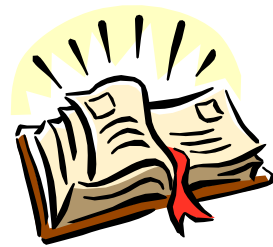


Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Luke 21.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Luke 21.

Topics.

- The widow's mite.
- The days will come when the temple will be thrown down.
- Six warning signs leading up to Christ return.
- Gentiles will trouble Jerusalem until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
- The parable of the fig tree
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- God and fairness.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus told the parable of a man who planted a vineyard, the chief priests and scribes seek to destroy Jesus so they sent spies to catch him. Jesus told the Sadducees ask those worthy to attain to the resurrection neither marry nor are given in marriage and warns the disciples to beware of the scribes, who love greetings in the marketplaces and places of honour at feasts.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

The widows Mite.

Luke 21:1-4 ----- ¹Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ²and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

The Pharisees and the rich would have looked at this poor widow and considered her offering as being worthless to God and in money terms or buying power compared to the Pharisees and the rich what she gave probably was worthless, but in what it cost her it was priceless to God. When a person does something that cost them, financially, or in time or labour and they do it for God what they are doing becomes an action that shows or manifest their belief in Him and their love for Him that kind of sacrifice becomes treasure in heaven.

The principal could be compared to a person who does not work, but gives a full day of labour to good works or charity while another person works all week and overtime to support their family and gives two hours to good works or charity it is costing the person giving the two hours far more in time than the person giving the full a day simply because the person giving the full day has far more time to give thus the sacrifice is greater for the person giving two hours than for the person giving the full a day.

NOTE.

This does not mean that if giving does not hurt it is not honoured before God (as some teach). Jesus is talking to the rich who most likely considered the woman's giving a waste. He is showing those who have abundance that what is important to God is not the worldly value of a thing, but the motivation and heart attitude behind what we do.

The Days will come when the Temple will be thrown Down.

Luke 21:5-7 ----- ⁵And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, ⁶"As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ⁷And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

Some who were speaking with Jesus in the temple asked him two questions: -

1. When will the temple be thrown down?
2. What will be the warning signs?

The focus of the first question that Jesus is asked concerns the destruction of the temple while the focus of the second question is about signs leading up to the destruction of the temple, but Jesus answers do not stop at the temples destruction but rather soars through time to his return with power and great glory (see the title Seventh Sign) (v27-28). Therefore though he is talking to people in in the temple (v5) his message not only applies to the Jews up until the temple is destroyed, but extends to everyone until Christ returns.

The First Sign.

Luke 21:8 ----- ⁸And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them.

Though these words do apply to the disciples of Jesus generation they extend to all future generations therefore it needs to be remembered that this warning sign applies to the generations before and after the destruction of the temple (the Romans destroyed it in 70 A.D). It is interesting to notice that the very first thing Jesus warns his followers of is being deceived, mislead and misinformed by others. The first sign is that many will proclaim: that the end of the age is near and that they are the Christ. This does not necessarily mean they are saying that they believe they are Jesus himself; very few would be deceived by someone claiming to be the Lord Jesus Christ. It is more likely they are proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ but are teaching a false Gospel. Much like those being led astray in the Galatian church, they believed Jesus was the Christ, but were being enticed back under the law to be saved or maintain their salvation. The Gospel they were listening to wasn't denying Christ, but it was denying grace, it was a Gospel of self-effort and self-righteousness, Paul called it a distorted Gospel and was stunned that those he had converted were being led astray (Gal. 3:1-12).

The Second Sign.

Luke 21:9-10 ----- ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once." ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Though these words do apply to the disciples of Jesus generation they also extend to all future generations therefore it needs to be remembered that this warning sign applies to the generations before and after the destruction of the temple (the Romans destroyed it in 70 A.D). The second sign is that nations will rise against each other, financially, politically and in war. As we go through these signs a clear picture emerges, (i.e., this world is on a downhill path to destruction) those who think that the governments of man will be able to achieve a time of prosperity and bliss on earth are sadly in for a terrible shock. Obviously there have always been wars showing how true Christ's words are, but they will increase until the end of this age as we know it today (v9).

