

Crystallization-Study Outlines

DANIEL

Message Four

The Vision of the Seventy Weeks and the Age of Mystery

Scripture Reading: Dan. 9:24-27; Rev. 10:7

- Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
- Dan 9:25 Know therefore and comprehend: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with street and trench, even in distressful times.
- Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.
- Dan 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator.
- Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.

I. Daniel 9:24-27 is the most precious portion in the book of Daniel; the seventy weeks in these verses are the key to understanding all the prophecies in the Bible—Dan. 7:7, 23-25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14; 13:1; 17:12:

- Dan 7:7 After this I watched in the night visions, and there was a fourth beast, dreadful and frightful and exceedingly strong; and it had large iron teeth; it devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.
- Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast will be the fourth kingdom upon the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms; and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.
- Dan 7:24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise, and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones; and he will subdue three kings.
- Dan 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.
- Dan 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the water of the river, as He lifted up His right hand and His left hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever that there would be a time and times and half a time; and when the shattering of the power of the holy people is completed, all these things will be completed.
- Rev 12:14 And to the woman there were given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time from the face of the serpent.
- Rev 13:1 And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and on his heads names of blasphemy.
- Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.
- A. In his desperate prayer Daniel requested that God recover the Holy Land, send His people back, and rebuild the holy city; God answered him by giving him a vision of the seventy weeks—Dan. 9:2, 15-19, 24.
- Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.

- Dan 9:15 And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made for Yourself a name, as it is this day, we have sinned, we have been wicked.
- Dan 9:16 O Lord, in accordance with all the manifestations of Your righteousness, may Your anger and Your wrath be turned away, I pray, from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.
- Dan 9:17 And now hear, O our God, the prayer of Your servant and his supplications, and cause Your face to shine upon Your sanctuary that has been desolated, for the Lord's sake.
- Dan 9:18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city that is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You based upon any righteous doings that we have done, but based upon Your great compassion.
- Dan 9:19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! Do not delay, for Your own sake, O my God; for Your city and Your people are called by Your own name.
- Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
- B. The purpose of the seventy weeks is “to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies”—v. 24:
1. When Christ comes at the time appointed to crush human government, the righteousness of the ages, the eternal righteousness, will be brought in; the coming kingdom age will be an age of righteousness, and in the new heaven and new earth righteousness will dwell—Isa. 32:1; 2 Pet. 3:13.
 Isa 32:1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, / And the rulers will rule according to justice.
 2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
 2. The sealing up of vision and prophet indicates that after the seventy weeks everything will be accomplished and fulfilled—Dan. 9:24c.
 Dan 9:24 ... and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
 3. At the time of Daniel's prayer, the Holy of Holies was contaminated, defiled, and devastated, but when the apportioned time comes, the Holy of Holies will be properly anointed; this means that the service to God will be recovered—v. 24c.
 Dan 9:24 ... and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
- C. The seventy weeks are divided into three parts, each week being seven years in length—vv. 25-27:
- Dan 9:25 Know therefore and comprehend: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with street and trench, even in distressful times.
- Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.
- Dan 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator.
1. First, seven weeks (forty-nine years) were apportioned from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the completion of the rebuilding—v. 25; Neh. 2:1-8.
 Dan 9:25 Know therefore and comprehend: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the time of Messiah the Prince will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with street and trench, even in distressful times.

- Neh 2:1 Then in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, while wine was being set before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence.
- Neh 2:2 And the king said to me, Why is your face sad, since you are not ill? This is nothing other than sadness of heart. Then I was greatly frightened.
- Neh 2:3 And I said to the king, May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in waste and its gates are consumed with fire?
- Neh 2:4 And the king said to me, What do you request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.
- Neh 2:5 And I said to the king, If it please the king and if your servant has found favor before you, that you would send me to Judah to the city of my fathers' graves that I may rebuild it.
- Neh 2:6 And the king said to me (and the queen was sitting beside him), How long will your going be, and when will you return? So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a date.
- Neh 2:7 Then I said to the king, If it please the king, let letters be given to me for the governors beyond the River, so that they will let me pass through until I come to Judah;
- Neh 2:8 And a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the Park, which belongs to the king, so that he would give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace that belongs to the house and for the wall of the city and for the house that I will be entering. And the king gave these to me according to the good hand of my God, which was upon me.
2. Second, sixty-two weeks (434 years) were apportioned from the completion of the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the cutting off (crucifixion) of the Messiah—Dan. 9:26.

Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.
 3. Third, the last week of seven years is for Antichrist to make a firm covenant with the people of Israel—v. 27.

