

## *Time of the End*

### *Luke 21:5-38*

*"Spiritual dangers... Let us learn from these verses the spiritual danger to which even the holiest believers are exposed in this world. Our Lord says to his disciples, 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap' (verse 34). These words are exceedingly startling. They were not addressed to worldly-minded Pharisees or skeptical Sadducees or worldly Herodians. They were addressed to Peter, James, and John and the whole group of the apostles. They were spoken to men who had given up everything for Christ's sake and had proved the reality of their faith by loving obedience and steadfast loyalty to their Master. Yet even to them our Lord warns against drunkenness and dissipation and worldliness. Even to them he says, 'Be careful.' This exhortation should teach us about the great importance of being humble. There is no saint so great who may not fall into great sin. We must be clothed with humility (1 Peter 5:5) and not think that we are standing so firmly that we are not in danger of falling (1 Corinthians 10:12)." Ryle*

- I. Being watchful for the Lord's return means taking to heart Jesus' exhortation to stay focused on him and the truth of his Word as we wait to be called up into the clouds to be with him forever (**1 Thess. 4:16-18**). He wants us to stay grounded in the faith, calm and composed throughout the trials we will surely face, ready to bear witness of the hope we have within, and rooted in his love and perseverance.

Luke 21:5-19; 2 Peter 3:13; John 3:19-21

- A. Jesus warns us to keep ourselves from being deceived by what others say about Him and His Word. Staying grounded in the faith protects us from being deceived and helps us to be ready and waiting for His imminent return.

Luke 21:7-8

- B. Jesus exhorts us to keep ourselves from being overwhelmed with fear by a world that is at war with itself. His perfect love drives out fear (**1 Jn. 4:18**) and keeps us safe and secure in our salvation.

Luke 21:9-11

- C. Jesus assures us that if and when we face persecution because of him, he will protect us with his love and perseverance so that we can bear witness of the hope of the gospel to those in need of salvation from his coming wrath.

Luke 21:12-19; 2 Thess. 2:5; Ps. 16:8

- II. Being watchful for our Lord's imminent return means remaining aware of the times we live in. Jesus admonishes us to keep ourselves free from anything that would weigh our hearts down so that we are better able to stand before him.

Luke 21:20-38; Dan. 7:13-14; 1 Thess 1:10

**Matthew 24:42** *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*