

# Luke 21:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up,  
and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

## Analysis

**And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.** While unbelievers' hearts fail (v. 26), believers receive opposite commands—*anakyptate kai eparate tas kephalas hymōn* (ἀνακύψατε καὶ ἐπάρατε τὰς κεφαλὰς ὑμῶν, "straighten up and lift up your heads"). Both verbs are aorist imperatives—decisive commands. *Anakyptō* (ἀνακύπτω) means to straighten up from a stooped position, to look up; *epairō* (ἐπαίρω) means to lift up, raise. The posture contrasts despair's bowed head with hope's uplifted gaze.

The timing is *archomenōn de toutōn ginesthai* (ἀρχομένων δὲ τούτων γίνεσθαι, "when these things begin to happen")—not at completion but at commencement. When cosmic signs start, believers should respond with eager anticipation, not terror. The reason: *dioti engizei hē apolytrōsis hymōn* (διότι ἐγγίζει ἡ ἀπολύτρωσις ὑμῶν, "because your redemption draws near"). The noun *apolytrōsis* (ἀπολύτρωσις) means release, deliverance, ransom—full salvation including bodily resurrection (Romans 8:23, Ephesians 4:30).

This verse reveals believers' radically different perspective on eschatological events. What terrifies unbelievers thrills believers—the same events signal judgment for some, redemption for others. The command to "lift up your heads" suggests confidence, dignity, joy—posture befitting those approaching liberation, not condemnation.

## Historical Context

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Early church faced persecution, marginalization, and mockery. Paul encouraged Thessalonians awaiting Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18), urging them to "comfort one another with these words." Throughout church history, persecuted believers have clung to Jesus' promise—present suffering is temporary; redemption approaches. The phrase "lift up your heads" echoes Psalm 24:7-9 ("Lift up your heads, O ye gates"), celebrating the King of glory's entrance. Christ's return is coronation day for believers—they inherit the kingdom prepared from the world's foundation (Matthew 25:34). This hope sustained martyrs, comforted the afflicted, and motivated holy living throughout two millennia.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can the same eschatological events cause terror in unbelievers but joyful anticipation in believers?
2. What does the command to 'lift up your heads' reveal about the dignity and confidence appropriate for those awaiting Christ's return?
3. How should the nearness of 'redemption' affect Christian endurance through present trials and persecution?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀρχομένων	δὲ	τούτων	γίνεσθαι	ἀνακύψατε	καὶ	
<b>begin</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>when these things</b>	<b>to come to pass</b>	<b>then look up</b>	<b>and</b>	
G756	G1161	G5130	G1096	G352	G2532	
ἐπάρατε	τὰς	κεφαλὰς	ὑμῶν	διότι	ἐγγίξει	ἡ
<b>lift up</b>	G3588	<b>heads</b>	<b>your</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>draweth nigh</b>	G3588
G1869		G2776	G5216	G1360	G1448	
ἀπολύτρωσις	ὑμῶν					
<b>redemption</b>	<b>your</b>					
G629	G5216					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 8:23** (Redemption): And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

**Ephesians 4:30** (Redemption): And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

**Romans 8:19** (Parallel theme): For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.