

MONDAY 9.8.25 - Luke 21:20-22

After the rapture of the Church, a powerful political leader will appear on the world scene. This man will pose as the true Messiah. He will make a covenant—an agreement—with the nation of Israel, promising to protect them from their enemies so they may dwell in their land in peace and safety. This covenant marks the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation Period. But halfway through the seven years, he will break the covenant with Israel by entering the temple and demanding worship. This is an abomination to the Jews, and the Antichrist will then begin to persecute them.

What difference does this knowledge of the end times make in our lives today? First, knowing what the Bible says about the future should give us confidence that God is in control. Second, it should give us hope, knowing we will not experience the terrible events of the Tribulation Period.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 9.9.25 - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

Like a thief in the night; quietly, unexpectantly, suddenly, the Lord will return. Are you ready? I suspect that most of you reading this would say that you are. I know I am. However, what about our families, friends, and neighbors. What about those people we meet as we travel through our day? If the Lord were to return today, are there people in your life that you care about that would be left behind, and looking at an eternity separated from God, and from you? I can't speak for you, but I am not sure I am doing everything I should be doing to make sure they know their need for Christ and hopefully come to a place of accepting Him as their Savior, so they too are ready when He comes. My challenge for you and me today is to live our lives investing in the people in our lives so they too are ready for Christ's return.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 9.10.25 - Revelation 19:11

Jesus is coming again! Both the Old and New Testaments are replete with promises of His second coming. The return of Christ occurs in two stages (rapture and revelation). The rapture (from the Latin *rapere*, meaning "to seize" or "to snatch away") refers to the "catching away" or transporting of Christians from the earth to heaven by Jesus at the first phase of His return. The seven-year Tribulation Period will then transpire on the earth. Following these seven years of devastation, the second phase of Christ's coming (revelation) will occur. This event constitutes Jesus' return to earth to set up His worldwide kingdom. Jesus will descend from heaven on a white horse, leading His army into battle against His earthly enemies. However, Jesus will be the sole soldier, defeating the nations upon His return to earth. Christ will establish His long-awaited kingdom on this planet where He will rule and reign.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 9.11.25 - Daniel 2:44

⁴⁴"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon experienced a dream that he could not recall and told his magicians and sorcerers, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that they would be executed if they were unable to provide its interpretation.

We have the vantage point of looking back throughout history and seeing the incredible accuracy of Daniel's divine interpretation, as it has gradually transpired over the centuries.

Babylon fell to Persia, Greece and the Roman Empire. We can now look forward with unshakeable certainty that this verse which describes the establishment of God's everlasting kingdom, which will destroy and prevail over all others, is on the horizon.

We serve a sovereign God. He has ordained all of this. He is in control. We can trust Him with our salvation, but do we have enough faith to trust in Him to bring comfort and strength as we navigate through the ups and downs of life, and as we face challenges and trials. Trust Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 9.12.25 - Psalm 2

Three things come quickly to mind when reading through this short Psalm. God the Father seems to be speaking to Jesus, the Son. First, there is a plan that extends from everlasting past to everlasting future. That plan is sure and has God as the sovereign victor over all problems of the universe. Second is the creation of a kingdom with Jesus as the King who will serve for eternity future.

Thirdly, the kingdom is now, the decree as set by the Father has already set his Son up on the holy hill in Jerusalem. Rising above all the ground of the earth, 2000 years ago, a kingdom was given to our Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ. He lives and reigns today from heaven and will return one day. To unbelievers, who take counsel together against him it is a day of terror. To believers, who long for and love his appearing, it is a day of Joy.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **FALL QUARTER** – Sunday Mornings at 9:40
LOCATION: B8-10 – Lane Kemler- begins Sept. 7th.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE: Numbers& Deuteronomy
Recount how the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness for four decades and how God taught them to be His people as they approached the promised land.
LOCATION: B11 – Shawn Devlin – begins Sept. 7th.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
The Greatest Truths of All Times
We begin with the one truly “Greatest of All Time”, God Himself, and consider five great truths that lead us to the greatest hope of all time.
LOCATION: B1-2 – Joel & Tara Day – begins Sept. 7th.
Sacred Marriage
What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy. It can become a doorway to a closer walk with God.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
RESUMES Sept. 14th
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
RESUMES Sept. 14th
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

LADIES FALL STUDY - DARING JOY - by Nicole Zasowski
Begins Oct. 2nd at 9am - Rm B8-10 – 7-week study. (No class on 10/9)
Experience God's heart for your joy. Led by Chris Knepley.

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - REVIVE US - by Robby Gallaty
Begins Oct. 1st at 6:30pm – Rm. B8-10. Begin with a clear definition of revival. Spread revival to your church & community. Led by Barry Wills.

We Believe ... In Christ's Return (Part 2)

Jesus reveals signs that will occur during the future Seven-Year Tribulation Period prior to His Second Coming to earth to establish His kingdom.

Signs during the first half of the Tribulation Period:

- D _____ (vv 4-5)
- D _____ (vv 6-7a)
- D _____ (vv 7b-8)
- D _____ (v 9)
- D _____ (vv 10-13)
- D _____ (v 14)

Sign in the middle of the Tribulation Period:

- D _____ (vv 15-16)

Signs during the last half of the Tribulation Period:

- D _____ (vv 17-22)
- D _____ (vv 23-28)
- D _____ (v 29)

Application: Knowing the future should result in ...

- ❖ C _____
- ❖ C _____
- ❖ C _____

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



September 8 – September 12

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from September 7th, "We Believe ...In The Return of Christ" (pt.2)", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on September 14th, "We Believe ...In The Return of Christ" (pt.3)", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever
Hebrews 13:8