



## When Redemption Draws Near: Signs in the Sky

### Luke 21:25–28

#### Intro:

1 - Our world is unraveling in fear and anger in front of our eyes. Jesus told His followers that these things would happen.

2 - It may also be that you or someone you know has recently faced or is facing personal tragedy. Their world has collapsed. Losses can be so great and feel so overwhelming your faith is challenged.

3 - Or it may be you are watching a friend walk pain's long, difficult road. Prolonged and intense suffering often causes us to question our faith and commitment.

**Summary:** Here's the point of this passage. Jesus doesn't deny the world is falling apart. He knows you are suffering under the Fall's weight. Creation is also suffering under the weight of sin and it can't last forever.

**Transition:** What Jesus does, however, in these verses, is redefine the end of our world...the end of *the* world. His prophecies about the Temple and Jerusalem prove to his followers that He is in control. So, as with his instructions about the siege of Jerusalem, Jesus tells us how to live in a world that is falling apart.

In particular, our text this morning shows that when the world panics, God's people can live poised because life's hardships and the world's ungluing, point to the coming of Jesus.

**Bottom Line:** The world may shake, my world may tremble, but we have a steady God, and our hope is in him and his return.

This morning, we'll see that through three scenes:

1. The distress of the nations (vv. 25–26)
2. The coming of the Son of Man (v. 27)
3. The confidence of the redeemed (v. 28)

### First: The Distress of the Nations. 25-26

*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, <sup>26</sup> ... For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

1. Creation will tremble before redemption dawns.

We all know this – *"the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now"* (Romans 8:22).

- Jesus draws on the OT to illustrate what will happen –

Isaiah 13:10 - *For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.*

Joel 2:10-11 - *The earth quakes... the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. <sup>11</sup> The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?*

- God allows the natural order to shake to expose false securities.

We say things like, *"You're standing on solid ground"* – *"As sure as the earth beneath my feet"* – *"as certain as the tide..."*

But what happens when the earth quakes and the tide ceases?

- The day will come when the heavens and the earth that *now* declare His glory *will* declare His judgment.

**APP:** We each have people, relationships, institutions, on which we depend and would "faint" if we lost them.

It is important to love people. It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandment. But what's the first? It is to love God. Why? Because God is the only sure foundation and the only unalterable relationship. Loving him first ensures you love others correctly and that your world does not fall apart when you can no longer see their face.

2. Humanity's reaction to loss and uncertainty: fear without faith.

*26 - people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world.*

- When we lose control, we panic because we've mistaken comfort for stability and this world for forever.

1 John 2:15-17 - *Do not love the world or the things in the world....<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

- 1 – Don't love the world
- 2 – That love won't do for you what you want it to (jobs, peer pressure, etc).
- 3 – Only loving God first and most ensures your forever

God loves us so much he constantly reminds us about this throughout the whole Bible. (Think Deuteronomy).

3. God's purpose.

There is mercy in the upheaval.

Romans 8:22–23 - *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves...*

How is creation groaning? Like it is in childbirth. This means God will produce something from the fallenness around and inside of us.

- The distress isn't meaningless; it's merciful warning.
- The world's systems must collapse before Christ's kingdom is revealed.

**Note:** We need to always look at the Bible with two eyes; one near and one far away, one personal and one global, one present and one future. What God is doing in these verses is the same thing he did to save you. He proved your life was insufficient. Now, he's proving the world is insufficient. But, as I mentioned last week, his intentions are always salvific.

**Transition:** When human power fails, divine power appears. From fear on earth to glory in the sky.

### **Second: The Coming of the Son of Man. 27**

*And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

1. The return is visible and personal.  
This is not metaphoric.

- The One who came in humility will return in glory.

Acts 1:11 - *This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*

- Jesus isn't describing an idea; He's describing *Himself*.

2. The return reveals His true identity.

Daniel 7:13 - *I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.*

- His coming proves the cross was not a defeat, but a victory, a coronation of sorts. The clouds are be His second coronation.

