

Sermon Series: Luke 21:5-38 Grace to Stand When the World Is Falling

Sermon Text: Luke 21:7-9 The Grace of Truth

You can stand with confidence in Christ's Truth as the world falls for lies.

1) Watch out for lies which bring ruin to the world.

- a) "For many will come"—proliferation of false prophets and pretend messiahs leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem
- b) "in My name . . ."—claiming to be Christ ("I am He") or claiming the authority of God for their teaching ("the time is at hand")
- c) Josephus (*Jewish Wars* 6.5.2, 286-87) records that false prophets deluded people to go to the temple to receive signs of salvation during the Jewish rebellion against Rome, leading to the deaths of thousands.
- d) Lies are corruptions of Truth. Believing lies brings corruption to life.
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Watch out for false teachers—"See that you are not led astray. . . . Do not go after them."
 - (1) Appeals from the world
 - (2) Appeals from false teachers in the Church
 - (3) Appeals from your flesh
 - ii) Elders, you must keep a close watch on yourselves and on the flock (Acts 20:28).
 - iii) Chaotic circumstances can make us vulnerable to lies.

2) Stand with confidence in Christ's Truth.

- a) "do not be terrified"—disorienting fear opposite confidence
- b) Truth about the fallen world/humanity—"when you hear of wars and tumults . . . these things must first take place; but not immediately the end"
- c) Truth about God—When you know Christ you will not entertain imposters who say, "I am He."
- d) Truth about yourself—God defines you, not yourself, not the world.
- e) Truth about salvation—Knowing the right way can keep you from "going after them."
- f) **Application:**
 - i) Bible Intake
 - ii) Developing Discernment:
 - (1) Pray for wisdom
 - (2) Seek mature, godly counselors
 - (3) Pursue intellectual exercise (reading literature, critical thinking, dialogue, etc.)
 - iii) Systematic Theology:
 - (1) Westminster Confession of Faith
 - (2) Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1958, reprint 2005). Recommended reading for officers (in training).
 - iv) Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

Doxology: "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The One sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."—Revelation 19:11