

THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

LUKE 21:20–24

Introduction: End Time

This passage is definitely dealing with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and with the Jewish nation throughout history (v. 24).

=> The desolation mentioned is the desolation of Jerusalem, not the abomination that causes desolation (that is, the antichrist spoken of by Mathew and Mark, Mt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14).

=> Verse 24 makes it clear that the period covered by Jesus stretches from the time “when you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies” (v. 20) “until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (v. 24).

However, the points of this Scripture can also be applied to the end time as well. Mathew and Mark definitely give a double meaning to the words of Jesus. The disciples had asked two questions. First, when was Jerusalem to be destroyed? They thought it could be destroyed only in the end time. Second, what were the signs of the end time, or the destruction and remaking of all things which would usher in the Kingdom of God? (See note, Lk. 21:5-8. See notes, Lk. 21:5-38.) What Jesus says in Mathew and Mark can be applied here in Luke. The fall of Jerusalem is judgment upon sin, and the fall of the world will be judgment upon sin. The questions asked by the disciples (v. 7) refer to similar conditions that bring about judgment. Therefore, the signs of both the fall of Jerusalem and the end of the world are similar. The only difference is that there will be an intensification of the signs in the end time (see notes, Mt. 24:15-28; Mk. 13:14-23).

I. A sign for which to look: Jerusalem surrounded by armies (v. 20).

II. A time to flee (v. 21).

III. A time of punishment (v. 22).

IV. A time of woe, distress and wrath, death and captivity (v. 23).

V. A time numbered by the Gentiles (v. 24).

I. Luke 21:20 Jerusalem Surrounded

A sign to look for is that of Jerusalem's being surrounded by armies. In A.D. 66-70 Jerusalem experienced one of the most terrible sieges in history. In A.D. 66 the Jews revolted and the Roman army was swift to attack. However, the city was difficult to take primarily for two reasons. It sat upon a hill, well protected by the terrain, and the leaders of the revolt were religious fanatics. Well over a million people had fled into the city behind its protective walls.

Jesus made two points.

1. Some standing there with Him were to see and be witnesses of the sign. They were to actually see judgment fall upon Jerusalem.
2. All of His followers were to be looking for and alert to the sign. They were to be prepared at all times for the coming judgment.

Thought 1. The point is clear. We are to be prepared for the coming judgment of the end time. Some of us will be the actual witnesses of the sign. (See *End Time, Antichrist, Abomination that Causes Desolation*, Mt. 24:15.)

II. *Luke 21:21 Warning to Flee*

The sign of Jerusalem's being surrounded will be a time to flee. Jesus warned His disciples to flee and to flee immediately. The danger would be imminent and urgency would be needed. Believers...

- in the surrounding areas around Jerusalem are to flee to the mountains.
- in the midst of Jerusalem are to get out and leave the city immediately.
- in other countries are to stay away and give no thought to entering Jerusalem (Israel).

Note two things.

1. The believers did heed the warning of Jesus. They fled Jerusalem before the attack, sometime around A.D. 66. They fled to a small town called Pella in the district of Decapolis.
2. Mathew points out that Jesus said to forget all comfort of home and personal possessions, that the danger was so close and terrible that believers should think only about escaping. Nothing else mattered, nothing except fleeing the coming judgment.

Thought 1. Too many minds are centred upon comfort and possessions, the world and money. The coming judgment is so close and terrible, it alone should consume our thoughts. We must flee to Christ for safety when the signs are seen, and they are definitely seen today. We who live in these "last days" must heed the warning of Christ even as believers of the first century heeded.

Thought 2. The judgment that fell upon Jerusalem is a picture of the coming judgment upon the world. We must be prepared to flee to Christ for safety.

Mat 7:24-25 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

1 Tim 6:19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

III. **Luke 21:22 Time of Punishment**

The sign of Jerusalem's being surrounded will be a time of punishment and vengeance. Note two points.

1. "The time of punishment" will be the fulfilment of Scripture, the days of God's wrath (See *Vengeance*, Lk. 21:22). God had been patient and long-suffering with Israel for generations, in fact, from the very beginning of their history. But Israel had always rejected God's pleadings. Therefore, the predicted judgment had to fall. What Israel had sown was to be reaped. (See *Israel, God's Special People*, Jn. 4:22.)
2. The terrible desolation that took place upon Jerusalem and that is to take place at the end of the world — all the desolation — is due to sin. Jerusalem committed the most heinous sin in human history: the people rejected God for centuries and eventually killed God's very own Son. Therefore, Jerusalem was utterly destroyed.

Thought 1. There is a severe warning here for believers and nations. Sin results in desolation. Rejection of God's Son will bring judgment upon any person and any nation of people.

