

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #65

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 17:22-37

Sermon Date: Dec 24, 2006

Coming Soon: Christmas – The Sequel!

We think quite a bit about Jesus' birthday. While we're not so sure of the exact date, Christmas is perhaps the most emotion-laden holiday in America. But it will one day soon be surpassed by an even greater day – one that will blow the whole world away. "Christmas II – The Return of Christ" – is coming soon!

You know that Jesus is coming back, right? I know, you've likely heard it a thousand times. Perhaps you've even repeated it many times in the apostle's creed. ("He will come again to judge the living and the dead.")

But have you really thought about it much?

Have you ever imagined what it will be like?

If you made it all the way through the Left Behind book series, you got to see how LaHaye and Jenkins imagine it – the "Glorious Appearing."

How about you – what do you imagine it will be like? And what does the Bible tell us about this upcoming event?

Let's find out together ...

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>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 Men 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>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 roof of his house, with his goods 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 his life will lose it, and whoever loses his 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."</p> <p>³⁷ "Where, Lord?" they asked.</p> <p>He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather."</p>	

2. Explore the context of the scenes referred to in the days of Noah (see Genesis 6:9-14) and the days of Lot (see Genesis 18:20-21, 19:13-17, 24-26). What similarities do you see between these two events? What differences do you see?

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper:

5. The word “day” or “days” appears 9 times in Luke 17:22-37. What period of time is referred to where the word day(s) is used in each of the following verses?

17:22

17:24

17:26

17:28

17:30-31

6. Is the removal of people referred to in Luke 17:34-35 related to the ‘rapture’ (Christ’s taking the believers with him to heaven during the end times) or the judgment of the unrighteous? Why? (consider 1 Thess 1:10, 4:15-17, 5:2-3; 2 Thess 1:8-9; Jude 14-15)

7. Considering Luke 17:34-35, what can we conclude about how a close relationship with a believer will affect one’s salvation?

8. The warning of Luke 17:33 is repeated five times in the gospels (Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, 17:33, Matthew 10:39, 16:25). Repetition in the Bible usually implies importance. What is God saying to us in this, and what are its practical implications for us?

Topical Study:

9. Luke 17:30 refers to the **second coming of Christ** as the “day the Son of Man is revealed.” How familiar are you with what the Bible says about this second coming? Perhaps Christmas – when we celebrate Jesus’ first coming – is an appropriate season to explore this further. To do this on your own, you could refer to a topical bible such as ‘New Naves Topical Bible.’ But since it’s Christmas, we’ve listed the verses here for you (and narrowed them down quite a bit from the much longer list in Naves). Read through these verses and try to develop a basic understanding of what the second coming of Christ entails.

Job 19:25

Matt. 16:27-28

Matt. 24:1–51; Mark 13:1–37; Luke 21:5–36

Luke 12:37-40; Matt. 25:31-46

Matt. 26:64; John 14:2-3, 18, 28-29

Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 1:7-8; 4:5; 11:26; 15:20-26

1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:15–17; 1 Thess. 5:2-3

2 Thess. 1:7–10

2 Tim. 4:8

Heb. 9:27-8

2 Pet. 3:10–14

1 John 2:28

Jude 14, 15

Rev. 3:11; 16:15; 22:12, 20

10. Based on what you've read in the passages above, how would you describe the second coming of Christ?

11. How should we live our lives in light of the fact that Jesus is coming back?