

**"... THEN LOOK UP,"**

*Luke 21:28*

***"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. "***

One man said: "If you want to be distressed -- look within. If you want to be defeated -- look back. If you want to be distracted -- look around. If you want to be dismayed -- look ahead. If you want to be delivered -- look up!"

In our text, the 21<sup>s</sup> chapter of Luke, the Lord is telling of the prophecy of the last days and his return to earth. He tells of the signs to come, wars and rumors of wars, perplexity of souls, and men's hearts failing them for fear. And this time is ever increasing upon us. Yet He never left us there in dismay. He say's, "then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." And to, "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." The coming of the Lord is an absolute! He shall return! And He has called you and I to be ready.

The main thing for us to do in these days is to keep an ever-focused eye upon the one who holds all things in His hand. Just look up! Even when you want to concentrate upon your surroundings — look up. The reason for men's hearts failing them in these days according to scripture is that of "fear", and "looking after those things which are coming on the earth." But if we keep our eyes on Him, we can stay encouraged and be delivered.

If you only focus upon the mishaps of the world, you will be discouraged. If you only look within yourself for all life's answers, you will be distressed. Yet if you look up, you can see your redemption. Even in the most difficult of times, you can see the answer, and the answer is in Him!

Until next week, keep your hearts ready and your eyes on Christ!

Pastor Scott Isham