

Your Redemption Draws Nigh

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A transcription of spoken ministry given in Washington, D.C., December 16, 2001

Scripture Reading:

Luke 21:24-36—*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the nations until the times of the nations be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roar of the sea and rolling waves, men ready to die through fear and expectation of what is coming on the habitable earth, for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws nigh. And he spoke a parable to them: Behold the fig-tree and all the trees; when they already sprout, ye know of your own selves, on looking at them, that already the summer is near. So also ye, when ye see these things take place, know that the kingdom of God is near. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall in no wise pass away until all come to pass. The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but my words shall in no wise pass*

away. But take heed to yourselves lest possibly your hearts be laden with surfeiting and drinking and cares of life, and that day come upon you suddenly unawares; for as a snare shall it come upon all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, praying at every season, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things which are about to come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, how we praise and thank Thee for loving us, for giving Thyself to us to redeem us—and to the uttermost. Lord, as we continue in Thy presence, we ask that Thou will speak to us through Thy written word. We need Thy word that we may know how to live in our days to the praise of Thy glory. So we commit this time into Thy hands and trust Thy Holy Spirit to touch our hearts and bring us into harmony with Thyself. We ask in the name of our Lord Jesus and for His glory. Amen.

The passage that we have just read is concerned with the last

days. It is concerned with the second coming, of our Lord Jesus. Thank God, we are living in such a day. So I think it is very relevant for us to consider this passage.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

As our Lord Jesus was leaving the temple on His last visit to Jerusalem, His disciples pointed out to Him this majestic temple, made with costly stones and the offerings from all the world. They took such pride in this temple in Jerusalem. But the Lord said to them very quietly: “The day shall come when there is not one stone upon another stone.” In other words, there would be total destruction of this magnificent edifice. Of course, this was a shock to the disciples because the Jews at that time took great pride in this temple. To them it was the most holy place. So, how could it be that no stone would be upon another stone?

This temple was built with massive stones. How could it happen that no stone would be upon another stone? But the disciples dared not ask Him on the road because if bystanders should hear it they would think

it was blasphemy and would throw stones upon them. So they waited until they were outside the city of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. When our Lord Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, four of His disciples came quietly to Him and probably whispered in His ear: "Now Lord, when shall these things happen and what is the sign that these things will happen?" Then our Lord gave what we call the Olivet discourse.

He told His disciples that after He left there would be wars and rumors of wars, there would be famines, earthquakes, and pestilence. But when all these happen and nations fight against nations, these are the beginning of throes. In other words, this is not yet the end; it is just the beginning.

Then He said, "You will be persecuted for My name's sake and you will be put to death. After that, Jerusalem will be surrounded and totally destroyed. The Jewish people will be scattered to all the nations and Jerusalem will be trodden under the feet of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

We know that these things happened exactly as our Lord predicted. In A. D. 70, Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman army under Prince Titus and broken into. The last defense of the people was to retreat into the temple because it had been built with massive stones. That temple was like a fortress and the Roman army surrounded it. As a matter of fact, Josephus, the Jewish

historian who was also a general that surrendered to the Roman army, actually pleaded with Titus not to destroy the temple. But before the command of Titus could reach the army, they were already trying to attack this fortress. How could they get in? They threw fire in it and tried to burn it. Of course, the fire could burn the wood but it could not burn the stones. However, because of the fire the temple was broken into and those who were at that last defense were all killed.

But our Lord Jesus said that not one stone would be left upon another stone. How did this happen? Even after the temple was burned, the stones were still there, massive stones, one upon another. But we know that the temple was overlaid with gold, and because of the heat the gold began to melt and run into the crevices of the stones. As the Roman army tried to get the gold, they dug up every stone. What our Lord predicted concerning the temple was literally fulfilled. Not only that, but the Jewish people were literally scattered through all the nations, everywhere.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

Our Lord Jesus said that Jerusalem would be trodden underfoot of the nations; and this happened for almost two thousand years. When we look into history, we find that for only a few months, during 134-135 A. D., under the revolt of Bar-Kokhba, was Jerusalem under the rule of the Jews. Aside

from those few months, for almost two thousand years, Jerusalem was ruled by Gentiles, by the nations.