The Third Sign.

Luke 21:11 ----- ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

Though there most likely were earthquakes before the temple was destroyed and certainly there was famines and diseases none of these stopped when the temple was destroyed (in 70 A.D) therefore this warning also extends to all future generations. The third sign will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilence (i.e., epidemics plagues, viruses, deadly diseases and frightening signs from heaven).

The Fourth Sign.

Before all the above events come to pass (i.e., the first, second and third sign) the following persecutions will come upon Jesus disciples.

Luke 21:12-19 ----- ¹²But they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³This will be your (the disciples) opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Notice Jesus says, "But before all this," meaning before all the signs he has mentioned so far (i.e., the first, second and third) shows that this warning primarily applies to Jesus generation, but persecution of those who belong to the Lord did not stop when the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. So this sign though it certainly does apply to the disciples of Jesus generation it is not limited to that era, but extends to all future generations.

Jesus words, "You will be delivered up by parents, brothers, relatives and friends and some will be put to death." All take place before the (first, second and third signs already mentioned) (i.e. the rise of the false Christ's, wars and earthquakes). Jesus words, "They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my sake," Actually happened after the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Jewish religious leaders aggressively set about persecuting those who confessed to be followers of Christ and the church. They tried Christ's disciples in synagogues, put them in prisons and brought them before kings.

It is most likely that the Jews who followed Moses Law saw their family members who converted to Christianity as traitors to Israel's God by adopting what the Jews believed to be a false religion. Those who were holding fast to Moses Law would have betrayed those confessing Christ to the Jewish religious rulers. Added to this the early church of Christ suffered enormously at the hand of the Romans. But throughout history and even until now many who convert to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ have been unjustly persecuted, tortured, put in prison and even killed, thus Jesus words, "You will be delivered up and put to death" will sadly continue to ring true until the seventh sign.

I will give you a mouth and wisdom: Jesus words, "I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict" (v15) actually happened. Just prior to Jesus ascending from the Mount of Olives he told his disciple to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father then after ascending to the right hand side of the Father he poured out the promise of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples waiting in the upper room at Jerusalem and they were able to speak foreign languages and dialects that they had never learned, but those who spoke the language clearly understood (the entire event is recorded in Acts 2:1-4).

The Fifth Sign.

Luke 21:20-24 ----- 20"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22or these are days of vengeance, to fulfil all that is written. 23Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people (the Jews) 24They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

The fifth sign actually happened in 70 A.D. Jerusalem was surrounded by armies, the people fled the city and Jerusalem was destroyed as a result of this Jews were scattered into all nations. There is a time coming again when Jerusalem will be surrounded once again by all her enemies, only this time the city will not be destroyed simply because Christ their King will return as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16). Jerusalem's enemies will be destroyed and Christ will rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Gentiles will trouble Jerusalem until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Jesus says: -

- Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (24).

Some believe that the age of the Gentiles was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became an independent nation, some put it at 1967 when they won the six day war and regained over their land, though these events may have been a partial fulfilment it is more likely that Jesus words: -

- Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Refer to the time the prophet Zechariah speaks of when he in prophecy said: -

- The LORD protects the inhabitants of Jerusalem and destroys all the nations that come against the city and pours out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when *they look on me, on him whom they have pierced*, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:8-12).

Israel is by no-means a safe nation today, nor is it free of Gentile suicide bombers and enemy attacks, but when they look on the one whom they pierced all that will change for God's Holy City Jerusalem.

An interesting Note.

Though the Jewish nation had the most convincing evidence, the most powerful preaching, the clearest call from Christ himself and from his apostles, ever since the first preaching of the Good News of the Gospel of grace multitudes of them have remained even to this day hardened and blinded to the glory of God's grace in Christ by their obstinacy and unbelief from generation to generation.

In (2011) I attended a public meeting in which an Israeli lecturer who travelled the world speaking for the Jews today and about Israel's land and their history as recorded in the Bible. At the end of her lecture the meeting was opened up to the audience for questions. One lady asked: -

- How do the Jews view Jesus today?

