

Luke 17:20-37

The coming of the Kingdom of God





Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come,

Friend or Foe?

The Pharisees were looking for the coming king, but had the wrong views, expecting a deliverer from the Romans. Perhaps they addressed Jesus with a cynical request, questioning his messianic claims.

IF YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR A
SIGN,
THIS
IS IT!

within
and
among

Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."



The signs of his coming are not to be found the way they are looking.
The Kingdom was among them (ie the Jews) because the King was present
But it is "within" (not them personally)
but is an internal rule of God in the hearts of believers.

Then he said to his disciples



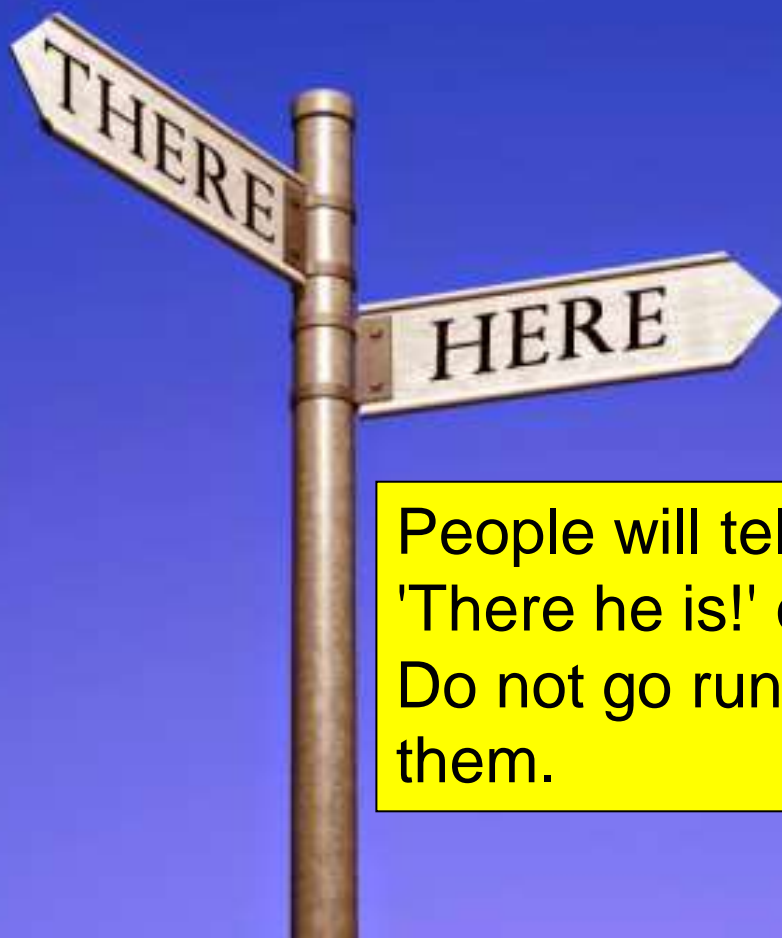
Jesus turns from the Pharisees and begins to explain to the disciples the true nature of the Kingdom of God.



Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.



The days of their earthly fellowship with Jesus is coming to an end. They will no longer have him along with them as a physical companion.



People will tell you,
'There he is!' or 'Here he is!'
Do not go running off after
them.

False messiahs and cults are coming to turn people from God's kingdom.
Don't be taken in!

**For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning,
which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.**



The return of Jesus as King will be plain for all to see. It suggests that there will be no “secret rapture” as many present day teachers claim.

We he comes, he will be visible to all and everybody will know.



But first he must suffer many things
and be rejected by this generation.

**The Kingdom
isn't coming
immediately**



Jesus warns his disciples that before the Kingdom fully arrives he must die and that the present generation of the Jewish population will sadly reject him as their Messiah.

