

September 18, 2022

Living with the End in Mind

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28

Mark 13:24-27

[24](#)“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25](#)and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26](#)And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. [27](#)And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

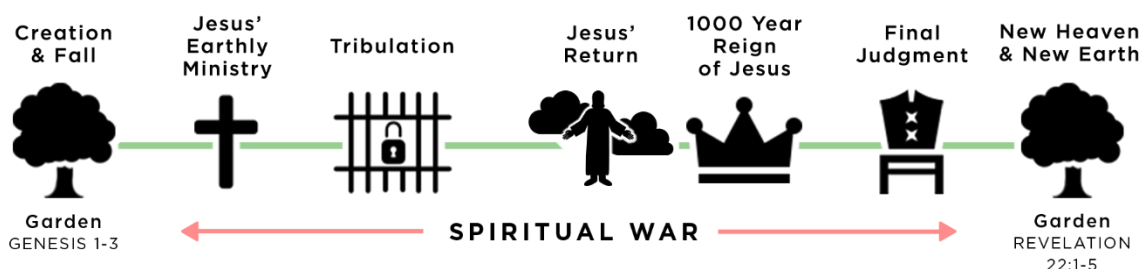
Luke 21:25-28

[25](#)“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, [26](#)people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. [27](#)And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. [28](#)Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Background

In our current series, *Living with the End in Mind*, we have traced many aspects of the return of Jesus. We have considered how all Christians, since the ascension of Jesus, have faced and will continue to face persecution for following Christ. We have descriptions of both general and more specific “tribulation” that precedes the return of Jesus. In today’s message, Pastor David will discuss the physical event of Jesus’ second coming and once again challenge each of us to be watchful, faithful, and hopeful!

Sermon Notes



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Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

Belong

- How did you react the first time you heard that Jesus would come back one day? Excitement? Fear? Confusion? What do you think prevents us from *longing* for His return?

Believe

There should be no doubt that Jesus WILL come back one day. *When* and *how* Jesus will return, though, can seem like a puzzle with scattered pieces. We should have confidence of Jesus’ return because we see the “big picture” on the puzzle box, even if we can’t put all the pieces together. What Scripture makes clear, though, is that Jesus will return as a victorious King for all to see and to make right what has been wronged in the world. So even though it may seem like evil is “winning” right now, Jesus will have the final word!

- What stood out to you the most in the message today? What was something *new* you learned about God, the Scripture, or yourself? What challenged you? What questions did the sermon raise in your mind? What was your biggest takeaway from the message?
- **Read Mark 13:24-27 and Luke 21:25-28.** What are the similarities and differences between these descriptions of Jesus’ return? What is the most surprising description? As you read these passages, what are some of the other images or pictures that come to mind? What do you think influences our thoughts on His return the most?
- **Read Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7, and Philippians 2:9-11.** Pastor David talked about Jesus’ “appearing” being one of victory and the unprecedented reaction that will occur. How do these passages describe the response of those who see Jesus? How do you believe you will respond to seeing Jesus? How should these passages affect the way we live now for Christ? What does it look like for you to “long for” or “eagerly await” His appearance? Is this passive or active?
- **Read Revelation 19:11-16 and Revelation 7:9.** How do these passages describe the coming and aftermath of Jesus’ return? Why is the image of conquering King important in His return? In what ways does the return of Jesus vindicate His earthly ministry and the lives of those who follow him?

Become

- How can you live with a greater sense of urgency that Christ is coming back?
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray for our missionaries working in dangerous regions of the world. Pray that we live with a “Come Lord Jesus” sense of urgency and faithfulness this week.