

- I) **V20-21 INTRO: Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come**
  - a) **The question the Pharisees asked was the one that created most interest during Jesus' day**
    - 1) **There was a great deal of interest in prophetic events during that time**
    - 2) **WHY: Because the Jews were longing for deliverance from Roman rule**
  
- II) **FOR MANY CENTURIES: Israel had be subjected to many foreign rulers**
  - a) **They were oppressed by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, now the Romans**
    - 1) **They longed to be free from the yoke of Foreign Tyranny**
  
- III) **AS THEY: Examined their scriptures, they knew that they were to be blessed by Him (Is 9:6-7)**
  - a) **Their prophets had promised that God would bless the nation through their Messiah**
    - 1) **Jer. 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
    - 2) **People were greatly desiring Messiah's rule and reign**
  
- IV) **V20 BECAUSE OF THIS EXPECTATION: The Pharisees ask When will the kingdom of God come**
  - a) **Again, the Jews were expecting an outward, visible kingdom they would be prominent in**
    - 1) **They were expecting armies, battles, proclamations, and excitement**
    - 2) **SADLY: They had a misconception of the kingdom of God**
  
- V) **V20-21 HE ANSWERED: Them and said the kingdom of God does not come with observation**
  - a) **God's rule actually begins in the hearts of man, not by force but by a willing choice**
    - 1) **It actually begins within a person: wherever Jesus is honored, one finds His kingdom**
    - 2) **Ro 14:17 the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
  
- VI) **V22 THEN HE SAID TO THE DISCIPLES: The days will come when you will desire to see one of the**
  - a) **One of the days of the Son of Man: Son of Man is another way of speaking of Messiah**
    - 1) **Dan 7:13 I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like *the Son of Man*, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.**
    - 2) **POINT: The times will be so difficult that you will yearn for the peace that comes when I rule**
  
- VII) **V22 AND: *You will not see it***
  - a) **You will not be delivered from the struggles and afflictions you are suffering**
    - 1) **WHY: Because He was not returning in their lifetimes, so they would only long for His return**
    - 2) **They were first century believers, and He would not return during their days**
    - 3) **Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly". Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**
  
- VIII) **V23 AND: They will say to you Look here or Look there Do not go after them or follow them**
  - a) **The desire for Messiah can be so great that deceivers will use it to their advantage**
    - 1) **False teachers will arise and will deceive many, and the times will grow very hard**
    - 2) **Under such pressure, rumors will arise that Jesus has returned**
    - 3) **False teachers will mislead and seduce, saying they know the exact time, or place He will be**

- I) **HE WARNS: Do not listen to these false prophets: they will get you killed!**
  - a) Under the incredible pressures of the times, they may listen to what they are saying
    - 1) 2 Th 2:1-3 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means
  
- II) **KEY: The false prophets will even perform miracles in an attempt to draw people**
  - a) 2 Co 11:13-15 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.
  
- III) **V24 FOR: As the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part**
  - a) **HIS POINT: My return will be an obvious event: it occurs suddenly and completely**
    - 1) Mal 3:1-2 Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, *Will suddenly come to His temple*, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap.
  
- IV) **V25 BUT FIRST: He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation**
  - a) He would be rejected and would suffer, and so would His followers (for centuries)
    - 1) Do not delude yourselves into thinking that you will avoid difficulties!
  
- V) **V26-27 AND: As it was in the days of Noah so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man**
  - a) In Noah's day: *Evil was rampant* and God brought down judgment on the earth
    - 1) Jesus makes it clear that judgment came upon them when they were not expecting it (V27)
  
- VI) **FIRST: God had extended to the world a season of grace that occurred as Noah built the ark**
  - a) 1 Pe 3:20 The long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.
  - b) Ro 2:4 Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?
  
- VII) **SECOND: During that time, he preached repentance but they did not listen**
  - a) 2 Pe 2:5 (God) did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a *preacher of righteousness*, and seven others (his family)
  
- VIII) **ULTIMATELY: The end of God's patience was reached, and God brought judgment**
  - a) The flood came suddenly, but not without warning: Noah had preached, they rejected
    - 1) 2 Pe 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation...
  
- IX) **V28-30 LIKEWISE: As it was also in the days of Lot They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold**
  - a) It was business as usual when judgment hit the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, and their daughters
    - 1) Often we think only of Sodom and Gomorrah, but there were other cities destroyed
    - 2) Dt 29:23 The whole land *is* brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

- I) **KEY:** The materialism that Sodom and Gomorrah enjoyed had given rise to various sins
  - a) They had a false security based on food, luxuries, a life of ease which gave rise to neglecting the poor and those in need as well as sexual perversion (Gen 19) and ultimately, fiery judgment
    - 1) Ezek 16:49-50 This was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had *pride, fullness of food*, and abundance of *idleness*; neither did she strengthen the hand of the *poor and needy*. And they were *haughty* and *committed abomination* before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw *fit*
    - 2) Jude 7 Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire
  
- II) **V30 EVEN SO:** Will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed
  - a) The second coming is a time of judgment
    - 1) Jude 14-15
    - 2) Rev 19:11-16 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
  
- III) **V31 IN THAT DAY:** He who is on the housetop and his goods are in the house let him not come
  - a) For those who are caught up with materialism, the return of Jesus really is not important
    - 1) HIS POINT: If you love things more than Jesus, you will be judged
  
- IV) **V32 REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE**
  - a) Gen 19:17 It came to pass when they had brought them outside, that he said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."
  - b) Gen 19:26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.
  
- V) **V33 WHOEVER:** Seeks to save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life will preserve it
  - a) Those in Noah's and Lot's day had one thing in common: they wanted something other than God
    - 1) He is saying that the world is not worth losing heaven for
    - 2) Lu 12:23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.
    - 3) Heaven requires self-denial and self-sacrifice, but the end is worth it
  
- VI) **V34-36 I TELL YOU:** In that night there will be two men in one bed the one will be taken and the other
  - a) HIS POINT: His coming is sudden and unannounced
    - 1) Men will be asleep (night), women at work making bread (morning) men working (afternoon)
    - 2) One is taken, the other is left: This is not the rapture, but is the second coming
    - 3) One will be taken in judgment, the other will be recognized as saved
  
- VII) **V37 AND:** They answered and said to Him where Lord So He said to them Wherever the body is
  - a) Vultures hovering over a carcass are visible from miles away
    - 1) SIMILARLY: His return will be obvious and evident to all, near and far away
    - 2) This pictures the judgment that will take place on earth, when He returns