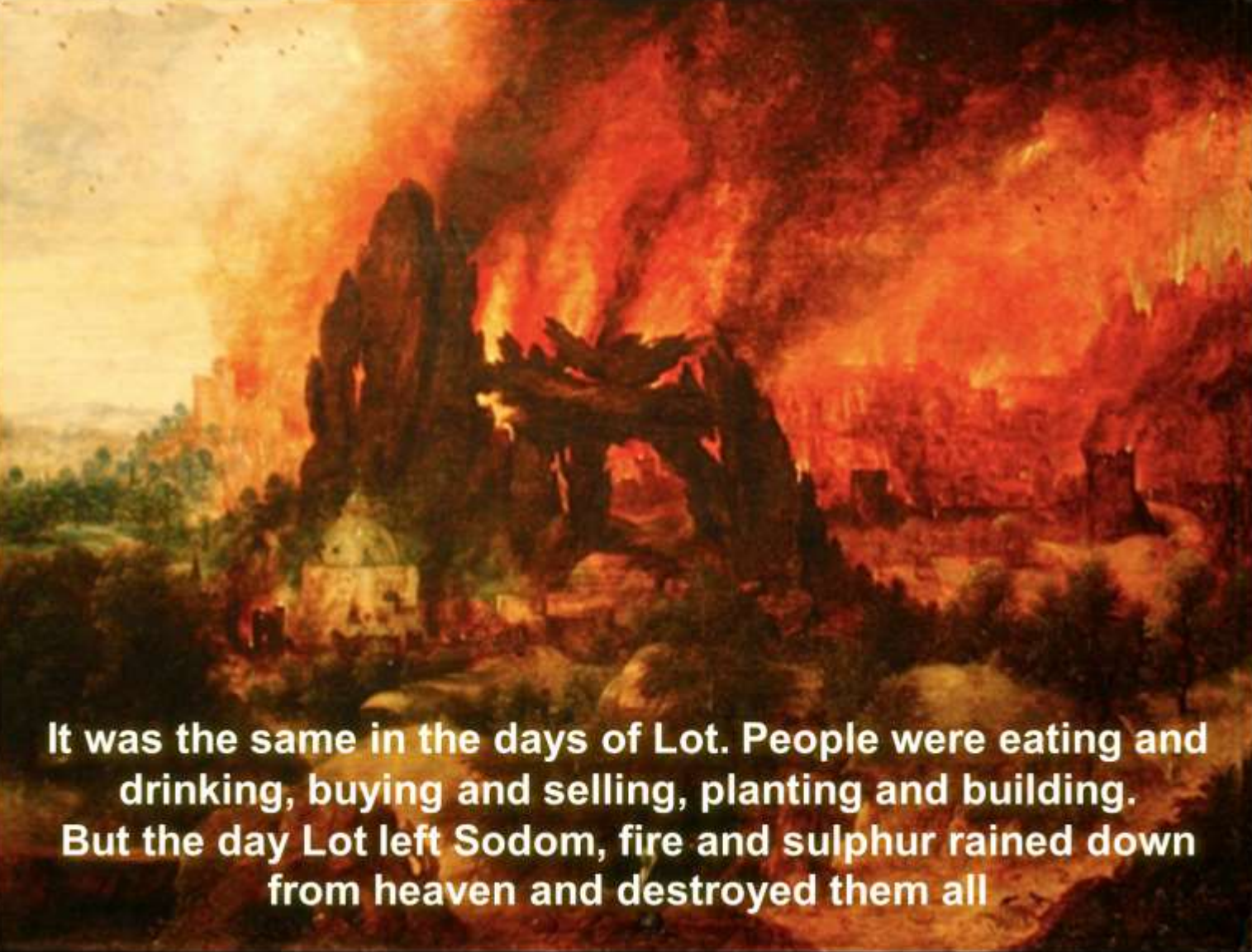
The state of the World



Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.



For many people, just as in Noah's time, they assume nothing is going to happen until it is too late.



It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all

Again the people not caring or being aware of the coming judgement proved to be too late for the inhabitants of Sodom. It will be the same at the end of time.

The second of the 2 judgements, one by water, the other by fire prophesy the final judgement of the earth.

It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.



If Jesus is to be 'revealed', all will see him, as we see in the separation that will occur. For believers, his coming will be a joy, for those who reject him it will be fearful.

