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Our Lord's Great Prophecy

Lesson Fifty-Eight

1. What special promise did the Saviour make concerning His second coming?

“In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to _____ a _____. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and _____ unto myself; that were I am there ye may be also.” John 14:2, 3.

2. What was to take place before the Lord should return?

“The _____ shall be turned into _____, and the _____, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.” Joel 2:31.

3. Upon hearing Christ say that the time would come when the temple at Jerusalem should be entirely destroyed, what did the disciples ask Him?

“Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of _____, and of the _____ of the _____?” Matthew 24:3

4. Did He intimate that the end was then closed at hand?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them. Take heed that _____. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall _____. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things much come to pass, but the end is not yet.” Matthew 24:4-6.

5. After telling them there would be wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in many places, what did He say these would be?

“All these are the _____.” Matthew 24:8.

Note: With all these things taking place as only the beginning of sorrows, the disciples certainly could not look for the Lord’s coming in their generation.

6. To what extent is the gospel to be preached before the end?

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then _____.” Matthew 34:14.

Note: The word then as here used, is an adverb of time, meaning “at that time.” The gospel to be so preached is not to convert the world; but is to be simply a “witness” unto all nations, that they may be condemned who do not obey it.

7. After giving a general summary of matters, how did the Lord particularize the events of the future?

“When ye therefore shall see the _____, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand).” Matthew 24:15.

8. How is this same thought expressed elsewhere?

“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the _____ thereof is _____.” Luke 21:20.

9. What did your Lord say was to follow this destruction of the city?

“For then shall _____, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21.

10. How long was the papal power to hold sway over the saints?

“And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and thing to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a _____ and _____ and the _____.” Daniel 7:25.

11. What is the meaning of the expression, “time and times and the dividing of time?”

“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a _____ and _____.” Revelation 12:6.

Note: The period here given is again expressed in verse 14, by “time, times and half (dividing of) a time.” Twelve hundred sixty days, then, is here meant by the expression “times, times, and half a time.” But these days they are symbolic, and must refer to some literal period of time.

12. What did the Lord say would be done in view of the rigor of that persecution?

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the _____ those days shall be _____.” Matthew 24:22.

Note: The days of persecution simply, were to be shortened, and not the days predicted for the Roman power to bear rule. The Reformation under Wycliffe, Luther, and others softened public sentiment, which in a measure restrained the rage of the papacy, and so modified the tribulation.

13. Did the Lord say He would return immediately after the tribulation ceased?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, _____, or there; _____. For there shall arise false Christ’s, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:23, 24.

14. What did He say would immediately follow?

“Immediately after the _____ of those _____ shall the _____, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” Matthew 24:29.

15. How is this expressed by Mark?

“But in those days, _____, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.” Mark 13:24.

Note: That is, in the days of the papal power, but after the tribulation ceases, shall these events take place. The persecution was the strongest under the direction of the Jesuits. This order was founded by Ignatius Loyola, and established by Pope Paul, September 27, 1540. It finally became so distasteful to the popes, on account of its continually growing power, that by a papal bull the order was dissolved, July 21, 1773. From this time on there is no record of any open persecution of the saints. Then according to the last text quoted, somewhere between 1773, when the persecution ended, and 1798, the time to which the prophetic days extended, we must look for the first of these signs given by our Lord—the darkening of the sun.

16. Was there such a phenomenon? If so, when did it occur?

On May 19, 1780

Note: The inquiry may be raised, why was the darkening of the sun confined to so limited a district as a portion of the Western Hemisphere, if it was to be a sign of the Lord’s coming? To which we reply: God has given to the inhabitants of the Old World many signs of Christ’s second coming; and why should not others be favored in this respect? Shall we criticize Him who is too wise to err: the inhabitants of the Old World can say: On our territory mighty kingdoms arose and fell, according to the sure word of prophecy. Here the pope lost his temporal power at a time marked by prophecy—a sure indication of the end near; and here great nations are taking the lead in preparing for the last great battle. It is for God to distribute the signs according to His wisdom and good pleasure. The Jews never saw the star that led to the spot where the Saviour was born, nor did most of them witness many of the Saviour’s miracles. Were they therefore justified in not believing on Him?

18. When did the moon refuse to shine?

“The night succeeding that day [May 19, 1780] was of such pitchy darkness that in some instances horses could not be compelled to leave the stable when wanted for service.” Stone’s History of Beverly

Note: The darkness of the night was as supernatural as that of the previous day, from the fact, as stated by Dr. Adams, that “the moon had full the day before.”

19. When did the stars fall, as predicted in the prophecy?

November 13, 1833.

Note: “No language, indeed, can come up to the splendor of that magnificent display; and I hesitate not to say that no one who did not witness it can form an adequate conception of its glory.” Christian Advocate and Journal, December 13, 1833.

20. When the trees put forth their leaves, what does it indicate?

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that _____.” Matthew 24:32.

21. What just as surely indicates the Lord’s speedy coming?

“So likewise ye, when ye shall _____, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:33.

22. How near is the Lord’s coming when these signs have been fulfilled?

“Verily I say unto you, This _____, til all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Matthew 24:34, 35.

Note: As though he said, This generation of which I speak; the one that actually sees the last sign, has seen all of them in the sense that we have seen the progress of science. We have not actually lived during its entire development, but we look back and say we have seen it.

22. Can we know the day and hour of His coming?

“But of that day and hour _____, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” Matthew 24:36.

23. What will be the moral condition of the world when the Lord comes?

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away: so shall also the _____ of the _____ be.” Matthew 24: 37-39.

24. If we have knowledge of the Lord’s coming, what is our duty?

“Therefore _____; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44.

25. What will be the doom of those who say in their hearts that the Lord is not soon coming?

“But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord _____...The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he _____, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder [margin, cut him off], and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites; there shall be weeping, and gnashing of teeth.” Mathew 24:48, 50, 51.