**The Son of Man is Coming**

Mark 13:24-37 (Key Verse 26-27)

*“26“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.”*

In today’s passage we are going to learn from Jesus concerning his second coming. From the key verse we learn that the son of Man will come in the clouds with great power and glory. We are therefore going to learn what does it mean that he will come with great power and glory. We are also going to learn about the purpose of Jesus’ second coming, what will happen to us and the world over on Jesus’ second coming. Furthermore, we are going to learn what should we do as we wait for Jesus’ second coming. May God have mercy on us today, to humble our hearts, hear the message, receive one word and be equipped to wait for Jesus’ second coming with eagerness, the right attitude and joy.

The passage today begins following Jesus’ prophecy concerning the distraction of the temple in Jerusalem and the events of the end times. We learned from Shepherd Lesedi how the prophecy concerning the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem was fulfilled where the temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD70. Jesus also spoke about nation rising against nation and this was also fulfilled. Jesus also spoke about false messiah coming up, he spoke about wars that will rise. He spoke about how on account of him the disciples will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to him, how everyone will hate them on account of him. And all this was fulfilled.

And now today as we continue to hear from Jesus, he said in **verse 24-25**: “*“But in those days, following that distress, “‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’”* Here Jesus began speaking about an event that will follow which is the end times. What Jesus spoke about before was like the beginning of birth pains, and now what he is talking about is the actual end times. This will be a supernatural event, the heavenly bodies will be shaken, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its lights, the stars will fall from the sky. The natural laws of gravity as we know them today will be broken. The whole universe will reach its end. What does this mean? What will this event be about, what will it signify? Let us look at our **key verse 26-27**: “*26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.*

The end of the world will signify the second coming of Jesus Christ, just as the temple was destroyed into rubble, the Messiah will come back, just as we see false prophets, wars, natural disasters prophesied by Jesus fulfilled. He also will come back as he prophesied in his word. Furthermore, the end of the world will not just be the end of everything, but it will be the coming of Jesus Christ which has great meaning and purpose. The Key verse says, the Son of Man will come in the clouds with great power and glory. What does this mean? When Jesus came into the world the first time, he came and was born in a manger, he lived among sinners, loved them, loved us, he had compassion unto us, with power and authority he taught the words of God. And as we learnt from the conference, he suffered at the hands of sinners, led onto the cross, was killed for our sins and on the third day he rose again, conquering the power of sin and death and thereafter ascended to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God with all power and authority over all things in heaven, earth and under. Through resurrection Jesus proved that sin has no more power on all who believe in him. Through his death and resurrection, he fulfilled the promise of our salvation.

And today, Jesus says the Son of Man, will come in the clouds with power and glory, meaning in the same way he ascended to heaven he will come back. In **Thessalonians 4:16** it says: “*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first*” He will come back in power, the dead will rise first. In his great power Jesus will come back first to judge, those who have not repented and accepted the gospel will be judged. Furthermore, Jesus said: “*And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.”* When the Son of Man comes in power and glory, he will complete his promise of salvation, by gathering the elect from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. They will receive salvation, enter the kingdom of heaven and gain eternal life. So, Jesus’ second coming is the best news for God’s elect, it is the best news than watching the sunset in the City of Cape Town. Nothing is greater than finally entering the kingdom of God into eternal life.

But who are the elect? To understand who the elect are, let us look at **1 Peter 2:9-10** which says*: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* Peter described the elect as God’s chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession. They are God’s chosen possession, not because of something they have done for God, but by the grace of God they were brought out of darkness into the wonderful light, by faith in the mercy of Jesus Christ they could receive adoption into a holy nation, a royal priesthood. Because of faith and the mercy of God they could be transformed into beings who no longer live according to their will but according to the will of Jesus Christ. By faith they were transformed into beings who accepted Jesus as their Lord and savior. These are the elect, whom Jesus’ angels will gather from the four ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, into eternal life.

God’s elect could be me and you, if we surrender our lives to Jesus fully, receive him as our Lord and Savior. Just as the temple was destroyed into rubble, as Jesus said, the end of the world is coming, Jesus is coming to judge the world and to gather the elect into the kingdom of heaven and to gain eternal life. In **verse 30-31** it says: “*30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”* I pray that God may have mercy on us that we may surrender our lives to him, live for him so that we may not be judged on his second coming but be led into his kingdom, eternal life.