**Transition:** If His coming is certain, then our posture must be different. How do the redeemed respond?

### Third: The Confidence of the Redeemed. 28

*When these things begin to take place,  
straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

**CG Leaders** spent Monday studying this: *When the world trembles, God's people model calm that is rooted in confidence.*

Seeing Jesus like this encourages us to worship, not worry. The world sees fear; the church sees fulfillment. The same sky that terrifies the nations brings hope to the saints. This is not the end of the story. It's the unveiling of the King.

1. Our posture: hope, not panic.
  - "Straighten up" = *anakypto* = "look up/be elated". It is a command of courage.

When the world bends/cowers in fear, God's people stand tall.

**IMP:** Faith doesn't deny fear. It redirects it toward trust. Here are two examples –

Isaiah 6:1 - *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

2. God's promise: redemption draws near.
  - Redemption = the full realization of salvation—resurrection, renewal, restoration.

The redemption Jesus speaks here is of everything our hearts could hope for.

**ILL** – Imagine your best day. Now imagine it again, even better. Now imagine it again, even better. Heaven will be our 'best,' and eternal day.

Romans 8:22–23 - *...we wait eagerly for adoption as sons...*

Judgement is always salvific.

3. Our practice: live ready.

We are supposed to *live ready for redemption*. So, the world's shaking reminds us of our true place in the world -

Philippians 3:20 - *...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

**IMP:** Readiness is not about predicting dates but practicing devotion.

**Transition:** Jesus doesn't tell us to look down in dread but to look up in faith.

### **Conclusion: Look Up, Not Around**

I know this is hard. We have all lost important people or things.

- But God's people live in two realities: the shaking of the world and the steadfastness of God.
- The world says, "Look out!" Jesus says, "Look up."
- The same sky that frightens unbelievers will open in glory for believers.
- When redemption draws near, fear gives way to faith, and panic gives way to praise.
- The world sees chaos; we see choreography.

The stars, the storms, the shaking, all move under the direction of the Sovereign Conductor.

So, when the music of history grows loud, lift your head, the finale is near.



## CG Questions: Luke 21:25–28

### Observation

#### What does the text say?

1. What natural and cosmic events does Jesus describe?
2. How do people respond to these events in verses 25–26?
3. What change happens in verse 27? Who appears, and how?
4. According to verse 28, how are believers instructed to respond when these things begin to happen?
5. What contrasts do you notice between the world's reaction and the believer's response?

Encourage your group to point to specific words or phrases like "signs," "distress," "power," "glory," "raise your heads." Observation should stay close to the text before moving to meaning.

### Interpretation

#### What does it mean?

6. Why might God allow the created world to be shaken before Christ's return?
7. What does "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" tell us about Jesus' identity and authority?
8. What does "your redemption is drawing near" mean for believers?
9. How does this passage reveal God's control even when creation and nations seem out of control?
10. What emotions do these verses invite? Fear, awe, hope, confidence? Why?

I'll be using Daniel 7:13–14 and Romans 8:22–23 in the sermon. Use those texts if your group needs more context for today's passage.

### Correlation

#### How does this truth connect to the rest of Scripture?

11. Read Genesis 12:1–3 and Psalm 67:1–2. How do these passages show that God’s plan for the nations leads toward the redemption Jesus describes?
12. Read Romans 8:18–23. How does Paul’s picture of creation “groaning” relate to the “signs in the sky”?
13. Read Revelation 7:9–10. How does John’s vision of every nation worshiping the Lamb fulfill what Jesus promises in Luke 21?
14. Read Acts 1:9–11. What assurance does this give about the certainty of Christ’s return?

Emphasize the continuity of Scripture as it moves from promise to redemption to consummation. Remember the four-step paradigm of Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration or the six-step, Creation, Fall, Israel, Jesus, Church, New Creation metanarrative.

### Application

#### How should we live?

15. Where do you see people “fainting with fear” in our world today? How can believers respond differently?
16. What would it look like for you personally to “straighten up and raise your head” this week?
17. How can remembering Christ’s certain return bring calm and courage to daily life?
18. What specific fears, anxieties, or distractions do you need to surrender so you can live in readiness?
19. How can our group live as a community of hope that points others to the Redeemer who is near?

Close with prayer focused on hope and our mission as Christians in the world. Thank God for His control and ask Him to make the group a steady witness in an unsteady world.