In the book of Daniel, there is the time of the Gentiles. In other words, God began to give the world power to the Gentiles to rule upon this earth beginning with King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire. In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge image in a dream. God gave him the dream of that huge image to tell him world history, the time of the Gentiles.

The great image began with a golden head, which was Nebuchadnezzar, the Emperor of Babylon. Then it would continue with the Persian Empire, and continue with the Greek Empire, and then continue on with the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire would be divided into two, like the two legs—the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire. Then will come the two feet and the ten toes. That will be at the end of this age. There will be a stone not cut by man's hand and it will hit upon the feet of that majestic image. Then the whole image will disappear and the stone will grow and fill the earth. Now that is the kingdom of God. That is the time of the Gentiles.

UNTIL THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES BE FULFILLED

Our Lord Jesus said, "Jerusalem will be trodden underfoot of the Gentiles, of the nations, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled." In other words, when the time of the

Gentiles is fulfilled, then there would be a change of the age.

Brothers and sisters, we are at that juncture. Why? In June 1967, during the Six-Day War, the Jewish defense forces made a surprise rescue at Jerusalem, parachuting soldiers into Jerusalem, and the Jordanian Army retreated. For the first time in almost two thousand years the whole of Jerusalem came into the hand of the Israelis.

I remember when I first visited Jerusalem, it was still divided. At that time I had a Chinese passport, so I could only go to the Jordanian side to visit the old Jerusalem. I could not cross the no man's land and visit the new Jerusalem. But in 1967 Jerusalem came under the sole control of the Jewish nation. If you read historical records, you find that when those strong military men entered into Jerusalem at the Wailing Wall, they wept. They declared that Jerusalem would be the eternal capital of the Israeli Nation.

If Jerusalem remains under the sole control of the Israeli nation, then the times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled. Now, in prophecy we cannot be too sure. If Jerusalem shall again be divided, then we have to wait. But if Jerusalem continues to remain under the sole control of the nation of Israel, then according to the word of God, the times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled. The coming of the Lord is imminent.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are living in this time, and our Lord predicted that during those

days there would be trouble and distress. And when people think of what is coming upon this habitable earth, they are so frightened, frightened to death. They do not know what is going on.

Are we not living in such a time? We, in this country, have felt so safe. In the past there have been two World Wars but they have been fought outside of this country. But suddenly, September 11th woke us up. It is here. Formerly, when you got up in the morning and went out to work, you were confident you would come back home. But how about now? That sense of security is gone. We do not know what is going to happen. People are frightened to death. As believers, as Christians, as those who know the Lord, what should be our attitude? How do we respond to our time? This is something we need to understand. So, in this passage we have just read our Lord Jesus foretold these things in order to show us how we as believers should live and respond to our time.

LOOK UP

I think there are three things our Lord is trying to tell us. The first one is in verse 28: "But when these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption draws nigh." As far as the world is concerned, when they see these things coming, they are frightened to death. They look around them and their security is gone. Everything is shaken; nothing is solid. Sometimes we

say real estate is real, but look at the two towers, the *real* estate; they are not real anymore. Nothing on this earth is real, is dependable. And if you look within yourself, what do you see? Fear, no strength, no hope, no sense of security. Now that is what the world sees. But we as believers, are we to react as the people of this world, without hope, with fear? No.

The Lord said, "When you see these things coming, look up." People can look around and even look down, but they cannot look up because when they look up, they see nothing but the blue sky. But we can look up because when we look up, we can see something more than the blue sky. We see our Lord seated at the right hand of God on the throne. Two thousand years ago He came into this world. He took upon Himself the fashion of a man and He lived among us to show us God. He showed us what kind of God God is. People do not know God. In the imagination of man God is terrible.

