

11-1-1943

Outlines on the Old Standard Gospel Lessons

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Recommended Citation

Laetsch, Theo. (1943) "Outlines on the Old Standard Gospel Lessons," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 14, Article 66.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol14/iss1/66>

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Yes, death and decay on all sides! But God has promised protection. God exchanges Adam's flimsy garments with permanent ones. Creation must serve man, that is God's promise.

In this global war we must *trust absolutely in the promises of God's providential care*. The more we realize our own unworthiness, the more gratefully shall we receive every evidence, no matter how small, of God's grace and benevolence. Amen.

F. E. MAYER

Outlines on the Old Standard Gospel Lessons

First Sunday in Advent

Matt. 21:1-9

The beginning of the new church year falls upon days of world-wide turmoil and upheaval, upon difficult, dangerous, critical times for world and Church, family and individual. Yet the same age-old message of v. 5 is still being proclaimed, and 2 Cor. 6:2 is still true. Let us welcome our King!

Blessed be the King that Cometh in the Name of the Lord!

1. *He comes as the King of power*
2. *As the King of grace*
3. *As the King of glory*

1

While Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, John 18:36, yet He is the powerful King of the universe, Matt. 11:27; 28:18. He shapes the events of time according to His eternal plans. His whole life's history proves this, particularly the events of the last days of His life, so contrary to expectations of His friends and the schemes of His enemies, yet planned by Him down to the least detail, Matt. 16:21; 26:1-5. He rules the life of the individual, Text, vv. 1-5; Luke 22:10-16; the history of the Church and world, Matt. 24:1-35.

This powerful ruler comes to you again today! In these days of uncertainty and heartaches he tells you Matt. 10:30, 31; Rom. 8:28; and invites you, Matt. 11:28-30. Welcome Him and obey Him as did the disciples, v. 6. Do His will in days of joy and of sorrow, in humble tasks as well as important duties. Exemplify!

May we, being sinners, welcome and serve the powerful King and Judge of the world? Surely! He is at the same time the King of grace.

2

As such He has been announced in the Old Testament in the prophecies from Gen. 3:15 to Mal. 4:2; as such He has proclaimed Himself Luke 4:18-21; 5:20; 7:22. Today He tells you Text v. 5.

Picture the grace of this King who came from heaven to die for sinners; who has forgiveness for our iniquities, who has compassion upon our infirmities, who sympathizes with us in our sorrows, has rich comfort for our heartaches, provides strength for every evil hour, is our Savior-King, our royal Helper and Friend.

Welcome Him gladly! Rejoice in His grace! Submit to His gracious will! As the poor disciples gave their garments, so give freely of your time and money and talents, so that His kingdom of grace and peace and joy may come to many who are still strangers to the blessings which you are enjoying and with you enter into everlasting life, which He, the King of glory, shall give to all His own.

3

He comes indeed as the King of glory despite His lowly appearance, v. 5. As such He was announced in the word of prophecy, Ps. 110:1; Is. 26:7, 8; 27:19; Dan. 7:14; and confessed Job 19:25-27; and proclaimed by Himself Matt. 25:31-46; John 5:24-29. No matter what your lot may be in this life, your King of glory is coming to you to be your Friend and Guide through life's vicissitudes. As His path led from cross to crown, so He will lead you through the darkest valleys to that eternal city where there is no more woe, no more darkness, where joy supreme shall fill our hearts, where we who suffered with Him shall also rule with Him in glory, Rev. 21:33-22:7.

Welcome Him! Let not your heart be troubled! Let not the dangers, the temptations, the sorrows of these trying days wipe out the grateful memory of your Savior-King. Let His power be your strength, His grace your comfort and incentive, His glory your sure confidence. Remain His loyal servant here and you will rule with Him in glory.

THEO. LAETSCH

Second Sunday in Advent

Luke 21:25-36

Will this earth last forever? Or will the day come when our planet will be destroyed? Scientists say that the sun's energy is being used up and that by and by the dusk and night will arrive, although they add in a comforting way that it will be millions of years before all life on our globe will be annihilated (Young's *Astronomy*, 4th edition, par. 358).

The Word of God is specific in saying that the end will come. Cf. v. 33. It is important that we study what it has to say about that great catastrophe. Our text is one of the passages giving us information.

The End of the World**1**

The end will be preceded by signs. As to the signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, we think especially of eclipses and of showers of meteors. "The powers of heaven" is a term which is variously explained. It refers either to sun, moon, and stars, or merely to the stars. On earth there will be roaring of the sea and tidal waves causing anxiety and extreme fear. All such things have happened; they are happening still.

2

Jesus does not reveal the date. The signs unfold gradually, as the budding of the trees in springtime. Happening as they do, they always proclaim, The end is coming, without giving a date. They are not intended to reveal to us the exact day or year of the final catastrophe. As far as we can judge, the end may come today.

3

The end of the world will be followed immediately by the Judgment. Cf. v. 36. All will be gathered before the Son of man. The great assizes will be held; the dead (in whose case the verdict has already been rendered by anticipation), now raised up, and the living will receive the final decision.

4

Constant preparedness is necessary. Many people think they can and must fix the date. How foolish! What is needed is readiness at all times. Jesus does not speak of the signs to satisfy our curiosity, but to bring about in us a proper state of heart and mind. The Last Day will be a "snare" for the evildoers, the unrighteous, the unbelievers. They will be caught in it as drunken people in a burning house that cannot be awakened in time. Preparation for the final consummation consists in true repentance; sorrow over our sins and faith in Christ as the Savior. The place of refuge are the wounds of the Redeemer. He who has sought safety there can stand before that awful throne. W. ARNDT.

