

Luke: Heaven's Savior with a Human Touch
Distressing Days
Luke 21:5-38
September 17, 2017

Distressing days are HERE—Redemption draws NEAR!

Surviving Distressing Days

1. Don't be DECEIVED or TERRIFIED. Luke 21:5-9

Luke 21:5-38 — 5 *And 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.”*

7 And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” 8 And 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. 9 And 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.”

2 Peter 3:17-18 — 17 *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

2. Don't GIVE UP. Luke 21:10-19

10 *Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.*

12 *But before all this 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.*

13 *This will be your opportunity to bear witness. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.*

16 You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

3. Do it NOW. Luke 21:20-24

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21 Then 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, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

23 Alas 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. 24 They 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.

Romans 11:25-27 — 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; 27 "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

4. Stay focused on JESUS. Luke 21:25-28

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, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

So, stay focused on Jesus! We don't need to be afraid.

5. Trust His WORD. Luke 21:29-33

29 And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

6. Pray for STRENGTH. Luke 21:34-36

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. 35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 But 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.”*

1 John 2:28 — 28 *And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.*

7. Live with **ANTICIPATION**. Luke 21:37-38

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

Distressing days are **HERE**—Redemption draws **NEAR**!

Let’s talk about distressing days...

1. Why is it easier for Christians to talk about our buildings than it is for us to talk about God’s purposes (v.5)?
2. How would we respond if someone told us that the thing we were most impressed with in this life was going to be destroyed (v.6)?
3. Why are people even today so ready to follow someone who says that they know when Jesus is going to return (v.8)?
4. What are the “nonsigns” that Jesus gives in this address (v.8-19)?
5. How can persecution lead to opportunities to share your testimony (v.13)?
6. What was the reason for the destruction of Jerusalem that Jesus predicted (v.22-23)?
7. What is God’s purpose for the “times of the Gentiles” (v.24)?
8. How can we be confident in the midst of distressing days (v.28)?
9. What assurance do we have that the things Jesus describes in Luke 21 will happen as He predicted (v.33)?
10. What do you need to be praying about in these distressing days that is distracting or discouraging you from what God has called you to do (v.36)?