I remember when I was a boy we used to play and go into temples and see all those statues of gods. My, they are frightening! That is how people imagine God to be. But our Lord Jesus came into this world to show us what kind of God God is.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." The Son of God came into this world to demonstrate to us the love of God. He went to the cross, He

bore our sins and died for us, to show us how He loves us. After our Lord Jesus accomplished the work of redemption on Calvary's cross, He was buried for three days. But thank God, then He rose from the dead because death could not confine Him. He came out of death, and for forty days He appeared to His disciples. Then on the mount of Olives He ascended. He is now seated in heaven.

In Revelation 5, you find when our Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, He took from His Father that scroll, the title deed of this universe. He began to open the seals, to execute God's will in bringing all things back to the feet of God. That is what our Lord Jesus has been and is doing today. So when we look up, that is what we see. We see the Lamb of God in the midst of the throne. He is in control. No matter what happens on earth, no matter what evil we see on this earth—we know that the enemy, that is, Satan, the devil means evil; he wants to kill, to destroy—but God is able to turn it into good. That is what our Lord is doing.

In the Old Testament, Joseph, the beloved, was sold by his brothers into slavery, but God overruled it. Eventually, Joseph became the Prime Minister in Egypt and delivered his whole family out of famine. So what did Joseph say? "You meant evil towards me but God has made it good, that a great people may be saved."

Brothers and sisters, that is exactly what has been happening on this earth. In Matthew 24 when our Lord said,

"When you see all these wars and rumors of wars, all these pestilences and famines and earthquakes, these are tribulations and distresses. Yet the Holy Spirit used this word: "These are the beginnings of birth pangs." It is like a woman with child. When she is going to give birth, she is in pain. Outwardly, she is in so much pain, almost unto death, but there is a positive thing there. A child is to be born into this world, and when the child is born, all the pains are forgotten.

The enemy tried to bring death into the world, but the Lord can turn it. Out of all this turmoil God is going to bring something that will satisfy His own heart, a people redeemed. So brothers and sisters, we are not as hopeless as the people of this world. We look up; we see our Lord there. We see what He has been doing through these two millennia. He is almost finished, and He is coming back soon. So the Bible says, "Look up."

Don't look around. If you look around, you are frightened. Don't look within yourself. If you look within yourself, you are in despair. Look up and see our Lord on the throne. He is working out His purpose; He is turning evil into good; and He is coming back. Because of this, we can look up.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS

"Lift up your heads." When you are in despair, you don't lift up your heads. You bow down your head, hang down your

head. That is a natural reaction. But we can lift up our heads because our redemption has drawn nigh. Redemption is a big word. Sometimes we think of the redemption of our Lord Jesus as very limited. But actually the word *redemption*, *redeemed*, what the Lord has done is so complete. He redeemed our dead spirit. Our spirit was dead in sins and transgressions, and He redeemed us. He renewed our spirit. He gave us a new spirit, and He put His Holy Spirit in us that we may fellowship with God. That is redemption of our spirit.

He has also redeemed our soul. Our thinking, our mind is so deranged, brainwashed; we never think straight. He redeems our mind. He redeems even our emotion. He redeems our will. He redeems our soul and that is what is going on today in those who are the Lord's. Daily He is purifying our mind, clarifying our mind that we might think straight and soberly. He is purifying our emotion, that we may express our emotion rightly, loving that which needs to be loved and hating that which needs to be hated. He is delivering our will: not our will but God's will be done. He is doing this redeeming work of our soul every day.

But thank God, He said, "Our redemption draws nigh." What does it mean? It is the redemption of our body, this mortal body. Maybe, if you are young, you don't sense it. But people like me, how we groan under that old decaying body. Sometimes, when I want to do certain things, such as opening a

bottle, I don't have the strength to do it. I have to ask a brother to do it for me. This old skin is getting weaker and weaker. But thank God, when our Lord returns, this mortal body will be redeemed, will be transformed into an immortal body just like our Lord Jesus at His resurrection.

When we came here today, we had to drive over two hours, because this is a mortal body. If you are in Richmond you cannot be in Washington at the same time. But with an immortal body, you don't need an airplane anymore; you can be everywhere. The door may be locked; you just walk in. Such freedom—free from the bondage of time and space. It will be a glorious body delivered from sin and death. And in Romans 8, the redemption of the body is called adoption. Adoption means sonship. In other words, with an immortal body we can be placed as sons of God. Now think of that!