The Jewish speakers' answerer was: -

- Our Messiah has not yet come.

There was a sudden silence over the meeting at this moment, then the same lady obviously a Christian quoted a few Scriptures to show that Israel's Messiah did come, the lecturer was kindly patient, but after a short while turned and picked up a Jewish Bible, held it in the air and said: -

- This is our Bible and there is no New Testament in it."

A man stood up and asked: -

- How do the Jewish people view a Jew who converts to Christianity?

The speakers replied: -

- We would consider that they have left the faith.

As she spoke it was clear that the Jewish people love God and love their Messiah the promised seed of Abraham and David they just haven't recognised him yet (and even this is in God's eternal plan) but it reminded me of the following fabulous and prophetic words of Zechariah: -

- The LORD will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be great, the land and the priests shall mourn, and all the families that are left each by itself shall mourn (Zech. 12:9-14).

When this momentous and beautiful moment takes place the entire world will change as we know it today, and a glorious New Age will begin, one of righteousness, justice, joy and peace because the King of peace will be the Head and Shepherd of all nations.

The Sixth Sign.

Luke 21:25-26 ----- 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, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

The language now changes from Jerusalem to the world, showing that the sixth sign applies to those much closer to the end of this age and the return of Christ. There will be an enormous increase in natural disasters so much so that people will be in panic and fear of what is coming next.

NOTICE: one of the things mention is the, roaring of the seas, perhaps referring to our climate change, tsunamis and tidal waves etc.

Earth, is personified as a pregnant woman: the apostle Paul personifies the earth as a pregnant woman trying to give birth to the sons and daughters of God, with all of creation groaning while waiting for the birth of this child (the resurrection of the sons and daughters of God in Christ). Just as a woman experiences labour pains which become stronger and more rapid as the birth approaches so too will the labour pains of the earth increase and become more rapid as the time for the earth to give birth to the sons and daughters of God sleeping in Christ draws near. (Rom. 8:18-23).

NOTE.

Because of the chaos throughout the world, some may be tempted to think that God is cruel especially since there will be an overwhelming increase in natural disasters and of course global grief and enormous sorrow, but it should be remembered that governments worldwide literally spend billions of dollars to explore space, but no generation has spent money to care for the planet we live on. We send tons of pollution into the air every day and almost thirty-six football fields of rain forest are cut down every minute of every day.

We pollute the air and the oceans at a phenomenal rate and at the same time destroy the earth's filtration system that God so majestically designed to keep the planet healthy and we are shocked because the planet is falling apart, perhaps if money and profit had not been made the god of this world we might have cared for the amazing planet we were given to dwell on and today be living in a far healthier environment and far safer climate (sadly later generations reap what the earlier ones sowed).

Added to this the world has rejected the God of creation and replaced Him with a theory of evolution and the earth is covered with murder, wars, rapes, drugs blatant sexuality, young girls being sold as sex slaves and multinational companies oppressing the poor to make billions of dollars profit. Is it any wonder the earth is heading for chaos added to all this we run the entire world on credit which is totally against the will of God because it is an oppressive financial system and makes people and countries slaves to those they borrow from.

The Seventh Sign.

Luke 21:27-28 ----- ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

The seventh sign is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ; notice Jesus says when we see all these signs (i.e., wars, famines, earthquakes, epidemic diseases, and roaring seas), look up because our redemption is near. These are not only words of comfort, but of protection because our emotions will be devastated when we see multitudes of people in fear, panic, emotionally distressed and troubled (fainting). The events of the sign warnings are not going to come without tremendous human suffering.

Jesus is warning the generation that will see the glory of his return that there will be great sorrow, so rather than be engulfed in the heartache look up to his majestic and glorious coming and not down to the fear, panic, terror and horror that is taking place on earth.

NOTE: that does not mean we should not do all we can do to help those who are suffering if it is in our power to do so.

