

slow to anger, yet he will not always bear with the ungodly, the unbelieving and the impenitent. He has appointed a day in which he will judge the world.

2. *Signs of the second coming of the Son of Man.* The words of our Lord in verses 25, 26, 27, while they apply primarily to the destruction of Jerusalem and the judgments of God on the Jewish nation, they no doubt have a distinct application to the final coming of the Son of Man. The signs here predicted as taking place in connection with the destruction of Jerusalem are just such as must necessarily precede the coming of the Son of Man, both as to the establishment of his kingdom on earth and his final coming. The disturbances, trials, &c., may be looked on as typical of the disturbances and commotions which always arise when truth is overcoming error. Social upheavals and commotions are evidences that the truth of the gospel, which has in it a divine power, is making its influence felt in the world in overcoming error, and thereby establishing the kingdom of God. In the establishment of the kingdom of God more fully day by day we see the world being prepared for the coming of the Lord; we see also the triumph of the Lord and the principles of his kingdom. There can be no doubt but that the Lord is here clearly foretelling his great and final advent at the day of judgment, when he will come in all his glory and power to judge the world.

3. *The certainty of the final triumph of the kingdom of our Lord should bring comfort and hope to believers.* The declaration of our Lord in vs. 38 is most encouraging. It is as if our Lord had said: "When you see these strange sights, these wonderful commotions, do not give way to fear and despair, but rather take courage; they are but the sure indications of the triumphal march of the gospel in the world." The greater the commotion the greater the assurance that the much-desired good time is drawing near. It is a great comfort to know that Christ and his kingdom are to triumph at last; that his is a successful and not a losing cause.

4. *The duties of the hour.* The Lord Jesus cautions against a spirit of false security, a life of spiritual indifference by which the disciple would be rendered unfit for the trying times coming on. (1) He says "Take heed to yourselves." Keep your eyes open, be on the look out at every turn. The disciple of the Lord is to be ever on the alert, on his guard against temptations and danger, allowing nothing to induce a spirit of lifelessness to duty nor listlessness in duty. (2) "Watch ye." The watchfulness the Saviour enjoins is not that of curiosity but the watchfulness manifested in that diligence that overlooks no duty, neglects no opportunity, indulges no idleness, but ever serves the Lord as if he were present. Watchfulness is the only condition consistent with the duties and dangers of life. Our own happiness as well as our usefulness in the world depends much on our watchfulness. (3) "Pray always." A spirit of watchfulness is not enough, we need wisdom and strength to guide and protect amid the difficulties and dangers of life. All that we need will be given in answer to prayer. We should, therefore, be found constantly at the throne of grace.

ADDED POINTS.

1. God's care for his people is seen in his warning them of danger.
2. The certainty of the fulfilment of God's word.
3. God's promises never fail.
4. Out of the confusion, the disturbances and commotions of the world the kingdom of Christ is coming triumphant and glorious.
5. The coming of our Lord with great power and glory is certain.
6. The uncertainty of this coming should induce a spirit of activity in preparation.
7. He is most truly waiting and watching who is faithfully discharging life's duties.
8. We should aim not only to escape the doom of the wicked but to stand approved on that great day.

THE BLACKBOARD.

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JESUS THE SAVIOUR

WILL COME AGAIN. (G. T.)

"WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY," (v. 27.)

WITH

DESOLATION
for the
WICKED.

SALVATION
for the
FAITHFUL.

THE TIME NO MAN KNOWS, (v. 35.)

THEREFORE,

"TAKE HEED." (v. 34.)

"WATCH."

"PRAY." (v. 36.)