Brothers and sisters, are you looking forward to what is coming? You welcome what is coming because you know there will be great transformation, even to our mortal, corruptible body. This corruptible body will become incorruptible, this mortal body will become immortal, this body of shame, of humiliation will become a body of glory.

Oh, the redemption of our Lord Jesus! How complete is the work of our Lord Jesus on the cross—spirit, soul, and body wholly sanctified. Blessed hope! We have a blessed hope. We can look up, lift up our heads

because our redemption has drawn nigh. This is what our Lord Jesus tells us in the first place. Hallelujah!

THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

Then our Lord Jesus began to tell a parable. He said, "When you see the fig tree and all the trees begin to sprout, you know the summer is near. Therefore, when you see these things happening, you know it is near, at the doors." What is it? The kingdom of God is near. His presence is near, at the doors.

If you read the Old Testament and the New Testament, you find the fig tree symbolizes the Jewish nation. At the last entry of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem, one morning He was hungry and when He saw a fig tree, He tried to find some figs on it. That tree was full of leaves but there were no figs. Even though the Bible says this was not the time of harvest, we know before the time of harvest if there are leaves, there should be some small figs. These are winter figs. They are usually eaten by the poor because in the winter there is nothing to eat. Now if there are no winter figs it means there will be no figs in the summer or the autumn. So when our Lord saw this fig tree with leaves, it was supposed to have some winter figs but there were none. In other words, that tree would never bear any fruit. So the Lord cursed that tree. Our Lord never cursed an animal; He never cursed any other plant. But He cursed that fig tree and said, "Now you will never bear

fruit." The next day when the disciples passed by again, they saw it was withered from the root, completely withered, finished.

Yet here our Lord said, "The fig tree begins to sprout." He cursed that fig tree not too long before, so He could not have forgotten it. Now He mentions the fig tree again. What does it mean? It means that by the grace of God this fig tree will be reborn. That is the rebirth of the Jewish nation. For two thousand years the nation did not exist. The people were scattered all over the world—no territory, no land that they could call their own, no government. Can such a people be restored into a nation? You do not see it in human history. But in 1948 it happened; the fig tree began to sprout.

But remember, the recovery of the Jewish nation is not a full recovery yet because in the eyes of God it should be a full spiritual recovery. The Jewish nation is not spiritually recovered yet; it is only politically recovered. There are leaves, but there are still no figs yet to satisfy the heart of God. But it is coming.

Not only is that fig tree to be restored but other trees will be restored. After World War II, nationalism began to revive on this earth. Many nations were reborn, many nations were recreated. In Asia the colonial days were over. Many nations in Asia became independent—the Philippines, Indonesia, all these nations. Not only in Asia but in Europe many nations were reborn. The Russian Empire was finished and many nations came

up. In Africa many new nations came up. When you read geography or history, you find the names of many nations which you have never known before. The geography of the world has changed because the trees have all begun to bud.

The Lord said, "When you see these things, you know it is near." The kingdom of God is near. You know the presence of the Lord, the coming of the Lord is near. But in Matthew He says, "At the doors." When people in this country read this, they cannot understand it. But we who are from the Orient understand. In this country when a person is at your door and you open the door, that person is in the house. But in the Orient, no. You have a door and when you open the door, there is a courtyard there. And if you are rich, you may have to go through several courtyards before you reach the residency. And our Lord Jesus said, "When you see these things happening, you know I am at the doors." Thank God, you can almost hear His footsteps.

THIS GENERATION

Our Lord said, "This generation will not pass away until all these things, all that I have said will be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word will not pass away." All of this will be fulfilled in our generation. What is a generation? You can say a generation is forty years, thirty years. No. The generation here is "this generation," the Lord said.

You find this phrase in Matthew 11 when our Lord said, "To what shall I liken to this generation? How do I describe this generation? It is like children who are playing in the street and they say, 'We play the flute and you don't dance. We wail and you don't weep.' John the Baptist came not eating or drinking and you say he was mad. I come eating and drinking and you say I am a glutton and a wine-drinker. You never respond." This is the generation. This is the generation that does not respond to God's calling. When God calls us to repent, we don't repent. When God calls us to believe we don't believe.

