



‘But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.’
2 Peter 3:18

November 29

Advent 1

Gospel reading: Luke 21:25-38

Pray for growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and **read** the passage together...

Looking around

Immediate context

Our passage sits within Jesus’ teaching on the signs of the last days and his Second Coming (21:5-36).

Its place in the structure of the book

The teaching on the last days and the End sits within Luke’s account of Jesus’ final public ministry in Jerusalem – 19:28-21:38.

Its contribution to the message and purpose of the book

Luke has written his carefully researched Gospel based on eyewitnesses in order that the reader may have certainty concerning these things (see 1:1-4). Our passage gives certainty concerning the fact of Jesus’ return and its glorious and sudden nature; and provides the reason for constant readiness.

The book’s message centres on Jesus Christ as Saviour of the world and of those people whom the world looks down on, including the poor and the disreputable; and with Jesus’ passion procuring God’s salvation. Similarly, our passage points to a glorious Coming that has universal even cosmic significance.

Is the passage or part of it quoted elsewhere in the Bible or does it quote other parts of the Bible?

The same teaching given by Jesus at the same time is found in Matthew 24:1-51 and Mark 13:1-37. In our passage verse 25 alludes to prophecies such as Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15 and is cited by NT writers such as in Acts 2:20 and Revelation 6:12-13. Verse 27 alludes to the Son of Man prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14.

How the passage contributes to our understanding of God, Jesus, humanity, God's salvation, life together as Christians, discipleship

Jesus is the glorious and divine Son of Man, the Ruler and Saviour of the whole world. He will finally establish the Kingdom of God and the New Creation. His coming won't be welcomed by all but dreaded. His coming to redeem his people is certain and they must be ready for it and the accompanying tribulation, though not afraid.

Looking behind

Relevant historical, political, social, geographical information helpful for understanding the passage

Looking within

Movements or structure in the passage

- Verses 25-28: The glorious and powerful Coming of the Son of Man
- Verses 29-33: The signs of Jesus' coming and his word affirming his coming give us certainty and hope in life and at the End
- Verses 34-36: God's people must be vigilant in not conforming to the world and in prayerfully anticipating Jesus' coming at which they will stand before him in salvation

Important or repeated words, ideas, themes

Son of Man (21:27, 36). One of Jesus' favourite self-designations referring to both his humanity and his divine, kingly identity (Dan 7:1-14).

Important contrasting words (but, although, whereas, whilst), explanatory words (therefore, so that, for, because, since, in order that), timing words (next, immediately, after, when)

Remarkably, the entire creation will pass away at Jesus' coming, 'but' not his words, for they are the words of God (21:33).

Looking clearly

Using all of the above, work out the passage's main idea and supporting ideas:

Main idea

Supporting ideas

Try to summarise these in a clear, succinct statement:

Try to represent what the passage **says** and **means** with a drawing. No art show entries necessary! Invite *willing* people to explain their drawings, unpacking what is being said and the meaning.

Looking at Jesus

Doing this helps grow disciples of Jesus...

How has this study enlarged or enriched your understanding of Jesus and his claims, call and promises?

How do you respond to Him?

Looking in the mirror

Doing this helps grow disciples of Jesus...

What personal and corporate (your home group or church) beliefs you hold does this study confirm to be true?

What personal and corporate beliefs has this study challenged and corrected?

What personal and corporate values, attitudes and priorities has this study reinforced or challenged?

What personal and corporate behaviour and traditions has this study endorsed or challenged?

Looking forward

Doing this helps grow disciples of Jesus...

What encouragements, comforts and changes will you or your group take with you today?

Resolve to help one another move forward in repentance and faith.

Prayer and praise