

VISION Spring 2024

"Look UP!"

Luke 21:25-28 NLT

INTRODUCTION:

1. Luke 21:25-28

a) Jesus is telling His followers that when they see the beginning of the end, they should pay attention, they should look up!!! Because the end is near.

2. Vs 26

a) "**fear**" - Gk. Phobos = is also translated "**terrified**"

3. Vs 28

a) "**redemption**" - a releasing, for (on payment of) a ransom

I. WHERE WE ARE IN HISTORY - SIX SUPER SIGNS OF PROPHECY

A. ISRAEL BECAME A NATION

1. Isaiah 11:11-12

a) Israel is the only nation that has been dispossessed twice and come back to be a nation.

1) The first time was around 579 BC when the Babylonians conquered Israel and took them physically out of the land back to Babylon.

a. Then 70 years later they were able to return for the first time. (Recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah)

2) The second time was in AD 70, 37 years after Jesus resurrection the Roman army under Titus killed over a million Jews, destroyed Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple mount and temple and took the remaining Jews captive and dispersed them around the world.

a. BUT in 1948 they were brought back from the FOUR CORNERS of the world for the second time.

B. PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT #2 - "Israel Would Be Reborn in One Day"

1. Isaiah 66:7-8

a) On May 14, 1948 the British mandate over Palestine ended .

1) David Ben-Gurion served as Israel's first Prime Minister and he declared Israel's Independence.

b) On that day our president, Harry Truman recognized Israel as a nation and other nations did as well!!!

C. PROPHETIC FULLFIOMENT #3 - The Year is 1967 - Regaining all of Jerusalem

1. **Luke 21:20-24**

a) When Jesus is talking about Israel being surrounded by army's He is referring to 70 AD when Titus defeated Israel.

2. That was fulfilled on June 5th of 1967.

3. **Very Important:** When Israel regained Israel in 1948 they didn't get all of Jerusalem.

a) They only got west Jerusalem.

b) They did not get East Jerusalem.

D. **PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT #4** - Russian Jews Immigrate to Israel (takes place in 1989)

1. **Jeremiah 16:14-15 (WOW)**

a) Prophecy repeated

2. **Jeremiah 31:7-9**

3. In 1989 the Iron Curtain fell.

a) The old Soviet Union wouldn't allow anyone to leave the country - very repressive.

E. **PROPHETIC FUFILLMENT #5** - Explosion Of Knowledge and Travel (2000-NOW)

1. **Daniel 12:1-4** Turn to

2. The book of Daniel is one of the most prophetic books in the Bible.

a) It is an End Times prophetic book.

3. **Daniel 12:4**

a) *"when many will rush here and there"*

b) *"and knowledge will increase"*

5. **LISTEN UP:** First is the mode of travel.

a) **Illustration:** My grandfather Maffley was born in 1900. Ouch

1) When my Grandfather was born the mode of transportation was horse and buggy.

2) When I was born in 1957 - We had the "57 Chevy"

b) The Evolution of travel.

6. **Vs 4**

a) *"when many will rush here and there"*

7. AND KNOWLEDGE WILL INCREASE

- a) Up until 1900 knowledge doubled about every 100 years.
- b) @ the end of WW2 knowledge doubled every 25 years.
- c) NOW!!! Knowledge doubles every 2 months.

8. The Significance of AI.

- a) AI is the most significant and world changing invention in the history of mankind.
- b) The United States of America has orders 1000 AI driven F15 fighter planes.

9. *Matthew 24:22*

F. PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT #6 - Apostacy of Western Christianity -2006-NOW

1. *2 Thessalonians 2:1-4*

a) Vs 3

- 1) "*For that day will not, unless the rebellion comes first*"
- 2) "*rebellion*" - apostacy - to fall away from a position you once held.

2. We are seeing a complete rejection of sound doctrine in many denominations and the acceptance of things God clearly condemns.

II. MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR WORLD

A. OUR CROSSROADS MISSION STATEMENT

1. A mission statement is a *written declaration* of an organizations *ultimate mission and goal.*

2. Our Mission Statement is: **TO REACH BEDFORD COUNTY WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST USING EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE.**

3. Mission statements:

a) **STARBUCKS**

1) "With every **cup**, with every **conversation**, with every **community**– we nurture the limitless possibilities of human **connection.**"

2) Using these words as our guide, we ensure that every store opened, every partner hired and every cup of coffee brewed reflects our values.

b) **WALMART**

1) *"save people money so they can live better".*

2) This statement reflects the principles of the company's founder, Sam Walton, and is at the core of its commitment to affordability and improved quality of life for its customers.

B. OUR CROSSROADS VISION STATEMENT

1. *Matthew 28:19-20*

2. *Acts 1:8*

3. That brings us to **OUR VISION STATEMENT:**

"To Be a Church That Produces Faithful Followers of Christ."

4. You get your **VISION STATEMENT** by answering the question: *"What's the Problem."*

a) **Genesis 3** records the Fall of man into sin.

5. Every Vision is a solution to the problem.

6. **TWO QUESTIONS:**

a) *What is the need or problem my vision addresses?*

b) *What will happen if these needs or problems continue to go unaddressed?*

7. *1 Corinthians 10:31*

a) *"do all to the glory of God"*

C. OUR CROSSROADS PURPOSE STATEMENT

• This is our DNA

• **TWO KEY PASSAGES**

a) *Matthew 22:26-40*

1) The Great Commandment

b) *Matthew 28:19-20*

1) The Great Commission

• **Therefore** - *"We believe a Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church."*

FIRST - WE ARE TO LOVE GOD

1. We are to **LOVE GOD** with everything we've got.

2. **Mark 12:28-31**

- a) "with all your **heart**" - emotions
- b) "with all your **soul**" - that's who you are
- c) "with all your **mind**" - intellect
- d) "with all your **strength**" - physically

3. **Through Worship** (Expressions of Worship) - **John 4:23**

a) **Ephesians 5:19**

- 1) Singing - Praising God

b) **Philippians 4:4-7**

- 1) Praying -

c) **John 17:17**

- 1) Learning the Word

d) **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

- 1) Through our giving
- 2) Giving is an act of worship!!!!!!

4. **Through Discipleship**

a) **2 Peter 3:18**

b) **Acts 2:42**

c) The term disciple is so clearly defined in Scripture.

- 1) You can hide behind the term "Christian" all day long.
- 2) **Acts 11** - In Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

d) **Disciple** - is a learner, pupil, follower

- 1) **Acts 6:7**
- 2) **Acts 9:26**
- 3) **Acts 9:36**

e) Are you a disciple? Or just Christian?

f) **John 13:34-35**

- 1) "by this all people will know that you are my **disciples**"
- 2) "**if** you have **love for one another**"

SECOND - WE ARE TO LOVE EACH OTHER

1. **FELLOWSHIP**

a) **Small Group Bible Studies**

- 1) **1 John 3:16-17**
- 2) **John 13:35**
- 3) **Acts 2:46**
- 4) **There are 4 primary reasons why small groups are so powerful.**

- a. To build **relationships**.
- b. To do **ministry together**.
- c. To **learn together**
Proverbs 27:17
- d. To **evangelize** together

b) **Service**

- 1) *1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27*

FINALLY - WE ARE TO LOVE THE WORLD TO CHRIST

1. THROUGH SERVING

a) *Matthew 5:13-16*

- 1) "Church Ministries"
 - a. Jr Church
 - b. VBS

2. THROUGH EVANGELISM

a) *Matthew 28:19-20*

- 1) Cowboy Church - Trail Rides
- 2) Personal Evangelism -
- 3) Sportsman's Banquet - *Get your tickets!!!*
- 4) Youth Activities

b) *Luke 14:15-24*

CONCLUSION:

- 1. *1 Corinthians 2:9*