Dan 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator.
- D. *Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing* refers to the crucifixion of Christ, which was the termination of the old creation, with the human government in the old creation, and the germination of God's new creation through the resurrection of Christ, with God's eternal kingdom as the divine administration in God's new creation; thus, the cross of Christ is the centrality and universality of God's work—v. 26; Mark 9:12; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Matt. 16:19, 28.
- Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.
- Mark 9:12 And He said to them, Elijah does indeed come first and restore all things. And how is it that it is written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be counted as nothing?
- 1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
- Matt 16:19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.
- Matt 16:28 Truly I say to you, There are some of those standing here who shall by no means taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

- E. There is a gap of unknown duration between the first sixty-nine weeks and the last week of the seventy weeks:
1. This gap is the age of the church, the age of mystery, the age of grace—Eph. 3:3-11; 5:32; Col. 1:27.

Eph 3:3	That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief,
Eph 3:4	By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
Eph 3:5	Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,
Eph 3:6	That in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel,
Eph 3:7	Of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me according to the operation of His power.
Eph 3:8	To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
Eph 3:9	And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
Eph 3:10	In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
Eph 3:11	According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Eph 5:32	This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
Col 1:27	To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 2. During this gap, the age of the church, Christ is secretly and mysteriously building up the church in the new creation to be His Body and His bride—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:25-32.

Matt 16:18	And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
Eph 5:25	Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her
Eph 5:26	That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
Eph 5:27	That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
Eph 5:28	In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself.
Eph 5:29	For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
Eph 5:30	Because we are members of His Body.
Eph 5:31	For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh.
Eph 5:32	This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
- F. *He will make a firm covenant with the many for one week* (Dan. 9:27) refers to Antichrist, typified here by Titus, the prince mentioned in verse 26:
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| Dan 9:27 | And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator. |
| Dan 9:26 | And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. |
1. In the middle of that week Antichrist will break the covenant and will cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease; this will be the beginning of the great tribulation, which will last for three and a half years—7:25; 12:7, 11a; Matt. 24:21; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5.

Dan 7:25	And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.
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- Dan 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the water of the river, as He lifted up His right hand and His left hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever that there would be a time and times and half a time; and when the shattering of the power of the holy people is completed, all these things will be completed.
- Dan 12:11a And from the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that desolates is set up, ...
- Matt 24:21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor shall by any means ever occur.
- Rev 11:2 And the court which is outside the temple cast out and do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.
- Rev 11:3 And I will cause My two witnesses to prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.
- Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place there prepared by God so that they might nourish her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.
- Rev 12:14 And to the woman there were given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time from the face of the serpent.
- Rev 13:5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and authority was given to him to act for forty-two months.
2. The fact that the temple will be devastated and contaminated by Antichrist strongly indicates that the temple will be rebuilt by the Jews before the completion of the seventy weeks; this will be one of the final signs that will take place before Christ's return—2 Thes. 2:3-4.
- 2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,
- 2 Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God.

II. “To seal up vision and prophet” (Dan. 9:24c) is to close the age of mystery, that is, to finish the mystery of God—Rev. 10:7; 1 Tim. 3:9:

- Dan 9:24c ... and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.
- Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.
- 1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- A. In the dispensation from the incarnation of Christ to the millennial kingdom—the church age, the age of grace—everything is a mystery:
1. The incarnation of Christ, as the beginning of the age of mystery, is a mystery; through the incarnation of Christ, the infinite God was brought into the finite man—v. 16.

1 Tim 3:16 And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, / Justified in the Spirit, / Seen by angels, / Preached among the nations, / Believed on in the world, / Taken up in glory.
 2. Christ is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2:

Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,

 - a. God is a mystery, and Christ, as the embodiment of God to express Him, is the mystery of God.
 - b. As the mystery of God, Christ is the embodiment of God; all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily—v. 9.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
 3. The church is the mystery of Christ—Eph. 3:4-6:

Eph 3:4 By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,

- Eph 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,
- Eph 3:6 That in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the Body and fellow partakers of the promise through the gospel,
- a. Christ is a mystery, and the church, as the Body of Christ to express Him, is the mystery of Christ.
 - b. Christ and the church as one spirit are the great mystery—5:32; 1 Cor. 6:17.
 Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.
 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - c. During the church age, the age of mystery, Christ is building up the church to be His bride—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:16; Rev. 19:7-9.
 Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
 Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
 Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
4. The kingdom of the heavens, the indwelling of Christ, and the resurrection and transfiguration of the saints are all mysteries—Matt. 13:11; Col. 1:27; 1 Cor. 15:51-53.
 Matt 13:11 And He answered and said to them, Because to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, but to them it has not been given.
 Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 1 Cor 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,
 1 Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.
 1 Cor 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- B. The age of mystery is the age of faith—Heb. 11:1, 6; Rev. 10:7; 1 Tim. 3:9:
 Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.
 1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
1. God's mysteries are known by faith; for this reason the age of mystery is also the age of faith—Rev. 10:7:
 Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he is about to trumpet, then the mystery of God is finished, as He has announced the good news to His own slaves the prophets.
 - a. Without faith we cannot realize God's economy, for God's economy is in faith—1 Tim. 1:4.
 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
 - b. God's requirement for us related to everything in the New Testament is faith—Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Mark 11:22; Luke 18:8.
 Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.

Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."
 Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
 Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.
 Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

2. Faith is a substantiating ability, by which we substantiate, give substance to, the things not seen, or hoped for—Heb. 11:1:

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 a. Faith assures us of the things not seen, convincing us of what we do not see; therefore, it is the evidence, the proof, of things not seen—v. 1.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

b. We do not regard, or look at, the things which are seen but the things which are not seen—2 Cor. 4:18.

2 Cor 4:18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

c. The Christian life is a life of things unseen, and the Lord's recovery is to recover His church from things seen to things unseen—Rom. 8:24-25; Heb. 11:27; 1 Pet. 1:8; Gal. 6:10.

Rom 8:24 For we were saved in hope. But a hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly await it through endurance.

Heb 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he persevered as one seeing the unseen One.

1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

Gal 6:10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.

C. In this age we preach the mystery of the gospel, "the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery"—Eph. 6:19; Rom. 16:25:

Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Rom 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages

1. The gospel includes all the divine mysteries; therefore, *the mystery of the gospel* refers to the entire New Testament economy—Eph. 6:19; 1 Tim. 1:4.

Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,

1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.

2. In particular, the mystery of the gospel is Christ and the church for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose—Eph. 5:32; 3:11.

Eph 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

III. By studying the vision of the seventy weeks in relation to God's economy, we may experience the shining of the prophetic word as a lamp conveying spiritual light in darkness, and under this shining we may receive the Lord's warning and have the proper attitude toward His coming—2 Pet. 1:19:

- 2 Pet 1:19 And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;
- A. The Lord warned us to watch and take heed to ourselves lest our hearts be weighed down with debauchery, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon us suddenly as a snare—Matt. 24:42; Luke 21:34.
- Matt 24:42 Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes.
- Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.
- B. We need to be watchful at every time, beseeching that we would prevail to escape all the things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man—v. 36.
- Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.
- C. We need to keep the word of Christ's endurance and keep the Lord's works until the end—Rev. 3:10; 2:26.
- Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.
- Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- D. We should not love the present age—we should love the Lord's appearing—2 Tim. 4:10a, 8:
- 2 Tim 4:10a For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; ...
- 2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.
1. In the Bible the appearing of the Lord is typified by the morning star and by the sun—Rev. 2:28; 22:16b; Mal. 4:2:

Rev 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.

Rev 22:16b ... I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.

Mal 4:2 But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap about like well-fed calves.

 - a. His appearing as the sun is to the world; His appearing as the morning star is to the believers.
 - b. Before our Lord Jesus appears to the people in the world, He will first appear to those who love His appearing—2 Tim. 4:8.

2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.
 2. The appearing of Christ must be a basic factor in our daily living; we must live today in the light of the Lord's appearing—Matt. 24:45-51; 25:14-30.

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

Matt 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Matt 24:47 Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions.

Matt 24:48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays,

Matt 24:49 And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,

Matt 24:50 The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

Matt 24:51 And will cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

Matt 25:14 For the kingdom of the heavens is just like a man about to go abroad, who called his own slaves and delivered to them his possessions.

Matt 25:15 To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability. And he went abroad.

- Matt 25:16 Immediately he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and gained another five.
- Matt 25:17 Similarly, he who had received the two gained another two.
- Matt 25:18 But he who had received the one went off and dug in the earth and hid his master's money.
- Matt 25:19 Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
- Matt 25:20 And he who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; behold, I have gained another five talents.
- Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- Matt 25:22 And he who had received the two talents also came and said, Master, you delivered to me two talents; behold, I have gained another two talents.
- Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- Matt 25:24 Then he who had received the one talent also came and said, Master, I knew about you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow.
- Matt 25:25 And I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours.
- Matt 25:26 And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow.
- Matt 25:27 Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest.
- Matt 25:28 Take away therefore the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.
- Matt 25:29 For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him.
- Matt 25:30 And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.
3. The Lord's appearing, His coming back, is a warning, an encouragement, and an incentive to us; we should love His appearing and look forward to it with earnest expectation and joy—2 Tim. 4:1-8.
- 2 Tim 4:1 I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:
- 2 Tim 4:2 Proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching.
- 2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not tolerate the healthy teaching; but according to their own lusts they will heap up to themselves teachers, having itching ears,
- 2 Tim 4:4 And they will turn away their ear from the truth and will be turned aside to myths.
- 2 Tim 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry.
- 2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.
- 2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.
- 2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.