

## **Matthew 22-06-12b**

Let's resume our study now in Matthew chapter 24. I think we have got a reasonable understanding of what verse 28 means and it is a reminder for us if you wanted to turn the corner into application and you say, wow, I sure don't want to be a dead carcass because this is what attracts judgment. That which is dead attracts what God has provided by way of removal.

I would like the dead parts of my life removed, but I would like to have more life and less death, more of that which is approved unto God, where I don't need to be ashamed. I am rightly dividing the word of truth and I have profited from the doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness that comes from God's word. So the judgment eagles do not come to take the body away in the same way that the fire that consumes wood, hay, and stubble hopefully will leave behind something by way of gold and silver and precious stones in my life as well as within the body of Christ proper.

So that was verse 28. We look at verse 29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days, notice those days, this is the judgment at the end of Daniel's 70th week.

This is the last seven years of the age of Israel. Everything we are talking about is related to Israel. You have the 144,000 witnesses, 12,000 from each tribe and so on.

We are sort of like Enoch who walked with God and was not for God took him well in advance of the judgment. There is John in Revelation 4.1. Come up here and watch the unfolding of judgment from a heavenly perspective. That's us.

But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. What does this mean? We have similar language in the Revelation, but they didn't have the Revelation at this point. John is listening to these words from the Lord Jesus.

He's not yet anywhere near the Isle of Patmos or the vision that will unfold and become our book of the Revelation. So how would the disciples understand these words? Well, this is lifted directly from Old Testament Scripture. The sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light.

Isaiah 13.10. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened in its going forth and the moon will not cause its light to shine. I wish we had time to go and explore.

I could spend a month just on this verse. I'm going to give you the verses. You can look at them in their context.

It's a wonderful and fruitful reflection, study time. If you do devotions or have your own

personal Bible reading, write these references down. I hate to give them and move on, but I'll never finish otherwise.

So Isaiah 13.10. Ezekiel 32.7. God says, when I put out your light, I will cover the heavens and make its stars dark. I will cover the sun with a cloud and the moon shall not give her light. All of these in the context of judgment.

Joel 2.10. The earth quakes before them. The heavens tremble. Remember the earthquake that is the signature tent stake that ties together the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls.

Each of those sequences ends with not a earthquake, not an earthquake, but the earthquake, the great earthquake. There is a singular earthquake and that's one of the things that helps us line up those three sequences. The earthquakes before them, the heavens tremble in Joel 2.10. The sun and moon grow dark and the stars diminish their brightness.

Joel 2.31. If you're looking at the Hebrew, this is actually in chapter three, but in your English it's 2.31. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. This is more than a 24-hour day. This is one of several places where Yom means an occasion of unspecified duration, an era of unspecified time.

Joel 3.15. The sun and moon will grow dark and the stars will diminish their brightness. These truths about the end of the age were known through the prophets. He goes on to say here in 24.29 that the stars will not just be darkened, but will fall from the heavens.

Now in physics, of course, distant stars are not going to fall from everything. We understand they're bigger than our sun. Stars cannot impact the earth.

What does this represent? In physical terms to the ancient eye, you cannot distinguish meteors and meteorites from stars. They are lights in the sky that streak across the sky, and when they come and impact the earth, whether they are meteorites or asteroids or whatever they are, when they strike, they can create tremendous devastation. This was known in the ancient world.

So the stars falling from the sky, this is going to be meteor showers. This is going to be meteorites, potentially asteroids. There could be man-made debris coming out of the heavens.

Some of your UFOs are in fact space debris hitting the atmosphere and skipping along and creating unidentified phenomena. Others are refraction, and trust me when I tell you that UFOs, they are in fact unidentified. They do in fact fly or seem to fly, and they may or may not be objects, but that's another discussion.

These are things that actually fall from the sky. You have this in Isaiah 34, for all the host of heaven shall be dissolved and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll. All their hosts shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine and as fruit falling from a fig tree.

It is important to distinguish, and you can give yourself a little practice here as you go to these Old Testament passages, is this talking about the end of the age of Israel, which we are looking at, or is it talking about the end of the millennial kingdom and the inception of the new heavens and new earth when this entire universe is in fact obsoleted and there is a new heavens and a new earth, Revelation 21 and 22. You can tell by context, are we talking about after the kingdom of the sun, after the millennial kingdom, this would be new heavens and new earth time, but haven't we seen this over and over again that there is a pattern to what God does? There are foreshadowings, there are adumbrations, there are anticipations that foreshadow or that illuminate what is to come. So in miniature, the darkening of the sun and moon, this is almost a bracket with Genesis 1, where on the face of the earth, you cannot see the sun, you cannot see the moon, and you cannot see the stars.

When God says, let there be light, He lifts the darkness and enough translucency or transparency occurs so that light can be observed on the face of the waters where the Spirit of God is hovering. The heavens and the earth have already been created, the sun and the moon are already in their places, the constellations, including our own, the stars, the heavens have already existed for a long, long time in Genesis 1, verse 2, but there is darkness on the face of the deep. There is not darkness throughout space and the universe.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. To create the earth, He had to create the heavens. There had to be stars, constellations, the Big Bang, the formation of heavy elements, carbon, all of the periodic table had to be created in star furnaces, had to be collected, had to be gathered, the earth had to cool, God had to have a cool enough planet that water could condense and cover the entire surface of the planet to a depth, liquid water, and there's also probably tremendous amounts of water vapor in the atmosphere.

But at a certain point, God moves His plan forward and He begins to prepare planet earth for life. The first thing life needs, the most fundamental essential is light. So God says, let there be light, and there was light, where? Right where Genesis 1, 2 says it should be, on the darkness that was on the face of the deep.

It doesn't say darkness was everywhere, darkness was universal, darkness filled the heavens, there's darkness on the face of the deep. So when God says, let there be light, where does the light come? To separate the darkness that is on the face of the deep. And there's still darkness on half of the deep.

God separates the light from the darkness, so the sun is shining through on half the

planet. The light He calls day, and the darkness He calls night. This is at the surface, this is our point of view, so important in a narrative.

What is your point of view? What is your perspective? So at the end of time, that light on the surface of the earth, it doesn't mean all light in the universe is going to be extinguished, it means on planet earth, as Jesus says, after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened. Now the star, Saul, which is our sun, is not going to stop burning at this point, but its light will no longer reach the surface of the earth in any great quantity. It will be darkened, it's going to be like a super cloudy day.

Have you ever looked up and you can see the disc of the sun with the naked eye? It's so cloudy, but that little light from the sun is penetrating. Well, it's going to be a day that is like night. The sun will be darkened and the moon will not be visible at all.

No light from the moon is going to penetrate. The moon will not give its light. The stars will fall from heaven.

There is going to be impacting near-earth objects, they call them NEOs, whether they are meteorites, whether it is human-made weaponry, something is going to fall from the heavens in streaks. It's going to look like the stars are falling from the heavens, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. What are the powers of the heavens? Well, you've got two aspects of this, physical and spiritual.

What are the physical powers of the heavens? Listen, let's all get on solar energy so that when the sun is darkened, then what? Let's all get on wind power so that when the powers of the heavens, the power that comes to earth is shaken, you've got nothing. Green energy is failing now, and it's going to really fail at the end of the tribulation. The more people that are depending on solar, the more devastated they are going to be.

If they succeed in eliminating fossil fuels and everything is solar, and then worldwide, there's this thick blanket of darkness and you can barely even see where the sun is, you can barely tell day from night, solar energy is going to be gone. And all these electric cars, well, we don't have any coal. This is what gets me.

How do you charge an electric car with coal-fired power plants because people are afraid of nuclear power? So you use fossil fuel to make electricity, and you add a step, which is an inefficiency. Coal-fired power plants put stuff into the atmosphere, and they're burning fossil fuel, but it's more controllable. I can ration that.

I can bill for it more easily than when you've got a bunch of independent oil companies competing with each other, etc. But I digress. Just look at what the Lord says.

Light is not going to be hitting the surface of the earth anymore. That is what was necessary for God to put life on the planet. So when the light leaves and the power of heaven is shaken, physically speaking, life is going to start leaving the planet.

You remember all of the devastation, a third of the landscape being scorched and rivers turning to blood and all the rest of what we've seen in Revelation. Well, the powers of heaven are going to be shaken. They're going to be unreliable in the physical sense.