Then in Matthew 12, people came to Him and said, "What is the sign that You will give to us?" And our Lord said, "To this wicked and adulterous generation there is no sign given but the sign of Jonah." Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights and our Lord Jesus was buried for three days and three nights in the earth. That is the sign.

The Queen of Sheba will rise up to judge this generation because she came from the south to hear the wise words of Solomon, and this generation will not even hear the words of the One greater than Solomon. Now that is the generation.

Again, in Matthew 17, after the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus, He came down and there was a demon-possessed boy. The disciples could not drive the demon out and our Lord said, "What should I do to this unbelieving and perverse generation?"

Even on the day of Pentecost, in Acts 2, Peter said, "Be saved from this perverse generation." So you see the generation here is not thirty or forty years. The generation here is a specific period of time that is characterized by wickedness, adultery, perversity, and unbelief. That is what our generation is, and this generation will not pass away until all these things happen. If all this will happen in our generation, what is the word of the Lord to us?

TAKE HEED

In Luke 21:34: "But take heed to yourselves lest possibly your hearts be laden with surfeiting and drinking and the cares of life, and that day come upon you suddenly unawares; for as a snare shall it come upon all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth."

Here you find our Lord Jesus gives us a warning: "Take heed. Notice. Pay attention to. Be careful." What are we to be careful for? He said, "Do not let eating and drinking and cares of this life so burden your hearts that the day will come upon you unaware."

It is very strange. On the one hand, when people think of what is coming, they are frightened to death. Yet on the other hand, they live their lives as usual. Isn't that strange? You would say if they think about what is coming and they are frightened, they should do something. But what can they do? Should they store thirty days supply of food and water? I often say if you do

that, probably you will die earlier because when the people who don't have it know you have it, you cannot live. What is the sense of doing that? It is useless. So I think people just say, "Well, it is frightening but what can we do?" Life goes on as usual, so you find eating and drinking and cares of life. Isn't that strange? That is what is happening. They know nothing but eating and drinking and cares of life. That is life. Worrying is life. If you do not worry, you are not human. Isn't that strange? So the day will come upon them unaware. Suddenly it comes and they are caught.

But it is not so with us, brothers and sisters. Our Lord has already warned us. He said, "When you see these things happening, remember they are coming to an end." Therefore, do not allow these things to be the meaning and the purpose of your life. If you make eating and drinking and cares of life the meaning and purpose of your life, then when the day shall come and all these things are gone, you are finished. You lose everything. There is nothing left.

We who have died with Christ, who are risen with Christ, seek not the things of this earth but seek the things above, where our Lord Jesus is, where our life with our Lord Jesus is hidden in God. That is where our hearts should be. Our hearts should not be upon this earth. Our hearts should not be laden with what we should eat, what we should drink. The Lord knows what you should eat and what you should drink. "Seek ye

first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." Why care for this life? You have a heavenly Father who cares for you. Brothers and sisters, let us be careful lest we be like the people of this world, just occupied with the things of this world and forgetting the things in heaven. Let our treasure be hidden in heaven. That is our Lord Jesus' warning to us.

WATCH

Thirdly, "Watch therefore, praying at every season, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things which are about to come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (v. 36).

"Take heed" is a warning; it is negative. "Watch therefore" is an encouragement; it is positive. The Lord wants us to watch.

In Isaiah 21 there is a vision of Dumah and that vision is only two verses: "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will inquire, inquire; return, come."

"Watchman, what of the night?" Brothers and sisters, we are in the night. We are at midnight. "What of the night?" The watchman said, "The morning cometh." That is the hope. "But also the night." The night has not gone yet but the morning is coming. If you want to inquire, inquire. This is the time to inquire. Return, for He is coming.

In Isaiah 62 the Lord said, "I will set watchmen upon the

walls of Jerusalem and they shall cry day and night unto the Lord. Do not be silent, do not cease asking the Lord, praying until He make Jerusalem a place of glory and praise."