Earth restored to its former pristine condition: in the same way that a landlord rents out their house to strangers and they trash it so that when he evicts them he has to bring in skilled tradespeople to restore it to its original pristine condition. Likewise God has leased the earth to mankind for a certain period of time, but because of greed for money and profit mankind has brought the planet to ruin. Christ the Son of God with his skilled tradesmen (the resurrected sons and daughters of God) will return and restore the planet to the pristine condition it had prior to the fall and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace.

The Parable of the Fig Tree.

Luke 21:29-32 ----- ²⁹And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.

Jesus words, "This generation will not pass away until all has taken place" refers to the generation that has seen all the previous six signs take place which means it can only apply to the last generation before Christ return because they are the only generation that can claim to have seen everything Jesus has spoken of taken place in past history. Jesus generation could not make such a claim as some of the signs are still future for them.

Look at the Fig Tree, and all the Trees.

The fig tree was common to Palestine and Egypt almost all inhabitants of the Middle East would have known that as soon as it produced leaves summer was near. Jesus is saying to the generation that can say they have seen the previous six warning signs he has spoken of should also know that Christ is near just as those in the Middle East know that summer is near when they see the fig tree produce its leaves.

Heaven and Earth will Pass Away, but my words will not Pass Away.

Luke 21:33 ----- ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

In this context the words of Christ that will not pass away are the six signs he has previously listed and his return these are all guaranteed to come to pass at the right time, but by extension not one of Christ's words will pass away concerning the Gospel and eternal life.

The Danger of Stresses and Cares of this World.

Luke 21:34-35 ----- ³⁴"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

In these verses Jesus warns of the following two things: -

1. Allowing our hearts to be weighed down with overindulgence in alcohol (i.e., drunkenness). Having a glass of beer or wine is not a sin, but the Bible clearly warns against having too many glasses. The excessive drinking is not the sin, but the thing a person does while under its influence often is. Worse than this it can lead to actions a person can regret for a lifetime (i.e., the death of an innocent person while driving or an unplanned pregnancy etc.).
2. The cares of this life (i.e., worrying about paying the mortgage, staying healthy, sending the children to school, keeping a job and starting a business etc.), the list is endless. Naturally just as Jesus over two-thousand years ago could predict that the world would fall into chaos before he returned he could also see that stress and worry of the average family would increase and rob many from the excitement of their faith so much so that his return could come upon them like a trap (meaning a deception). It is interesting at this point to note that the very first thing Jesus warned his disciples of and by extension all who follow Christ until he returns was, "See that you are not led astray(v8).

Jesus Disciples thought the Kingdom of God was Coming Immediately.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt and the people shouted and proclaimed him to be the King who comes in the name of the Lord (Luke 19:38). They thought he was going to be made King of Jerusalem when he arrived in the Holy City and that the Kingdom of God would appear immediately (Luke 19:11), but Jesus knew that he would not be returning to set up God's Kingdom on earth in their lifetime.

Jesus conversation with his disciples in this chapter appears to be pre-warning them not to get depressed or anxious because the Kingdom does not appear in their time (not as they expected it at least). By extension the same message applies to Christians of every age. Jesus gives the disciples signs so that they can know whether they are in the generation that will see him return or not then tells them to watch for the signs. The language of the Bible is majestic. It is unlike any other book it is written in such a way that, no-one knows the actual hour or day, but everyone who has faith in Christ is expected to be ready if it happened in their time.

The test of the Christian faith: Peter an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ tells those who belong to Christ that they have: -

- An inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for them, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this they can rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, they may have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of their faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though they have not seen him, they love him. Though they do not now see him, they believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of their faith, the salvation of their souls." (1 Peter 1:4-9).

Based on these words of Peter the test of the Christian faith is whether they are prepared to endure persecutions, hardships, troubles, grief and sorrow until the Lord returns with love for Christ in their hearts even though they have never seen him or whether the trials and hardships of life cause them to forsake their faith.

Stay alert at all Times.