LUKE 21:22 PUNISHMENT — VENGEANCE (EKDIKESEOS)

"For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written." **Luke 21:22**

Executing perfect justice, retribution and satisfaction. It is judgment that flows out of righteousness and justice. It is not the retaliation that flows from human anger and hurt feelings. There is no self-gratification or selfish reaction in the word at all. It is judgment that executes perfect justice. It is judgment that makes things right, exactly as they should be.

Rom 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

2 Th 1:7-8 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Heb 10:30-31 *For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Deu 32:35 *“It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them.”*

Psa 94:1-2 *O Lord, the God who avenges, O God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up, O Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.*

Ezek 25:17 *“I will carry out great vengeance on them and punish them in my wrath. Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I take vengeance on them.”*

Micah 5:15 *“I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me.”*

Nahum 1:2 *The Lord is a jealous and avenging God: the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. □*

IV. Luke 21:23 Time of Woe and Distress

The sign of Jerusalem’s being surrounded will be a time of woe, distress and wrath, death and captivity. Four pictures are painted to describe the awfulness of the hour.

1. Women who were pregnant and carrying small children would find it difficult to flee. They would be too slow to escape the onrushing judgment.
2. There would be great “distress” in the land. As the siege wore on, the predictions of Jesus were literally fulfilled. There was the killing and maiming of loved ones in war, the famine and pestilence and false deliverers (messiahs). There was the betrayal and murder of neighbours in stealing food and seeking the favour of authorities in order to survive. Everyone was fending for himself. There was the utter chaos and collapse of order. There was the pressure and tension, the suffering and pain that one’s nation and people were about to be wiped off the face of the earth. Distress swept over the whole land.
3. The wrath of man (Rome) and the wrath of God fell upon the people.
4. An unbelievable number fell by the sword; over one million people died and about ninety-seven thousand were taken captive (see notes, Mt. 24:7; 24:10; 24:11. See *Josephus. Wars* 5. 12:3; 6. 3:4; 6. 8:5.)

“It appears to me that the misfortunes of all men, from the beginning of the world, if they be compared to these of the Jews, are not so considerable as they were.”
(*Josephus, Wars. Preface 4*).

In the end time, the world will experience great distresses, great tribulations — unparalleled in history. Note that Jesus did not describe the great trials beyond what

He had already said in these verses. A quick glance at the great distress or tribulation period covered in Revelation will give some idea of the trials (See Dan. 12:1-2.)

- => Thundering, lightning, and an earthquake (Rev. 8:5; see 8:1-5).
- => Natural catastrophes (Rev. 8:6-12).
- => Demonic-like locust or plagues (Rev. 8:13-9:11).
- => Demonic-like army (Rev. 9:12-21).
- => Nations angry, destroying the earth (Rev. 11:18; see 11:14-19).
- => An evil political ruler (Rev. 13:1-10).
- => A false religious ruler (Rev. 13:11-18).
- => Terrible destruction and suffering both upon nature and men (Rev. 16:1-21).
- => An evil, deceptive world power (Rev. 17:1-18:24).

V. *Luke 21:24 Times of the Gentiles*

The sign of Jerusalem's being surrounded will be a time numbered by the Gentiles. The Jewish nation was to be scattered and Jerusalem trodden down until "the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." Note two things.

1. The word fulfilled (plerothosin) means that God is in control of the times. There is a purpose to "the times of the Gentiles" and to what has happened and is yet to happen to Israel. God is in control of history.

Gal 4:4-6 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

Eph 1:10 *To be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment - to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

1 Tim 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

Titus 1:2-3 *A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour.*

2. There is to be an end to the Jews' captivity and to Jerusalem's being trodden down. The nation will be restored to its land. When? When "the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (See *Israel's Restoration*, Rom. 11:25-36.)

Rom 11:25-27 *I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”* ■

ROMANS 11:25–26 RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.” **Romans 11:25-26**

There are many reasons for taking this passage at its face value, that is, as a prediction of the Jewish people’s conversion as a nation.

1. The whole context favours this view. The conversion of the Jews as a probable event has been described in the plainest and simplest of terms.
2. The nation was rejected, not as individuals but as a community or nation. Therefore, it is only natural to say that when God speaks of a restoration, He is speaking not only of individuals being restored, but of the community or nation as being restored (v. 11, 15).
3. Paul speaks of a great event, something that will attract universal attention.
4. Paul says this is a “mystery.” The gradual conversion of a few Jews would be no mystery. When speaking of the mystery of the Gentiles (Eph. 1:9; 3:4), Paul is speaking of the Gentiles as a community being admitted into the church of God. Therefore, it is only natural to assume that when Paul speaks of the mystery of the Jews, he is speaking of a great event, of a great movement of Jews into Christ.
5. The words “all Israel” (v. 26) cannot mean the spiritual Israel. Such an interpretation would do violence to the use of the word “Israel” throughout this whole context. It simply means Israel as a nation, as a community of people. This is also clear from the warnings that are given throughout this passage to both Gentile and Jew.

