

When the kingdom of God cometh (Rev. Ver.). The questioners thought of this kingdom as a great earthly kingdom to be set up by the Messiah at a certain time and ruled over by Him. *Not with observation*; not so that it can be watched with the eyes. The kingdom which Jesus came to set up was growing by changes in the hearts and lives of people which the outward eye could not behold.

V. 21. *Neither shall they say*; with any reason. In v. 23 this is said, but there is no ground for the statement. *Lo here!* or, *There!* (Rev. Ver.). It was a common expectation amongst the Jews, that there would be a visible descent of the Messiah heralded by a wonderful appearance in the sky. *Within you*. "Among you" is a better translation. The kingdom was not in the hearts of the Pharisees, but it was among them, in the person of Jesus and His disciples.

II. The Son of Man, 22-30.

Vs. 22, 23. *Unto the disciples*; after the Pharisees, perhaps, had retired. *The days will come*; when Jesus has left them amidst trials and dangers. *One of the days*, etc.; one such day as the disciples were enjoying then while Jesus was present with them; or a single day of the heavenly glory which was to come,—“Oh for a day of heaven in the time of trouble!” *Not see it*. The days of Jesus' bodily presence with them will not return, and the heavenly glory will be delayed. *They shall say*; speaking of the second coming of Christ. *Lo, there!* *Lo, here!* False rumors of the Lord's return. *Go not away* (Rev. Ver.); do not leave your ordinary work. *Nor follow after* (Rev. Ver.); those who pretend to lead you to the place of the Lord's coming.

Vs. 24, 25. *As the lightning*, etc.; “bright, swift, sudden, universal, irresistible.” Such will be the future coming of the Son of man, the king of the kingdom. His presence will not be local, but everywhere visible. *First... suffer... and be rejected*. The cross must be endured before the glory is reached.

Vs. 26-30. *In the days of Noah* (Rev. Ver.). See Gen., chs. 6, 7. *Ate* (Rev. Ver.)... *drank... married*. They were wholly given up to the things of the world, and they neglected Noah's warnings. *Days of Lot*. See Gen.,

ch. 13. *Bought... sold... planted... builded*; not said of Noah's time. The people in Lot's day were more highly civilized, and had therefore even more to absorb their attention. *Rained fire and brimstone*. See Gen. 19: 24. Note that in both the cases mentioned the people were punished not for being occupied with worldly things, but for paying no attention to the warnings given. *Even thus... Son of man... revealed*. Up to a certain time He is hidden from human sight; then all at once He shows Himself.

III. The Call to Safety, 31-33.

Vs. 31-33. *On the housetop* (Rev. Ver.); the common place in the East for cool and quiet resort, used for the midday siesta. The roof was flat, surrounded by a balustrade for protection. *Stuff*; household goods. *Not go down* (Rev. Ver.), etc.; but escape without delay by the staircase on the outside of the house. *Remember Lot's wife*. See Gen. 19: 26. The woman perished because she was unwilling to lose her property. So the Christian who, at Christ's second coming, should think first of his possessions, would prove himself unworthy of the heavenly kingdom. *To gain his life* (Rev. Ver.); that is, to preserve it in ease and comfort. *Lose his life*; make sacrifices for Christ's sake. *Preserve it*; literally, “save it alive,” that is, win the true life which death cannot touch.

IV. The Final Separation, 34-37.

Vs. 34-36. *Two men on one bed* (Rev. Ver.); associated as closely as possible. *One... taken*; drawn out of danger and received into Christ's kingdom. *Other... left*; outside of the kingdom. *Two women... grinding together*; facing each other at the handmill common in the East and passing the handle to each other. This was ordinary woman's work. V. 36 is omitted in the Revised Version. Verses 35 and 37 picture close association followed by opposite fates. Whether people be sleeping or working when the Lord comes, those who cling to earthly things will be shut out from the joys of His kingdom.

V. 37. *Where, Lord?* A question of curiosity which Jesus does not answer. Besides, He had just said that His coming would not be limited to one part of the world. *The body*; a dead body, picturing the wicked who must be destroyed. *Eagles*. Griffon