

Message Notes

The Already-Not Yet Kingdom

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - The question no diy remodeler wants to hear.

The Gospel of Luke Luke 17:20-37

What is meant by already-not yet?

"The kingdom of God is in your midst."

Luke 17:20-21 (see: Luke 10:8-9, 11:2)

Longing unfulfilled

Luke 17:22

When he comes, you'll know it

Luke 17:23-24

But first...

Luke 17:25

It's similar to the time of Noah

Luke 17:26-27

It's similar to the time of Lot

Luke 17:28-30

"Remember Lot's wife!"

Luke 17:31-35 (see: Genesis 19:15-17, 23-26, Luke 9:62)

Verse 36?

Where will this happen?

Luke 17:37

Gospel application:

Are we done yet?

Luke 17:20-37

20 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, 21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." 22 Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. 23 People will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. 25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. 26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot's wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left." [36] 37 "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather."































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The Gospel of
LUKE

Setting His Face to Jerusalem
Luke 9:51 to Luke 19:44

*The Already and Not Yet
of the Kingdom of God*
Luke 17:20-37

What is meant by already-not yet?

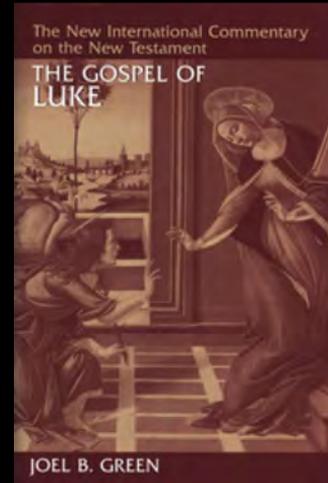
“The kingdom is in your midst.”

Luke 17:20-21

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The Pharisees are hoping to recognize the coming of God's dominion through scientific observation and assessment. Sign-watching has already been denounced in Luke, not least when manifestations of the present work of God have not led to appropriate responses of repentance (cf. 11:16, 29–32). This is not because the arrival of the kingdom is devoid of evidence, but because this evidence is not self-interpreting and is often either misinterpreted or altogether overlooked.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



“The kingdom is in your midst.”

Luke 10:8-9

8 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

“The kingdom is in your midst.”

Luke 11:2

He said to them, “When you pray, say:
‘Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.’”

“God’s kingdom, to the Jew-in-the-village in the first half of the first century, meant the coming vindication of Israel, victory over the pagans, the eventual gift of peace, justice and prosperity. It is scarcely surprising that, when a prophet appeared announcing that this kingdom was dawning, and that Israel’s God was at last becoming king, he found an eager audience.”



~ N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, 204.

Longing unfulfilled

Luke 17:22

22 Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. 23 People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. 25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

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Luke 17:23-24

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But first...

Luke 17:25

22 Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. 23 People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. 25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.



In the OT the phrase expresses an eschatological hope for a period when God's salvation would be realized, when his dominion over the minds and lives of human beings would be accomplished, and they would be withdrawn from subjection to danger, evil, and sin. The phrase implies also a divine guidance of human history (Judg 21:25), thwarted no longer by hostile opposition. In this sense the OT idea would assume a specific determination in the NT in view of the Christ-event:



The kingdom of God enters history in Jesus' ministry, passion, death, and resurrection. As the Christ and the risen Lord, he is the Father's special anointed agent for the preaching and establishment of this dominion henceforth among human beings.

Joseph A. Fitzmyer, *The Gospel according to Luke I–IX: Introduction, Translation, and Notes*, vol. 28, Anchor Yale Bible (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2008), 155.



It's similar to the time of Noah

Luke 17:26-27

26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all."

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Luke 17:28-30

28 “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.”

“Remember Lot’s wife!”

Luke 17:31-35

31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them.

Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot’s wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”

Genesis 19:15-17

15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." 16 When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. 17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

Genesis 19:23-26

23 By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. 24 Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah – from the Lord out of the heavens. 25 Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities – and also the vegetation in the land. 26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

“Remember Lot’s wife!”

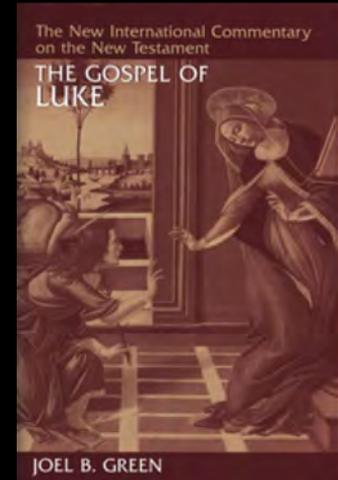
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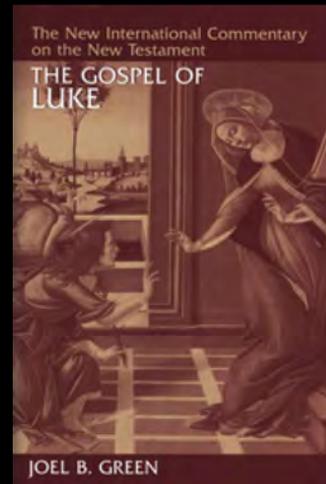
What is at stake is not whether one is engaged fully in the routinization of life. Rather, the question is whether, in the midst of life, one maintains a single-minded orientation toward the aim of God and its realization at the eschaton. “To remember” signifies more than a cognitive act in the biblical tradition, but is typically the precursory mental act leading to related activity.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



The admonition, “Remember Lot’s wife” (cf. Gen 19:26), then, both interprets her action as the manifestation of an unwillingness to relinquish everything at the time of judgment and serves to warn Jesus’ followers against similarly misplaced values.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



“Remember Lot’s wife!”

Luke 9:62

62 Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Verse 36?

Luke 17:37

[36]

37 “Where, Lord?” they asked.

He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”

Where will this happen?

Luke 17:37

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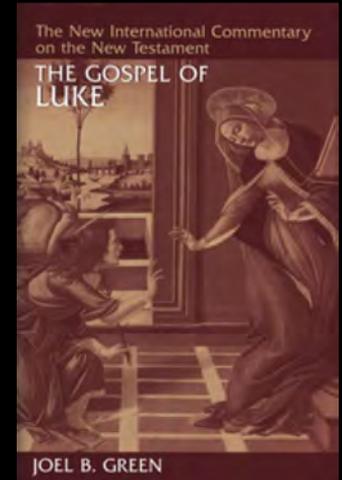
Gospel application

Gospel application

1. This is a **WARNING!**

Jesus depicts that “day” as unmistakable, worldwide, sudden, inescapable, and, for those who are not prepared, calamitous. The effect of Jesus’ teaching is to punctuate the need for faithful readiness (cf. 12:35–49) with a pronounced sense of urgency.

~Joel Green, New International Commentary
of the New Testament , The Gospel of Luke



Gospel application

1. This is a **WARNING!**

1. This is a **REMINDER.**



Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:
“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

Are we done yet?