

I. Jesus will return completely unexpectedly.

- A. They (and we) wanted a “doomsday clock.”
- B. Elsewhere Jesus gives signs of the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24; Mark 13)
- C. Be ready! There will be an obvious sign (“expect the unexpected”)

II. The path to the coming kingdom is one of suffering.

- A. Before the kingdom: Jesus must suffer and be rejected by his own generation
- B. “The days are coming when you will long for ...”
- C. Suffering *in hope*

III. We must live our lives without being attached to them.

- A. Nothing long with the activities Jesus talks about, but they must not be our big thing.
- B. The closest relationships of life may be broken.
- C. Remember Lot's wife, and don't go back!
- D. Happy exiles
 - i. Peter's perspective (1 Peter 1:1-2,18; 2:9-10; 2 Peter 3:10-13)
 - ii. Jeremiah's perspective (Jeremiah 29:4-9)
 - iii. Paul's perspective (Romans 8:18-25; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:22-23)
 - iv. John's perspective (Revelation 1:12-18; 2:23b; 5:8-10; 21:1-22:5)
 - v. Exile life (2 Thessalonians 4:11; 1 Timothy 2:2)
- E. Happy exiles and America right now

IV. The kingdom of God is centered in Jesus himself.

- A. Jesus in his “humiliation” - a problem for Pharisees and disciples alike
- B. Jesus is the one who will bring the kingdom through his cross and resurrection
- C. “The kingdom is among you”: the kingdom can be seen in Jesus himself
- D. Glimpses of the kingdom can be seen now.