

Sermon 112: The Comfort of Christ's Second Coming Luke 21:7-11

Text: Luke 21:7-11 "And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven..."

Summary: God's personal care and certain deliverance should bring us immense comfort.

Proposition: He wants us find deep comfort as we rest in His personal care.

Interrogative: How can we do this?

Part 1: A complex question: 21:7 "When shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?"

- **The catalyst for their question: Luke 21:6** "As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down..."
- **The layers to their question:**
 - "When will these things be..."
 - "When will the age end..."
- **The complexity of the topic: 21:20-27** "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains...And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled...And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory..."
 - **Prophecy often has both near and distant fulfilments:** He does not emphasize that distinction.
 - "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh..."
 - "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled..."
 - "Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory..."
 - And there shall be signs

- **Different events can be similar providing insight and strengthening certainty of the prophecy's ultimate fulfillment:** He does not lay this out though it is true.
 - **There are three common events associated with the abomination of desolation:**
 - **Similar but not complete:** In **167 BC**, Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Temple.
 - **Similar but not complete:** In **AD 70** Jerusalem was completely destroyed by Titus and the people were mercilessly slaughtered.
 - **The Temple during the Tribulation Period:** This will be a perfect fulfillment.
- **Christ does not systematically untangle each strand for the people:** His approach is pastoral rather than academic.
- **His teaching drives at four basic realities:**
 - Suffering is real.
 - God preserves His people.
 - His grace will sustain them.
 - His deliverance is certain.
- **How you practically think about God, yourself, and history is far more important than your ability to systematize complex biblical prophecies.**

Part 2: A broken world: 21:7-11 "Be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by...Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven..."

- **This is a broken world: Romans 8:22-23** "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also...groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body..."
- **This brokenness touches all of life:**
 - **Religious deception: 21:8** "Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ..."
 - **National conflicts: 21:9** "When ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..."
 - **Natural corruption: 21:11** "Great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven..."

Part 3: A painful environment: 21:12-17 "But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake...Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake..."

- **Godliness does not insulate people from trouble:**
- **Sometimes it results in trouble: 2 Timothy 3:12-14** "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned..."
 - **Religious persecution: 21:12** "They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake..."
 - **Family persecution: 21:16** "Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends..."
 - **Martyrdom: 21:16** "Some of you shall they cause to be put to death..."
 - **Constant scorn: 21:17** "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake..."

Part 4: A gracious deliverer: 21:18-28 "But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls...²⁸ And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh..."

- **There are two sides to conflict: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18** "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal..."
 - Immediate temporary pressure
 - God's eternal perspective
- **Words of encouragement: John 16:33** "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world..."
 - **God will preserve His people: 21:18** "But there shall not an hair of your head perish..."

- **God will reward their endurance: 28:19** In your patience possess ye your souls.
- **He will give a measure of grace in the moment: 21:14-15** "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist..."
- **He will deliver forever: 21:27-28** "Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh..."

Applying Christ's Teaching:

- **We must be prepared for suffering, because this is a fallen world.**
- **When suffering comes, it can come in many ways.**
- **We must arm ourselves with an eternal perspective.**
- **We cannot allow ourselves to miss the big picture by obsessing over difficult, secondary details.**
- **We must walk by faith:**
 - His daily provision of grace is available.
 - He has promised to preserve us.
 - His deliverance is certain.
- **Let us find deep comfort as we rest in His personal care.**