
was NOT preserved, NOT delivered  
was a woman of the world who had her portion in this life (Ps 17:14)...  
unfit for the kingdom of God

Luke 9:62 **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit  
for the kingdom of God**

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> time (Matt 10:39 and Matt 16:25/Mark 9:35/Luke 9:25) Jesus warns  
His disciples to

- not save/keep/preserve one's life in this world...  
resulting in losing one's life...with the cursed world
- abandon the world and that which the world holds dearly...  
resulting in (Him) preserving one's life...”in Christ”

v34-36 two...one:

Jesus gives 3 illustrations to teach His disciples

- salvation from the wrath of God is a personal, individual choice,  
not a family/group decision
- the righteous (those who heed God's warning, believe Him,  
“in Christ”) will escape the wrath of God, but the unrighteous  
(do not heed God's warning, do not believe Him, are in and of the  
world) will not

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man

v37 Where, Lord:

Noah was taken (v27)

Lot was taken (v29)

Those who believe God are taken (v34, v35, v36)

So the disciples ask, "Where, Lord?"...where are the righteous taken?

Jesus says, "Where the eagles are"

Is 40:31 they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint

Is 26:20-21 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain

Ps 27:4-5 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there ye may be also*

1 Thes 4:12-18

Rev 4:1 Come up here!

So if you are not a disciple of Jesus Christ, not a citizen of the kingdom of God,  
today is the perfect day to be made one!

Ps 18:2-3      The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies

Ps 27:1        The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid