



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022



Take your Pulse

What has you feeling good today?

What is a concern you just can't shake?

Today's Reading

Luke Chapter 21

Apocalyptic literature, such as is found here in chapter 21, is about understanding a future moment. But it is always couched in a present reality. As Luke is writing his Gospel, the Temple of Jerusalem has already been destroyed and Rome has asserted stronger political control over the region. The Jewish faith is being scattered and tremendous uncertainty exists within all who are seeking to know where God is. Luke places this apocalyptic teaching by Jesus in the days leading up to his arrest, another time of great uncertainty. But through all of these stories of signs and omens, of present realities and future worries, Jesus remains calm and hopeful and encouraging. There is enough fear out there created by all these things happening, Jesus says, but in God's Kingdom there is hope and renewal.



Start the Thinking

Each generation has its "The world has never been worse than this moment" kind of moment. With the political strife of our day, and the lingering effects of a pandemic, our own age has the same dreadful feeling. So, where is the hope and encouragement of Jesus found in the midst of our "The world is falling apart again" moment?



Conversing with God

O Holy God, your Son proclaimed a message of hope in the midst of chaos and uncertainty. The earliest disciples proclaimed this same message of hope in the midst of their own chaos and uncertainty. Empower us with the still going strong message of hope from Jesus, that in our own day and age of chaos and uncertainty we may remain strong in our faithfulness and help others discover this same message of hope. In your holy name, we pray. Amen



Be blessed

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.