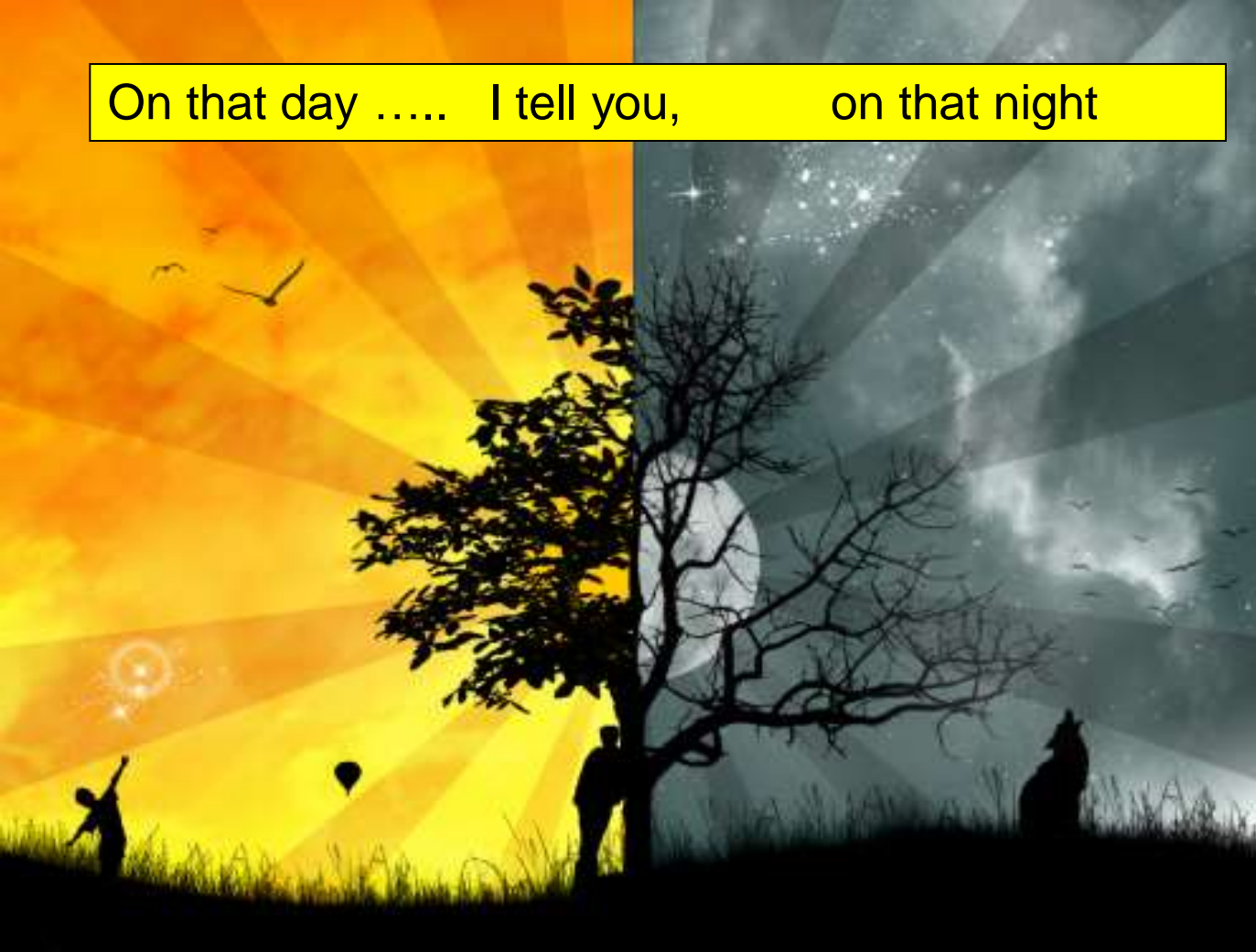


On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

Jerusalem →→→

Lot's wife didn't leave in her heart, and judgment fell on her disobedience. Jesus is pointing first to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 but the need for a clear preparation points beyond those days also.

On that day I tell you, on that night



Notice Jesus says that his coming will be at both night and day. The earth is round!
And his return has world wide consequences.



I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left.

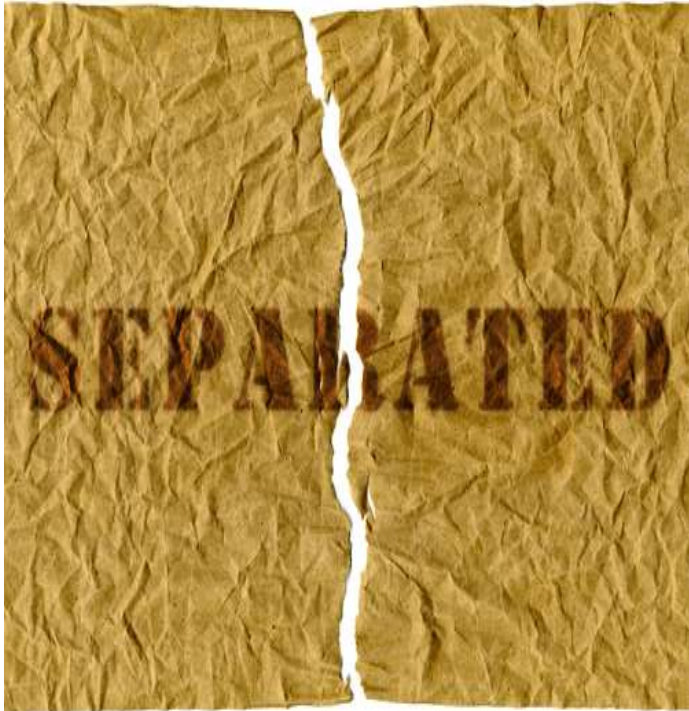
Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.



The separation will be as close as husband and wife. The believer is taken and the unbeliever left.

Salvation has to be a personal individual issue, although all believers share in the blessings. Notice again that it suggests night and day activities.

"Where, Lord?" they asked.



Where from or where to ????

The disciples are not sure what Jesus means and so ask. Judging from the 2 illustrations of Noah and Lot, both of whom were taken out of the place where judgement fell, it would seem that the question should be "where from". Jesus' answer points out what happens to those who are left.

The circle of death



He replied, "Where there is a dead body,
there the vultures will gather."

Where ever the dead are (dead in sin) there the sign of immanent judgement can be seen and this is where the judgement will fall.

What's the point ?

**** Be prepared

**** There will be a real separation then

**** Start now



How ?

Only by putting your personal faith in the person of Jesus and what he has done for us will ensure your safety at the time of the King's return. You must enter the Kingdom now to be ready for then.

An ongoing loving giving of your life in his service will ensure your heart is ready for that day.