

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Lord’s Prophecy on the Last Days” Luke 17

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 17: 20-37

### 1. *Sequence of prophesied events in the last days*

Many theories and doctrines exist about the last days because people do not interpret the Bible as what it says. Many theologians interpret the eschatological prophesies with their own ideas and with the intent to justify their denominational doctrines. Here, we present the prophesied sequence of events based on clear and unmistakable prophesies of Daniel, Lord Jesus, Apostle Paul, Apostle Peter and Apostle John.

- A. Rapture: the great event of both the saved Jewish people of the OT era and the saved Christians in the mid-air with the Lord Jesus when He comes with His angels. He will come in the clouds just as He ascended to Heaven after the resurrection. His coming will not be known to the world at large. At the last trumpet call, first the OT saints and the dead Christians will be resurrected and be caught up to the Lord. Then, immediately afterward the saved Christians will be caught up to heaven to meet the Lord. This throng of harvested souls will travel with the Lord to the third heaven where God is. Thus, the paradise will be vacated and the world will see millions of Christians disappear without warning in an instant. These events will occur in a very short time and will likely create a big turmoil throughout the world:

*For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.* [1 Thessalonians 4: 15-18]

*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* [1 Corinthians 15: 51-53]

- B. Events during the last seven years of Daniel’s prophecy, leading to the Millennial Kingdom:

*Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;  
But in the middle of the week  
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.  
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,  
Even until the consummation, which is determined,  
Is poured out on the desolate.* [Daniel 9:27]

The last seven years of the present world before the second coming of Lord Jesus will consist of the following events/ conditions:

- 1) Antichrist establishes a peace accord between Israel and the Arab world. He will make it possible for the Jews to renew the temple worship of the Jewish people. [Dan 9: 27]
- 2) Sometime in the middle of the seven years, the Antichrist will revoke and forbid the temple sacrifices of the Jews but force them to worship him in the temple instead of God. [Dan 9: 27]
- 3) Extreme persecution of the Jewish people by Antichrist will unfurl for 3.5 years. Many Jewish people will seek refuge in the Jordanian wilderness to avoid the persecution. [Rev. 12: 6]
- 4) A series of natural disasters will bring calamities to much of the world’s population. [Rev. 6-16]
- 5) Some 144,000 Jews will receive Jesus as their Messiah during this period as a result of the testifying of two OT witnesses, thought to be Moses and Elijah. [Rev. 11: 3-12, Rev. 7: 3-8]

- 6) The headquarters of the great false religion, the Great Babylon the Mother of Harlots, will burn and be totally destroyed [Rev. 14: 8-11, Rev 18].
- 7) The second harvest of the Christians of the tribulation period [Rev. 14: 14-16].
- 8) The battle of Armageddon between the alliance of Gog against God and Israel and the Lord's forces will result in total destruction of the evil alliance. [Rev 19: 17-21]
- 9) The Lord's harvest of wrath, the winepress wrath, of all unbelievers and enemies of God [Rev. 14: 17-20]. The prophesy of Luke 7: 20-37 pertains to this act of God when many unbelieving Jews will be taken to the place of destruction where large flocks of flesh eating birds such as vultures will be feeding on their dead bodies and the destroyed armies of the Lord's enemy alliance in the battle of Armageddon [Rev. 19: 17-21]. These two events will take place at the same time. Their blood will flow into the Red Sea [Strait of Aqaba].
- 10) The beast, who represents the earthly head figure of the Satan's forces and the false prophet, to be identified in the future, will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone [Rev. 19: 20].
- 11) Satan will be bound and locked up in the bottomless pit for a thousand years [Rev. 20: 1-3].

C. Coming of the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord: After these events Lord Jesus will come to the earth in an open way so that the entire world will know His coming [Matt 24: 29-31]. The day and time of His coming will not be known in advance. However, the Lord told us the indications of this timing in Matt 24: 29 as follows:

- 1) After the seven years of tribulation
- 2) The sun will be darkened.
- 3) The moon will not give her light.
- 4) Stars will fall from heaven—i.e. many meteorites
- 5) There will be the sign of the Lord in heaven.

These signs will be applicable to the Jewish people and the unbelieving world. All saved Christians will have joined the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven and the select group will come down to the earth with Him after the tribulation period on earth and the Lamb's wedding feast in heaven, and take part in the Millennial Kingdom on the earth, in the resurrected body and the glory of Christ.

## **2. Christians' anticipation of the Lord's coming**

- A. All saved Christians as well as the saved Jewish people will be joining in the great harvest of RAPTURE with the Lord. Therefore, we will not need to go through the prophesied tribulation period. Many of the 'left behind' people will come to the gospel of Christ and become Christians including 144,000 Jews. And they go through some awful persecutions and natural disasters brought upon the earth out of God's wrath. Those who endure to the end of this tribulation period [Matt 24: 13] will be saved and wear white robes as promised in Rev 7:9. They will also join the first crowd of saved Christians in the Millennial Kingdom.
- B. Let us hold fast and look to the day of our Lord's coming in full assurance of His promise and keep true!

### *Topics of Discussion:*

1. *Let us discuss and believe the approaching of the day of the rapture with lively hope and anticipation.*
2. *What doubts keep you from fully believing in the end times prophesy?*