

## I. Read Luke 17:22-37

- A. In verse 22, Jesus makes reference to “the day of the Son of Man.” What day is He referring to?  
**His Second Coming.**

Why will the disciples long to see that day?

**Because of the adverse circumstances of their lives. All of the original disciples except John died martyrs' deaths — and John was once boiled in oil and exiled to the desolate island of Patmos. It should also be remembered that Jerusalem would be razed to the ground in a few short years. *Luke* was probably written about 63 A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D.**

Should all believers long to see “the day of the Son of Man”?

**Yes. Jesus said we should pray, “thy kingdom come.” You will recall from lesson 80 that this is a reference to the present stage of fulfillment of the kingdom of God and the final perfect fulfillment when Christ returns again. That *does not* mean that there is not a great deal to love in this life, but rather that we should always maintain a certain *future orientation*.**

- B. In verses 23 & 24, Jesus warns the disciples about false prophets and false teachers. What will these false prophets and teachers say?  
**They will attempt to deceive the Church and the world by promoting false Messiahs and pseudo-Christ.**

In verse 24, Jesus illustrates the circumstances of His Second Coming with lightning flashes. What was He getting at?

**Christ's Second Coming will be *obvious to all*, shocking, sudden and abrupt. Lightning can be seen by all and is virtually impossible to ignore. Consequently, those promoting Messiahs and Christs that have supposedly come secretly are to be ignored or rebuked.**

- C. In verse 25, Jesus uses a word which translates into *must* in English. What was He alluding to by using the word *must*? (See Acts 4:27, 28.)  
**According to the commentators of the *New Geneva Study Bible*, the use of the word *must* is an allusion to the “sovereign purpose of God.” This is important to note because Christ will indeed return at the Father's appointed time, and not before.**

There are some well-meaning teachers who explain that the church's failure to perform some task (evangelism) or America's foreign policy decisions regarding Israel and the Islamic nations may actually be delaying Christ's return. What is wrong with this kind of teaching?

**It denies the sovereign purpose of God. By inference, it also suggests that God is neither omniscient (all knowing) nor omnipotent (all powerful) and perhaps denies His immutability as well. The bottom line is that this approach is man-centered rather than God-centered, which is flattering to the pride of man. The proper perspective is that *God is sovereign and in control of the future, but man is responsible to obey His commands*.**

- D. In verses 26-30, Jesus compares His Second Coming to what occurred in Sodom and Gomorrah. Why?  
**First and foremost, because Christ will return as Judge and King of kings rather than as the Servant Savior of His first earthly incarnation. It will be an incredibly frightening and exciting day when Christ returns, comparable to what happened in Sodom, yet on a world-wide scale. (I once saw a bumper sticker that read, “Jesus is coming back, and is He *mad!*” (It actually used another phrase for mad.)**

**Secondly, in Sodom and Gomorrah, life was carried on as it always had been right up to the moment of destruction. The same will be true at Christ's Second Coming; hence, many will think the warnings and prophecies regarding the Second Coming are only myths and silly superstitions.**

**Thirdly, Sodom and Gomorrah received God's justice for their depravity and sinfulness. So will all of those who reject Christ receive justice for their rejection of God's "only begotten Son" and for their sinfulness.**

- E. In verses 31-33, Jesus emphasizes the need for spiritual readiness and implicitly warns us against something. What is it? (James 4:4; Hebrews 12:29)

**The phrase "let him not turn back" is an allusion to a sinful love of the world. Lot's wife went with Lot only half-heartedly. She loved the life she had in Sodom. Further, she obviously had a deficient respect and fear of God and of His awesome power. If she had been sufficiently fearful and respectful of God, she would have run ahead of Lot rather than lagging behind and *looking back!***

- F. In verse 33, Jesus makes a paradoxical statement that reveals the secret to a fulfilled life as a Christian. What is this secret?

**That only those who are *willing to give up* the natural impulse to live a self-centered life, pursuing the *pride of life, lust of the flesh* and *lust of the eye*, will find lasting peace, joy and fulfillment. He is urging us toward a life of service, self-denial, and sacrifice. That was a hard message in the days Jesus walked in Jerusalem, and it is a hard message in our day. Further, Jesus is comparing those who are unable to give up their love of the world because they *seek to save their life* with Lot's wife and the consequences that she suffered for her worldliness.**

- G. In verses 34-36, Jesus describes the Day of Judgment, in which some will be saved and others will be lost. It is especially important to note that "close proximity to some saved person will not help in 'the day of Christ's coming'" (commentary from *The New Geneva Study Bible*). In the context of the passage, why is it incorrect to *read into* this verse the notion of a *secret* rapture? (verse 24)

**Because Jesus has already made it clear that there will not be a *secret* Second Coming, but rather a Second Coming that is just as obvious as lightning in the sky. He may indeed be describing a *rapture* which simply means being *caught up* to be with Christ. That *does not* mean that the rapture will be *secret*, however. Those who teach a *secret* rapture (dispensational pre-millennialists) actually advocate a second and a third coming of Christ—the second being the *secret* rapture, the third being Christ returning in judgment. The Scripture clearly teaches that Christ will return only once (the Second Coming) and that the rapture of believers and the Second Coming of Christ in Judgment occur at the same time. The only way you can arrive at the conclusion of the dispensationalist concerning a *secret* rapture is to already have that notion in your mind before you go to the Scriptures. In other words, if you simply read the Scripture in a straightforward manner, you will not arrive at the notion of a *secret* rapture.**

- H. In verse 37, Jesus is using a proverb which the disciples would have been familiar with to predict the sure judgment of sinners. Why does He use the illustration of a *dead* body? (Ephesians 2:1)

**Because unregenerate sinners are spiritually dead in trespasses and sin.**