We are set by our Lord as watchmen. The whole world is sleeping because this is night. And especially at midnight, the darkest of the night, that is when you are the sleepest. So when the morning comes it comes unaware, but the watchmen are watching. They are watching through the night. They are watching for the morning so the morning will not catch them unaware.

We are watching. What are we watching? Are we watching what is going to happen? Today, if you talk about prophecy, you have an audience. People like to hear prophecy, especially if you have some very special application. People will be excited, but it may not be true. But yes, we are watching what is going on. We as believers do not bury our heads in the sand as the ostrich. We know what is going on, but these are not the things we are watching. When we watch these things, we know our Lord is coming soon. He is the One whom we watch for.

People say, "The Lord will not come because according to II Thessalonians 2 the antichrist must first come, so we should watch for the antichrist. Brothers and sisters, we don't watch for the antichrist; we watch for Christ. The antichrist will come; but remember, before the antichrist comes the presence of the Lord has already begun. Only those who are awake can

see the morning star. Only those who are watching know the Lord Jesus as the morning star. They will see the Lord first. And those who do not watch can only see the sun, but it is a little bit too late.

So dear brothers and sisters, watch. But “watch” is an attitude; it brings in action. Watch unto prayer. As we watch, we pray. In other words, God has a work entrusted for us to do. We are going to do the spiritual part of the work. The government will do the physical part, but we will do the spiritual part because we are engaged in a spiritual warfare. God and Satan are at war. God is bringing His will upon this earth and Satan tries his best to oppose it. And we are standing with God, praying, bringing His will down from heaven upon this earth. What a responsibility! What a privilege! We watch unto prayer. We pray at all seasons. Whether it is winter or summer, spring or autumn, we pray. We pray that the will of God may be speedily fulfilled upon this earth, that the enemy will be completely destroyed, and the kingdom of God will come upon this earth, that there will be peace when the Prince of peace returns.

This is what we are doing. We are not negative, we are not passive; we are very active and positive. We are laboring together with our Lord to bring in the King, to bring in His kingdom.

ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO ESCAPE

Now, if this is what we are doing, what will happen? We will escape all these things that are coming and stand before the Son of Man. This is one of the rarest promises given to the church. Even before the great tribulation comes upon this earth, before the sun and moon and stars begin to be shaken, before the great tribulation upon this earth, those who are watching will escape and stand before the Son of Man. Where is the Son of Man? He is on the throne.

When the Lord comes, two are sleeping; one is taken, one is left. Two are grinding at the mill; one is taken, one is left. Two are working in the field; one is taken, one is left. At the coming of the Lord, He will come first as a thief. Without being noticed, He will come quietly, suddenly, unexpectedly. The two in Matthew 24 represent the living Christians, those who are living today because two is the number of witness. Two are grinding at the mill—that is morning. Two are working in the field—that is noonday. Two are sleeping—that is night. You do not have six; you have two because the earth is round. In some places it is morning; in other places it is noontime; at other places it is night.

Outwardly, life goes on. It is not that because the Lord is

coming, therefore we quit work. We continue to work. The preparation is inward, not outward. Go ahead and sleep when the night comes. Get up and work when the day comes, but suddenly one is taken, one is left. That is the sign of the coming of the Lord. One day, all over the globe some believers will disappear, taken by the Lord, raptured. They will escape these things to stand before the Son of Man.

This verse, Luke 21:36, is one of the verses that shows us rapture with condition. Watch and pray. You will escape and stand before the Son of Man. Like the manchild in Revelation 12, you will be raptured to the throne to meet the Lord at the throne, to welcome the Lord, to bring the King back to this earth. What a privilege! Oh, that we may be among those people! May the Lord help us.

Shall we pray:

Dear Lord, blessed Lord, in this world that is so hopeless, Thou art our blessed hope. We are waiting for Thy coming. Oh, we praise Thee and thank Thee; Thou art coming and coming soon. Do prepare our hearts that we may not be laden with the things of this world, that we cannot be taken to Thee. Lord, enable us to watch unto prayer at all seasons that we may escape these things that are coming into this habitable world and to stand before the Son of Man. Glory, hallelujah! We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.