However, “all Israel” looks at the nation en masse. It does not necessarily have to mean every single individual. Note a very significant fact: when the nation became hardened, Scripture speaks of the nation, that is, of all Israel being rejected. However, not every single person was rejected. There were a few individuals who still believed and who comprised a remnant (see Rom. 11:1-10).

Every single individual was not lost, so the same is probably true when the nation is restored. There will be a large number of Jews who will become open and tender to the gospel, but not necessarily every individual. In one simple statement: Israel will be open to the gospel just as the Gentiles are open to the gospel. Many Jews will begin to be saved just as many Gentiles are now saved.

Deu 30:3 *Then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.*

Isa 1:26 *“I will restore your judges as in days of old, your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City.”*

Isa 11:12 *He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.*

Isa 27:13 *And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.*

Isa 33:20 *Look upon Zion, the city of our festivals; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful abode, a tent that will not be moved; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor any of its ropes broken.*

Isa 40:2 *Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.*

Isa 49:22 *This is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.”*

Isa 60:10 *“Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favour I will show you compassion.”*

Jer 23:3 *“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.”*

Ezek 20:40 *For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them. There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices.*

Ezek 36:8 *“But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home.”*

Ezek 37:10 *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet — a vast army.*

Micah 2:12 *“I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people.”*

Zep 2:9 *“Therefore, as surely as I live,” declares the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, “surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah — a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land.”*

Zec 1:17 *“Proclaim further: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’”*

Zec 10:6 *“I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.*

Zec 14:11 *It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.*

Mal 3:4 *And the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. □*

THE COMING OF JESUS: THE SON OF MAN LUKE 21: 25–28

Introduction

The Lord now begins to cover the most significant event yet to occur in human history: His own personal return. The language points toward the Lord's personal return to earth (Lk. 21:27, 35). The point is this: there are signs that precede His coming, signs that will enable His followers to be prepared and strengthened to the utmost in endurance.

- I. The signs of astronomical happenings and their results (v. 25-26).
- II. The actual coming of Jesus, the Son of Man (v. 27).
- III. The great encouragement to the believer: look up — your redemption is near (v. 28).

I. Luke 21: 25–26 The Signs of Astronomical Happenings

The signs of astronomical happenings and their results. There shall be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. What will happen is described in both Mathew and Mark (Mt. 24:29; Mk. 13:24). Mark says...

- “The sun will be darkened.”
- “The moon will not give its light.”
- “The stars of heaven will fall from the sky.”
- “The heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

Very practically, such astronomical happenings occur now. The earth is sometimes darkened by dust from earthly catastrophes such as volcanic eruptions, wind storms, and smoke from huge fires. Of course, whatever darkens the sun, hides the light of the moon from earth. The stars, that is, meteorites of varying sizes, fall throughout space often. “The heavenly bodies” being shaken could mean the heavenly bodies outside our solar system that are called by the Bible “the heavenly array” (Deu. 4:19).

Something should be mentioned about the power of the atom. The atom exploded on earth is powerful enough to darken the sun and moon from earth's view. Worldwide atomic warfare would cause so much dust and pollution it would be difficult for any man to see anything in outer space. But as the atom is known today, it could not affect the axis or rotation (the falling or shaking) of the sun and moon and stars unless there were to be an inter-galactic war of some sort way out in the future, and unless there was a power much greater than what we know today. This is not to say that atomic warfare will never happen. There will be wars and rumours of war as long as the earth stands. But what the Bible teaches is that God is going to end all things, not man. When the world ends, it will be God's ending it by His own will and act.

An extreme literalism needs to be avoided when interpreting these verses, for there is so much we do not know about the laws (powers) of nature and the forces God has put in motion throughout the universe. However, there is absolutely no reason for not understanding the Lord's words as actual or literal events.

What the present passage seems to mean is that the whole universe is going to be affected by Christ's coming to earth. The sun and moon, the stars and powers (laws) of heaven will be affected in the sense that they will *open up and receive Him* and serve notice that He is the Creator, the Son of Man, God's very own Son, who is now coming to earth in great power and glory. Imagine a spectacular universal fireworks display, and perhaps what Christ is saying is being pictured. A simple question is: Why would not everything, including the heavenly bodies, put on a display (that would be terrifying to man) when its Creator, the Son of God, returns?

The astronomical bodies are affected because of the *evil of men and the wrath of God*. The scene of falling stars (meteorites) will not be for man to witness a spectacular event; it will be to point to the Son of God, to His judgment falling upon the earth. Every man is going to know beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ is coming in all the power and the glory of God Himself. As Jesus said, "with power and great glory" He is coming. He is coming "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:10-11).