As Jesus was speaking, he knew that his disciples were somehow wanting to know when all these things will take place, in the same we also would want to know. To respond to the disciples, Jesus said to them in **verse 32**: *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”* Jesus did not reveal to them when he would come back in power and glory. Why did he not reveal this? Because only the Father in heaven knows and he did not let anyone know. The Father did not want people to live life as they please and think they can repent only a few days before the final day. God knew that when we have this kind of mindset, we cannot truly repent. And eventually we will perish. So, by not letting anyone know the time of Jesus’ second coming, God was being considerate and merciful, showing how much, he wants all of us to be saved, to enter the kingdom of heaven into eternal life.

But now what can we do as we wait for Jesus’ second coming? With what attitude should we live without knowing the day or time of Jesus’ second coming? Let us look at **verse 33**: “*Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”* Jesus said, “Be on guard! Be Alert!” What does this mean? This means we need to remember God all the time, first by remembering what he has done for us. Because of Jesus we were brought out of darkness into the wonderful light, because of Jesus we were saved from the power of sin and death into the wonderful light, because of Jesus we were freed from the burden of sin, shame, guilt, unfulfillment. So to remember what Jesus has done is a guard of our hearts, it protects us from sin as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and the consequences of sin.

Furthermore, we can guard ourselves by studying the word of God daily, having a relationship with Jesus, allowing him to guide us and lead us daily through his word. When we continuously engage with the word of God, we can experience the power of God, we can continuously receive the assurance of his second coming, and firm up our faith in him which leads us to wait for his second coming with eagerness and joy.

Furthermore, to be on guard and on alert means to remember our identity and God given purpose daily. In **1 Peter 2:9** it says: “*: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*” In this world there are many things that occupy and seek to define us like our career, our academics, our hobbies like sport etc. These are very necessary to provide for our needs such as shelter, food and health, but Satan can use them to distract us, make them look like they are our purpose, make them look like they are all we need, diminishing the promise of God in salvation. So, to help us, Jesus says we must be on guard, we must be alert and not be distracted from our God given purpose and mission, to declare the praises of him who brought us out of darkness into the wonderful light. When Jesus ascended to heaven, his last message to his disciples in **Mark 16:15** was that they must Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Regardless of time and place, those who keep their faith and carry out God’s mission faithfully will be saved.

Furthermore, Jesus said that as we wait, we must keep watch. Let us look at **verse 34-36**: “*It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 “Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.”* Here Jesus used a parable of a house owner and his servants which he put in charge while he is away to describe how his second coming will be like. Just as the day and time of the owner’s coming back is not known and can be any time, Jesus coming can be any time. So just like the servants who are keeping watch of the door of the owner, Jesus is urging us to not fall asleep, Jesus is urging us that he must not find us asleep in his second coming. Here falling asleep means abandoning our mission or purpose for temporary pleasure. Our true joy and pleasure come from fulfilling the mission of God and waiting for his coming. When we do not do the will of God, we open a door for the devil temp us and remove us from our focus unto the Lord. When our focus is not on God, we will not only be filled emptiness and unsatisfied, but we will also miss Jesus Christ. We will miss the kingdom on Jesus’ second coming. So as Christian believers we must always keep watch, by always living according to our purpose and mission, with eagerness and anticipation of Jesus’ second coming. We must always remember that we are the servants of God, always remembering that we were bought by the blood of Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion**

From today’s passage we have learnt that just as the prophecy of the destruction of temple in Jerusalem into rubble was fulfilled. The prophecy of the end of the world and Jesus’ second coming will be fulfilled. Jesus said: “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.””* We do not know when the world will come to an end. However, we need not worry because that day is the day of salvation for those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord and saviour. Furthermore, we have learnt that as we wait for Jesus’ second coming, we must be on guard and alert, by remembering Jesus’ words, what he has done no matter what. Also, by fulfilling the mission that God has given us, declaring the praises of him who brought us out of darkness into the wonderful light without fail. By not sleeping but keeping watch always.