

“THESE THINGS”

1.0 Theme text: Luke 21:28 (signs indicating completion of church is near)

2.0 Context of Luke 21:28 is our Lord's Great Prophecy (Matt.24; Mk.13; Lk.21; B159-166; D563-614)

- Lord's Great Prophecy forecasts religious & secular activities from 1st advent to peaceable kingdom

2.1 Jesus gave this great prophecy to answer 3 questions asked by 4 disciples (Matt.24:3; Mk.13:3)

2.2 The three questions pertain to:

- When Jewish temple would be destroyed (Matt.24:2,3)

- Sign[s] of Lord's presence upon his return (Matt.23:39)

- Sign[s] of end of present world and beginning of the new world (kingdom) (Matt.12:32; Mk.10:30)

2.3 By giving this prophecy Jesus wanted to impress 5 main points on the saints' minds:

- A long time would elapse between Jesus' first advent & his second advent/end of age/kingdom

- Entire period would be marked by distress on all; greatest distress of all occurs early in 2nd advent

- Identity of multiple signs indicating Jesus' presence & the full end of the age (peaceable kingdom)

- False Christianity's power throughout the age; harvest saints need to separate & be faithful to end

- Jesus would manifest his presence gradually and not bodily or visibly to human eyes

3.0 Verse-by-verse consideration of Matt.24:4-51; events, activities and signs contained therein

- 24:4-5 (professed Christian systems would deceive many into thinking they are truly Christian)

- 24:6-8 (much human conflict & suffering throughout entire period ending with peaceable kingdom)

- 24:9-13 (true church must be prepared to face severe opposition, yet be faithful until the very end)

- 24:14 (before Jesus returns, the truth will be preached around the globe by the disciples)

- Lk.21:20-24 (Jews to experience great wrath; Jewish temple & nation to be desolated;

Jewish suffering under Gentile oppression would endure for quite a long time)

- 24:15-22 (once disciples recognize how Christian systems have corrupted the truth [especially the ransom], disciples must flee therefrom to God's mountain [truth] [Dan.9:27]; greatest period of tribulation will be during early part of Jesus' return [sabbath day]; the main target of the tribulation will be the destruction of Satan's systems; once Satan's systems destroyed, fully glorified Christ intervenes and begins the peaceable kingdom)

- 24:23-25 (very effective false Christs [systems] at end of Gospel Age will deceive nearly all)

- 24:26-27 (Jesus will not appear outwardly in a particular place on earth; Jesus' presence early on evidenced by his gradual enlightening influence upon the human race)

- 24:29 (after height of Papacy's crushing on the saints [ie., after 1799], nominal spiritual Israel will corrupt Christian doctrine – deny ransom; embrace human evolution & prosperity Gospel; engage in higher criticism & politics; treat Old Testament merely as barbaric history; promote false stars [preachers]; adopt creeds; as a result, Lord shakes it apart)

- 24:30 (The sign to the true church that Jesus has returned is when they correctly understand 2nd advent prophecies such as jubilees, Acts 3:19-21, etc; our returned Lord has rendered judgment against Satan's unjust systems; humanity is grieving because of the resulting disintegration caused by the Lord's judgment which humanity is powerless to thwart)

- 24:31 (returned Lord dispatches trumpeters [true church] to proclaim message of truth to all denominations; result is the truth draws out and separates true church from others)
- 24:32-35 (revival of national fleshly Israel from 1878 through 1948 is a sign that we are at the threshold of the peaceable kingdom [summer] R4706:1; generation that sees this as well as formation of many other independent nations [Lk.21:29] will see the peaceable kingdom)
- 24:36 (no one but Jehovah would know in advance the date of Jesus' return; history shows the date of Lord's return was not revealed until 1875, one year after his return)
- 24:37-39 (just as pre-flood humanity was oblivious to the deluge until it swept them away, so humanity will be oblivious to Jesus' return until Satan's systems are swept away & it becomes obvious to them that a new ruler [Christ's Administration], has assumed control of the world).
- 24:40-41 (true church will know the chief reaper Jesus is here when they see saints emerging from the world, the ministry, and separating from others who remain)
- 24:28 (the attraction of the pure body of 2nd advent truths [the carcass] given by our returned Lord is what draws saints out and separates them from others who reject 2nd advent truths)
- 24:42-44 (saints will not know in advance the specific time Jesus returns because the precise time of Jesus' return was to be a total surprise to Satan so he would have no chance to interfere with the immediate implementation of 2nd advent work; saints are simply to be ready)
- 24:45-51 (up through verse 45, Jesus gave signs, but no dates in advance of his return; yet Jesus promised to keep disciples informed [Jo.8:12] and serve them a sumptuous meal of 2nd advent truths at his return [Lk.12:37]; he keeps his promise by appointing a special servant to promptly assure disciples through abundant Bible evidence he has returned; this servant would serve fellow servants who in turn would serve the household with 2nd advent truths [R1946:6]; however, disciples may also encounter an aggressive evil servant who feeds on false stupefying doctrine, denies Lord's return, and attacks those who believe Lord is here)

4.0 With Lord's Great Prophecy as context, consider Luke 21:28

- "these things" are the activities and events that Jesus has outlined in his Great Prophecy.
- Nearly every predicted activity has occurred or is now nearing completion indicating to the present generation the nearness of the completion of the body of Christ and nearness of "summer"
- "redemption" means deliverance; complete glorification of the body of Christ. E434
- However, Jesus warns us at this advanced stage to not to let our guard down
- Lk.21:34-36 (take heed to ourselves; avoid being overcharged; avoid the snare that entraps most of the world such a materialism, love of ease, etc; don't become lukewarm Christians; don't forget our first love)
- Psa. 45:13-15 (do all we can to make ourselves ready to meet our Bridegroom and to be ushered into the presence of our Father, the Emperor of the universe)

END.