There's going to be too much sun, then there's going to be not enough sun. There's going to be too much moon and then not enough moon. There's going to be starlight and then there's going to be stuff coming out of the sky and hitting the earth.

Spiritually speaking, the powers of the heavens are going to be shaken. The rulers of the darkness of this age, the principalities and the rulers in the air, the dark angelic forces are going to be shaken at the same time that Armageddon is going to deal with the physical forces that are on the earth. God's armies of angels are going to be engaged in warfare.

You find this in the later chapters of Revelation where Michael and his angels fight against the dragon and his angels. The powers of the heavens will be shaken. I can only imagine, have you ever speculated on what angelic warfare is like? We talk about angelic conflict and it seems to be kind of a chess game on earth with influencing humans, but Revelation says there is going to be direct conflict.

Right now we see a proxy war on the other side of the planet and we're shoveling money and weapons and stuff in and somebody else is pulling the triggers. We pray that that doesn't turn into a direct conflict. At a certain point in the latter stages of the tribulation, the heavenly conflict is going direct and the dragon and his angels are going to fight against Michael and his angels.

And when you say fight, there seems to be some equality. Michael can't just say, oh God on the throne, speak a word and dissolve these angels into their constituent angelic molecules or whatever they're made of. They have to fight and it's God's will that they fight.

God could speak a word and eliminate them. God could throw them all directly into the lake of fire. He's got that power, but he doesn't. He has his heavenly angels engage them in combat.

Now, if you are indestructible, they've got superhero movies now where people have all these powers and devices and magic of unknown origin and unlimited power that comes from nobody knows where. If the unfallen angels were that way, it wouldn't really be a conflict, would it? You could just stand there filing your fingernails as an angel while all the dark forces throw their fury at you. This is a genuine conflict.

So I ask myself, can angels be hurt? This is a conflict. I mean, this is some sort of deathly struggle. Struggles quickly escalate to the maximum that they can.

When feuds get strong enough, people start shooting each other. When national

disagreements reach a certain level, troops start shooting and killing each other. Ships get sunk.

Airplanes get shot out of the sky. People die. If this is a war, how is it a war unless there are casualties of some kind? Why would the dragon and his angels even engage a thing? It would be like, well, let me rev my car up to 60 miles an hour and crash it into this immovable bridge abutment because I think I can win.

They must be aware of some vulnerability. They must believe that they can not only engage but prevail and overcome the unfallen angels. I've never heard anybody talk about this.

They say, well, the angels are going to fight. I think Satan is not so stupid that he would engage in something that even a human could figure out is utterly hopeless. He thinks he can win.

Therefore, it must be possible as an angel to hurt another angel, to take out another angel. This is my speculation. And is there a resurrection of dead? I mean, you can, you know, your mind can go on all kinds of trails, but this stems from the words of the Lord Jesus, the powers of the heavens, and he doesn't specify the dark powers.

The powers are going to be shaken. This conflict is scary, even to the angels. There's no such thing as going into a war.

If you've got any kind of sanity and not having a sober fear, anybody that's been shot at, and some of us have, it's a sober reflection on mortality. If you've attended funerals and the outcome of these, this is an angelic combat. They are fighting with deadly force.

That's what a war is. And the dragon and his angels obviously think they can win. Whatever kind of angelic super nuclear weapons they've got, whatever kind of, I mean, this puts all your superhero stuff just into the trash bin.

These are the highest of all of God's created beings seeking to end each other. I cannot even imagine what that's like, but evidently the powers plural of the heavens are going to be shaken during this conflict that is described in revelation. We've seen it.

Then the sign of the son of man will appear in heaven. How do you think it is possible to take the dragon, to take Satan by force and stick him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years? That conflict has to have been won by the unfallen angels, by the hosts of whom God is Lord. Yahweh Sabaoth, the Lord of hosts.

These are those hosts, but I can't imagine, and I don't know that anyone can, the nature of that conflict, but it will be won by God's angels and they will take Satan prisoner and they will not put him in the lake of fire. They will put him in the bottomless pit where he will stay for 10 centuries. But this is what Jesus says, the sign of the son of man will

appear in heaven and all the tribes of the earth will mourn.

So interesting this word tribes. It doesn't say the nations of the earth. It doesn't say the people of the earth.

It says tribes. And this word is a word that means aggregations of people that have something in common other than there are other places where you have two or three words in combination. We'll look at those next time where it says peoples and tribes and nations and tongues.

These are different ways of grouping people by tongues, by common language, by nation, where they dwell geographically, by families, they are related genetically. This is the word that means something unites them that isn't nation, isn't language, and isn't close relation. It is sometimes translated families, but families is a loose term meaning they are united by something.

You look around today at what people unite around and patriotism is a dirty word. Nationalism is a dirty word. Sticking to one language is immoral, that you should want one language in your nation, that you should want one system of morality or one kind of lifestyle or one set of mores and ethics and what we used to call divine institutions of everybody gets to choose, there's marriage, there's families, there's nations, and God has organized this and encouraged it and specified it in His word.

But we throw all that over and now we're going to unite around some common interest or some just cause. We're going to signal some virtue. We are going to embrace some lifestyle.

I'm not going to talk a lot about this, but this month every year now has been designated as a month to celebrate a kind of lifestyle that is specified by five letters of the alphabet and often has a plus after it. Rather than me talk about it, do the G. Gordon Liddy thing, light the lighter, put your hand over it and google the word pride in association with those letters. Do it.

Read. You will find articles that say here are 50 milestones in the last 50 years for the progress of this becoming mainstream. Here are over 20 programs that you should watch on Saturday morning with your kids.

My Little Pony and these others have characters and scripts and promotion of things that used to be suppressed in society and are called out in scripture as abomination. But there is celebration of growing acceptance and more characters, more TV shows. And are they a main character? And how often is their lifestyle depicted and so on? Look it up.

If you want to see where we are on the hockey stick, if you want to see why the Eagles are going to need to descend on the carcass, it's because of the putrefaction of that

body. That's why. That's why it has to come.

Unless these days were shortened, the elect would not survive. Well, unless these days are shortened, there are things that will not survive. We don't, we didn't see it coming, didn't think it could happen.

Well, it's here. Do some research, educate yourself. Everybody can look up at the sky and see if it's red in the morning, sailor take warning, right? So the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then the sign of the son of man will appear in heaven and the tribes, these who have aggregated themselves around special interests, certain letters of the alphabet, certain lifestyles are going to mourn when they see this sign because it is anathema. It is the opposite of everything that unites them. And they will see the son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

All of this is in the clouds of heaven, where the lightning is, where the Eagles descend, where the clouds of power and great glory are visible. Notice verse 31, he will send his angels with the great sound of a trumpet. We have that same pattern at the rapture, the shout, the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God.

And we've seen what each of those three things do at the rapture. You remember, don't have time to review it. He will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they will gather together his elect from the four winds from one end of heaven to the other.

Remember, there are two gatherings at the end of the millennial kingdom. One is gather out everything that offends. He's already covered that up in verse 28.

Now the tears, so to speak, having been gathered out, he's going to gather his elect from the four winds of heaven, from the grave, from wherever they've been scattered during the tribulation, those that fled to the hills. And they are going to be brought together to start the millennial kingdom. The angels will first gather and dispense with the dead bodies, pictured as we've seen at the end of the millennium with the tears, same pattern here, that which offends will be taken out first.

Then the chosen will be gathered by the angels. Isn't it interesting that God just doesn't transport them? God uses means. He's going to send his angels to accomplish this in the same way that he's going to send the Lord Jesus to come get us.

We don't just transport into heaven. We don't transport into God's presence. We don't transport to glory.

God uses means and mechanisms. He, in many cases, follows the laws of physics and time and space that he himself established when he created this universe. And so the Lord will appear in the sky.

At our rapture, he descends, and we rise to meet him in the air. Notice there is no rising above the ground in this case, because this is not the rapture. This is the second coming when the Lord Jesus is going to come to earth.

But these powers and this situation are pictured for us in great detail. Turn with me quickly now. We've got just a few minutes to Jeremiah chapter 30.

Jeremiah chapter 30. The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. For behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will bring back from captivity my people Israel and Judah, says the Lord.