The astronomical happenings will, of course, have devastating results upon earth. These results are the very point of Luke.

- => There will be distress and perplexity of nations. The picture is that of leaders' and governments' meeting and trying to figure out what is happening to the heavenly bodies in the sky above. However, they will not know nor be able to cope. They are perplexed and distressed, sensing the doom of the universe.
- => There will be the roaring effect upon the oceans and the upheaval of their waves and tides. This, of course, is to be expected since the oceans are controlled by the heavenly bodies.
- => There will be men fainting from terror; men will be gripped by fear, a desperate fear, sensing the end of the world is at hand. And note: the end *will* be at hand.

Mark 13:24-25 *"But in those days, following that distress, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'"*

Luke 17:29-30 *But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed."*

Luke 21:25-26 *“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”*

Acts 2:19-20 *I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

Rev 6:12-17 *I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”*

Isa 13:10-13 *The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. I will make man scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.*

Isa 24:17-22 *Terror and pit and snare await you, O people of the earth. Whoever flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit; whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare. The floodgates of the heavens are opened, the foundations of the earth shake. The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is thoroughly shaken. The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls — never to rise again. In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.*

Joel 2:30-31 *I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

Joel 3:15-16 *The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.*

II. ***Luke 21: 27 The Return of Jesus Christ***

The actual coming of Jesus, the Son of Man. There are three significant points in this verse.

1. It will be the Son of Man who comes. Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man, God's very own Son incarnate in human flesh as Perfect Man (See *Jesus the Son of Man*, Mt. 8:20). In that day, there will be no doubt about who He is (see Mk. 14:61-62). Right now He is recognized only by believers, but then His identity will be unmistakable: He is the Son of Man.
2. Every eye, all men, shall see Him return. This is what is meant by "they." Mathew actually says, "All the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming" (Mt. 24:30). His return will be visible to every man on earth, and every man shall then acknowledge Him to be Lord, God's very own Son (Phil. 2:9-11; see Rev. 1:7).
3. He is coming "in a cloud with power and great glory." Picture the scene. The backdrop of heaven is pitch dark, without any major light from the sun and moon. And then, suddenly, as quickly as the flash of lightning, the most brilliant focus of light ever known to man appears. The Shekinah glory of God will shine in the person of Jesus Christ as He appears to the world. The Son of Man is there, in the clouds, having returned in power and great glory just as He said He would.

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

2 Th 1:7-10 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

2 Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming.

Rev 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Rev 19:11-16 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on

him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

MATHEW 08:20 JESUS, THE SON OF MAN

*Jesus replied, "Foes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." **Mathew 08:20***

Jesus is not only what an ordinary man is, a son of man; Jesus is what every man ought to be, the Son of Man Himself. He is the Ideal Man, the Representative Man, the Perfect Man, the Pattern, the Embodiment of everything a man ought to be. Jesus Christ is the perfect picture of a man. Everything God wants a man to be is seen perfectly in Jesus Christ (see Jn. 1:14; Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 1:3.)

The title also means the Ideal Servant of man. It stresses His sympathy for the poor, the broken-hearted, the captives, the blind, the bruised, the outcasts, the bereaved (see Lk. 4:18). Jesus is the Pattern, the Model, the Perfect Example of concern and caring. He served and set a perfect example of how every man ought to serve other men.

Jesus calls Himself "the Son of Man" about eighty times. It is His favourite term. The title 'Son of Man' is probably based upon the Son of Man in Daniel (Dan. 7:13-14). Scripture also gives a picture of Jesus as the heavenly Son of Man contrasted with Adam as the earthly Man (1 Cor. 15:45-47). Each serves as a Representative Man for the human race in God's plan for world history.

Mat 9:6 *"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."*

Mat 16:13,16 *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Mat 20:28 *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 8:38 *"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

John 5:26-27 *“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”*

John 13:31-32 *When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.”*

Acts 7:56 *“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”*

Rev 1:12-13 *I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, and among the lamp stands was someone “like a son of man”, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. □*

III. Luke 21: 28 The Great Encouragement

The great encouragement to the believer. What a glorious hope the believer has! When the terrible events come in the heavens and upon the earth, he is...

- not to be distressed and perplexed, as the nations will be.
- not to fear and have a failing heart, as men will have.

Believers are not to be discouraged, but encouraged. They are to look up and lift up their heads, for their redemption draws near. The consummation of their salvation and hope is about to take place.

Titus 2:12-14 *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Col 1:14 *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Col 1:21-22 *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled [redeemed] you by Christ’s physical body through death to [eternally] present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*

Titus 2:13-14 *While we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us [eternally] from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Heb 9:15 *For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Rev 5:9-10 *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”*

Psa 121:1 *I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from?*

Psa 113:1 *Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.*

Isa 40:25-26 *“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. ■*