**Key Takeaway:** The same sky that terrifies the world is the one that brings our Savior. When bad things happen, we don’t look down in fear. Instead, we look up in faith.





Starting this week, the Daily Devotion has changed to follow the same outline I use to prepare sermons. It's also the same outline the CG leaders use to study and the same outline the CG questions are based on. I'm using different words but it's the same blueprint.

1. **Read** - (Observation) – Scripture text for the day. What the text says.
2. **Think** – (Interpretation) - A short thought. What the text means.
3. **Reflect** – (Correlation) - A personal, heart-level reflection question.
4. **Apply** – (Application) - A concrete step or response. How to live/apply the text.
5. **Pray** – A short prayer that draws the reflection and application together.

This new format keeps the devotion balanced between **head, heart, hands and feet**. It also takes us "*from text to truth to transformation.*"

**Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Signs and Shadows. Read:** Luke 21:25

**Think:** Jesus spoke of cosmic and earthly upheavals that would signal His return. Normal signs of stability and order, like the sky and the sea, will show signs of unraveling. This is not meant to panic you, but to alert you. Creation is testifying that Jesus is coming.

**Reflect:** When the world feels chaotic or uncertain, what does that reveal about where you find security?

**Apply:** Instead of being alarmed by the shaking of the world, let each tremor remind you that Jesus rules over creation. Choose one area of life today where you feel anxious and confess that He is Lord over it.

**Pray:** *Lord of heaven and earth, steady my heart when my world trembles. Help me remember that nothing happens apart from Your, loving, sovereign hand.*

**Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Fainting of Hearts. Read:** Luke 21:26.

**Think:** When the world shakes, the hearts of many will fail. Jesus is describing more than physical disasters. He is showing how human confidence collapses when it is built on temporary things. Fear comes when faith is misplaced.

**Reflect:** What does fear reveal about what I trust most? What would change if my heart was anchored more deeply in Christ than in circumstances?

**Apply:** Name one fear that tends to rule your mind. Speak the truth of God's Word over it today: "*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*" (Psalm 27:1).

**Pray:** *Father, replace my fear with faith. When I'm tempted to faint, let me stand firm because You are unshakable.*

**Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Coming of the Son of Man. Read:** Luke 21:27.

**Think:** Jesus moves us from terror to triumph. He who was once seen in humility as a Lamb will one day be revealed in glory as a Lion. Every eye will see Him. For the believer, this is not a threat, but a hope fulfilled. The King is coming to make all things right.

**Reflect:** When I think of Christ's return, do I feel dread or joy? What does that reveal about my relationship with Him now?

**Apply:** Live today as though Jesus could return tonight. Speak with gentleness, forgive quickly, and let your words and actions reflect your hope in His coming.

**Pray:** *Lord, keep my eyes fixed on Your return. Let that thought determine the way I live today.*

**Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lift Up Your Head. Read:** Luke 21:28

**Think:** Jesus commands courage. While the world cowers, believers are told to lift their heads. The shaking of the earth signals not our ruin but our rescue. Redemption is not something to fear but something to welcome.

**Reflect:** In seasons of darkness or discouragement, do I bow my head in defeat or lift it in faith?

**Apply:** Practice “lifting your head” today. In spite of your circumstances, walk and speak with hope. Let someone see your confidence in Christ and ask you why you have it (1 Peter 3:15).

**Pray:** *Father, teach me to lift my eyes whenever trouble comes. Let my faith in you determine my posture in pain and point others to You.*

**Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. Living with the End in View. Read:** Luke 21:25–28.

**Think:** The message of these verses is not despair but direction. Jesus shows that history is moving toward a glorious conclusion, the full unveiling of God’s kingdom. Every shaking and storm pushes us closer to the day when Christ will reign over all creation.

**Reflect:** How might my priorities change if I truly lived each day believing that Jesus’ coming is near?

**Apply:** End the week by aligning your calendar with eternity. Ask: “What in my life reflects readiness for His coming, and what needs to change?” Make one deliberate act of obedience today that shows your hope is in Christ’s return.

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, help me live ready; not fearful, but faithful, not distracted, but devoted. Let every sunrise remind me that the day of redemption is nearer than when I first believed in You.*