I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. The first fulfillment of this was after the Babylonian captivity, the return that we've seen in our post-exilic prophet days. But the ultimate fulfillment is what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 24.

Thus says the Lord, We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now and see whether a man is ever in labor with a child. So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins, like a woman in labor, and all faces turning pale? Alas, for that day is great.

There is none like it. It is the time of Jacob's trouble. This is the tribulation.

The fullness of Jeremiah's prophecy is in its latter-day fulfillment. But he shall be saved out of it. It shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds.

Foreigners shall no more enslave them. They shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. David is going to rule in the millennial kingdom.

You heard it from the Lord God through Jeremiah. Therefore do not fear, O my servant, Jacob says the Lord, nor be dismayed, O Israel. For behold, I will save you from afar and your seed from the land of Israel.

I will not let you go unpunished. For I am with you, says the Lord, to save you. Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, I will not make a complete end of you, but I will correct you in justice and will not let you go altogether unpunished.

There is going to be a sorting and a separation. There is a remnant. Thus says the Lord, your affliction is incurable, your wound is severe.

There is no one to plead your cause, that you may be bound up. You have no healing medicines. Your lovers have forgotten you.

They do not seek you. For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the

chastisement of a cruel one. For the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased.

Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased. I have done these things to you. Therefore, all those who devour you shall be devoured.

Your adversaries, every one of them shall go into captivity. Those who plunder you shall become plunder. All who pray upon you, I will make a prey.

The eagles are going to descend and pick these dead carcasses clean and carry them away. I will restore health to you and heal you of your wound, says the Lord. Because they called you an outcast saying, this is Zion, no one seeks her.

Thus says the Lord, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents and have mercy on his dwelling places. The city shall be built on its own mound and the palace shall remain according to its own plan. Out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry.

Notice in the days after the captivity, David's palace, Solomon's palace was never rebuilt in Jerusalem. There's never been a kingly palace there. This is in the days that Jesus is talking about.

When the angels gather God's elect from the four winds, resuscitate them and bring them into the land, there will be the Davidic palace with the Davidic throne in Zion. And the remnant who pass under the rod and are allowed in are going to dwell in that land. It harks forward to the days of the kingdom of the Father when those who qualify by faith and patience will enter into the new Jerusalem where God's throne is and where the throne of the Lamb is.

And the Lamb is the light. There's no need of the sun or the moon because the Lamb is the light. But that light will shine forth from that and be gradually diminished as you get further and further away from that city.

Notice verse 19, the voice of thanksgiving and those who make merry. I will multiply them and they shall not diminish. I will glorify them and they shall not be small.

Their children also shall be as before. Children, millennial kingdom. Their congregation shall be established before me.

I will punish all who oppress them. Their nobles shall be from among them and their governors shall come from their midst. These are the humble and the common, not the noble birth, not the Pharisees, not the Sadducees, not the Sanhedrin types.

The common people are going to be elevated to rulership because of those who are

faithful in that which is least will be faithful in that which is much. You've been faithful in a few things. I will make you ruler over many things.

And the physical government on the earth will be composed of people you would never expect. From the common people, governor will come from their midst. I will cause him to draw near and he shall approach me.

For who is this who pledged his heart to approach me, says the Lord, you shall be my people and I will be your God. The whirlwind of the Lord goes forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind. It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.

The fierce anger of the Lord will return until he has done it and until he has performed the intents of his heart. In the latter days, you'll figure it out. You will consider it.

At that same time, this is chapter 31, Jeremiah, at that same time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord, the people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness. Israel, when I went to give him rest, the Lord has appeared of old to me saying, yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love.

Remember our study in Malachi, we're coming up to several resonant portions of this. I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore, with loving kindness, I have drawn you.

And again, I will build you and you shall be rebuilt. Oh, virgin of Israel, you shall again be adorned with your tambourines and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria.

The planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food. There shall be a day when the watchman will cry on Mount Ephraim, arise and let us go up to Zion to the Lord, our God. I wish we had time to read all of this, but skip over to chapter 32.

Chapter 32, verse 31, this city has been to me a provocation of my anger and my fury from the day they built it even to this day. So I will remove it from before my face because of the evil of the children of Israel and the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger. Verse 33, they have turned their back to me and not the face, though I taught them rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction.