Luke 21:36 ----- ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Following are the two most common interpretations of Jesus words pray that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place: -

1. Pray that you will be raptured out of all these things and escape what is coming.
2. Pray that your faith does not fail, pray that you may have strength to endure all these things and not forsake your faith so that you are found standing before the Lord when he returns. Since Jesus throughout this chapter has been telling his disciples that the generation that sees a sudden increase in peoples distress, anxiety and panic because of the increase in wars, famines, epidemic diseases and natural disasters will be the generation that will see the glory of the Lord's return this second group reasons that it is unlikely Jesus is telling them to pray that they will escape what is coming since he tells them to watch for these signs and when they see them look up for their redemption is near. Obviously they have to still be here to see the signs. Added to this if they were going to be raptured out of it all they would not need to pray for strength.

Christian Suffering and Endurance.

It is 2011 and Australia has just suffered the worst floods in its history, thousands lost their homes, many amongst them would have been Christians, one Christian family while driving in their car was suddenly caught in the raging flood waters, the car was picked up like a cork and floated in the tidal waters miles away. The husband was drowned and the mother frantically trying to hold on to her small daughter was eventually overcome by the power of the flood and the small girl was taken from her arms and drowned. This Christian wife and mother was obviously emotionally crushed and devastated, her faith was tested to the extreme. From the time Jesus spoke the words in this chapter there has been thousands of Christian men and woman worldwide who have suffered similar horror and grief as this woman did)., These kind of terrors is what this second group believes Jesus is referring to when he says, "Pray that you have strength to escape" Not to escape what is coming, but to have strength to endure it so that you will be gathered to Christ when he returns.

NOTE: It should be remembered that Christians throughout all generations have suffered enormous horrors. In Hebrews chapter eleven (known as the hall of the faithful) the author writes concerning men and woman who had great faith: -

- Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised until... (Heb. 11:35-39).

There is no reason to think that those who have the honour and privilege of seeing the glory of Christ's return will escape what is coming without some scars and some wounds.

The majestic wonder and beauty of Bible language: is seen in these verses even, though Jesus did not return during the era of his generation it does not mean that his words, "Praying that you may have strength to escape all these things" Did not apply to them. They still had to pray and abide in the faith while enduring the terrors of their generation so that they would escape eternal death and be found standing before the Lord when he returns.

Every day Jesus teaches in the Temple.

Luke 21:37-38 ----- ³⁷And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet. ³⁸And early in the morning all the people came to him in the temple to hear him.

Even though Pharisees were seeking to kill Jesus he knew he was safe while he was amongst the people during the day, but when the people had gone home it was dangerous, that is one of the reasons he lodged on the Mount of Olivet during

the night (it was opposite the temple in Jerusalem). Consider for a moment the following, Jesus is fully aware that the religious leaders of the temple are plotting to kill him and that he is about to be brutally and cruelly tortured and killed yet he continues in doing the Father's will by proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel of Kingdom to all who were coming to hear him speak each day in the temple (amongst his murderers).

God and Fairness.

Many in this world feel that life should be fair, but we live in a fallen world, it is defective because of human sin, (i.e., self, ego, pride and greed etc.) added to this creation is flawed it is decaying and because of this very little in the world and life is fair (as we think of fairness) therefore if we are looking for God based on our sense of fairness we will never find Him, simply because very little on this side of Christ's return is fair as we think of fairness.

Until Christ returns our attitude needs to be that of Job: -

- Though he slay me, I will hope in him (Job 13:15).

And of the following and fabulous attitude of Habakkuk: -

- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

If Habakkuk, was living in the final generation of this age and near the return of Christ his words would be written:-

- Though my business is failing, and my house has been destroyed by cyclones (or washed away by floods etc.) and I have no money in the bank or cash under the mattress and whatever I try to do comes to nothing, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk's faith by far surpassed the things of this world, he was devastated and grieved (everything was falling apart), but his extreme loss did not affect his eternal vision and his faith and love in God. Habakkuk's faith in God was not dependent on the things of this world or his circumstances (good or bad), but on his relationship with God and his faith that God is sovereign. His faith was such that he was not going to presume to judge God according to his finite and mortal mind or according to his limited thinking and knowledge or his sense of what should be or what he wished would be.

End