This is the criteria for who's in and who's out. They've set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name to defile it. And this will be ultimately fulfilled with the abomination that causes desolation.

They caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire to Molech in verse 35. Verse 36, therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel concerning this city, it shall be

delivered into the hand of the King of Babylon by the sword, by famine, by pestilence. I will gather them out of all the countries where I've driven them in my anger, in my fury and in great wrath.

I will bring them back to this place and I will cause them to dwell safely. And you go seamlessly forward from the days of the Babylonian captivity to the day that Jesus is talking about in Matthew 24. They shall be my people and I will be their God.

I will give them one heart and one way that they may fear me forever for the good of them and their children after them. What's he talking about? Is he going to change an individual human heart? He's going to change the heart of the nation of Israel because the only people allowed in are people who have this heart. So the nation will have this heart because it is composed of God's chosen, those who were chosen because of the decisions they made in this life.

I will make an everlasting covenant with them, verse 40, that I will not turn away from doing them good. I will put my fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from me. I will rejoice over them to do good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and all my soul.

Thus says the Lord, just as I brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them. Fields will be bought in the land of which you say it is desolate. Remember God has Jeremiah go and buy a field and we saw the 30 pieces of silver and the potter's field and that when we were doing Malachi.

Men will buy fields for money, sign deeds and seal them, verse 44, take witnesses. And he is going to restore and renew the ministry of Judah and the ministry of Levi that we've seen in Malachi. Remember those two tribes were called out in the heart of the book of Malachi.

Flip over to chapter 33, verse 19. The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, thus says the Lord, if you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night so that there will not be day and night in their season, then my covenant may also be broken with David, my servant, so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne and with the Levites, the priests, my ministers. Notice the same two tribes in Malachi are here in Jeremiah 33, verse 21, Judah, David, my servant and the Levites.

Verse 22, the host of heaven cannot be numbered nor the sand of the sea measured. So I will multiply the descendants of David, my servant and the Levites who minister to me. Judah personified in David and the Levites.

Remember the families, David's families that were mourning in the earlier chapters of Malachi. Have you not considered what the people have spoken saying the two families which the Lord has chosen, he has cast them off. This is the essence of the book of

Malachi.

The proud prevail and the righteous suffer. God has cast off Judah and Levi and God says, no, I haven't. The two families the Lord has chosen, he's cast them off.

Thus they have despised my people so that they should no more be a nation before them. Verse 25, thus says the Lord, if my covenant is not with day and night, if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, even though the powers are going to be shaken, God is still in control. Then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David, my servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

I will cause their captives to return and I will have mercy on them. Fascinating how the Lord Jesus draws on the heart and the meat of Old Testament prophecy to inform his disciples who will soon be apostles about the nature of the sign of the Son of Man appearing in heaven, the powers shaken, the light will be dimmed, but there was darkness and disturbance and chaos just before God prepared the earth for life. In Genesis 1, there is going to be darkness just before God prepares the earth for the Millennial Kingdom.

And in the same way that Genesis 1 ends with God resting on the seventh day, the preparation for the Millennial Kingdom, the passing under the rod, the judgment, the cleansing, the taking away of that which offends at the beginning is going to result in that long seventh day of the Millennial Kingdom. It's symmetrical. God is consistent.

God is predictable. God honors his promise. He says, you know how day and night are predictable? That's how predictable I am.

My covenants are as sure as sunrise in the morning and sunset at night. And what an assurance we have that God will fulfill his promises to us who turn our hearts and dedicate our ways to faithfulness and obedience. He will never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Well, much more to say, but we'll look at it next time. We'll close here in a word of prayer. Father, thank you for the truth of your Word.

Thank you for the wonderful words and works of the Lord Jesus that we get to experience fourfold in the Gospels. What an encouragement and assurance to us as we look at your dealings with the nation of Israel and see the consistency and the faithfulness in your expressions of love toward them. We know that that same love is expressed through the Lord Jesus Christ to us.

We pray that as we reflect on these truths, that the Holy Spirit will impress them on our hearts, help us to understand their importance and their application in the hours and days that remain to us. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

