

J.J.

WATCH OUT FOR THE COMING DAYS Matthew 24:36-42

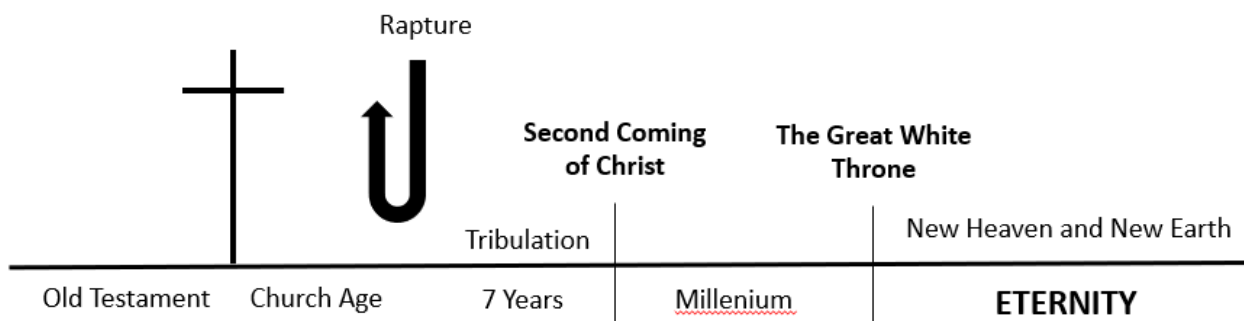
Matthew 24: 36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[f but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

INTRODUCTION :

This is the final part of what to Watch Out for in the coming days...

Quick Review that our Lord Jesus Christ was talking about His Second Coming and not the Rapture.



THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

SOUL
SIGNS
SON

I. WATCH OUT FOR YOUR OWN SOUL

9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

So watch out for your soul. Test yourself if you are in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13: 5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

So the question is, how do you watch out for your soul? How do you test it?

The question is, “How’s your love for Jesus?”

*1 Peter 1: 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 **Though you have not seen him, you love him;** and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Then we need to

II. WATCH OUT FOR THE SIGNS

Matthew 24: 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24: 32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

We gave examples of the different signs and it is God pouring out His judgement and wrath.

15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

Remember as mentioned earlier, this is the tribulation but the followers of Jesus Christ would have been raptured already as we shared last week.

1 Thessalonians 1: 10...wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 4: 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION : Did you know that dolphins sleep with one eye open? It's true.

They do so because they can only ever let one side of their brain sleep at a time. When the left side of the brain sleeps, the right eye will close, and vice versa. This isn't some weird, ambidextrous stunt they're pulling. Rather, it's because they must always remain partially conscious to remind themselves to breathe.

You see, dolphins, unlike most sea creatures, are not fish. They are mammals. As such, they need to surface regularly to take in air. And for dolphins, breathing is not automatic or reflexive the way it is for humans. "In other words," say the experts at us.whales.org, "dolphins have to actively decide when to breathe, ... [They] alternate which half of the brain is sleeping periodically so that they can get the rest they need without ever losing consciousness."

If a dolphin were ever to go into deep, full-brain, total unconscious sleep, they would simply suffocate or drown.

It's just like us with our souls, yes, if you are really a true believer, we will be raptured before the tribulation but the Word of God is still saying to us...

1 Thessalonians 5: 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why? Because in the previous verse, Paul writes...

1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

We'll discuss further as we'll talk about **WATCH OUT FOR THE SON** according to our Lord Jesus in **Matthew 24**

III. WATCH OUT FOR THE SON

How will it be like when the Lord comes back again.

1. HE WILL BE SEEN BY EVERYBODY

It's not a private event.

*26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' **do not believe it.***

Remember last week, we talked about people claiming to be the Christ or the Messiah. Nope, the Second Coming of our Lord is not in the countryside or in Davao. He will not be teaching somewhere in a cave or in a room

Application : A lot of people are deceived because people come and go with new revelations from God saying,

- Saw God and Jesus in a vision
- Or an angel visited a person

- Or he was inside a cave

Remember this, Jesus has already arrived 2000 years ago and was already the fulfillment of God's revelation to man. Anything that adds to the Bible or to the Word of God is wrong. Jesus has already told us that He will come back again and...

It's going to be a worldwide spectacular event.

27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Lightning is spectacular and is seen by a lot of people.

We shared that with you last week as we studied the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming. Here it is again in Revelation regarding our Lord's SecondComing.

Revelation 19: 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

*KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.*

Look at what Revelation 1 says :

*Revelation 1: 7 "Look, he is coming with the clouds,"
and "every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him";
and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him."
So shall it be! Amen.*

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

That's why in Matthew 24:30

30 "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Before this was something of a dispute and unbelievers are using this to show that the Bible is not true. It's because they were saying how can people all over the world will see this event?

But there was no Internet before, now look at these stats from Broadband search.net

2022 General Internet Usage Statistics

With a current worldwide estimated population of 7.9 billion, approximately 5.25 billion people have access to and use the Internet. This means that's 66.2% of world's population uses the internet.

- From the year 2000 to 2022, the usage of the Internet increased by 1,355%

<https://www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/internet-statistics>

Now, what is the prediction when it comes to internet usage :

Now this was written in 2019

Humans On The Internet Will Triple From 2015 To 2022 And Hit 6 Billion

90 percent of the human population, aged 6 years and older, will be online by 2030

<https://cybersecurityventures.com/how-many-internet-users-will-the-world-have-in-2022-and-in-2030/>

Now look at this headline from Popular Mechanics :

Elon Musk's Internet for Everyone is Coming Very soon

SpaceX's Starlink could be months away from bringing the world online.

- SpaceX's Starlink has over 400 satellites in orbit of a planned 40,000

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a32266155/elon-musk-spacex-starlink-internet-testing/>

Now look at this video? It's a rocket that came from outer space making a landing on a drone ship at sea...It means it's unmanned...Why? In order that they can go up to space and back again more efficiently. What are they doing there? They need the satellites to be up in no time. This was 6 years ago...which means, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sJIFzUQVmY>

Now do you think now that it is impossible for everyone to see the Son of Man coming from the clouds?

ALL OF THESE ARE PART OF GOD'S PLAN!!!

Now you as a child of God, this is a reason we can put our full trust in Him because God is in total control even of the future.

That's why when He says :

Hebrews 13: 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you;

never will I forsake you."

6 So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?"

That's why the Psalmist said...

Psalm 23:6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me

*all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

**We need not be afraid of anything...
But here's the dreadful news.**

When the Lord comes the second time, it will not be to save people but to eke out just punishment to unbelievers.

28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

A carcass is the body of a dead animal. And you know vultures, they circle around and tear away the carcass of dead animals.

What does this mean? You know carcass stinks, it's dead, it's decaying, it's corrupting..
In short, the world is decaying and full of sin and perversion. It's dead. It doesn't know God.

Look at what the Bible says against sinful humanity

Romans 1: 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Look at how dead man is without Christ.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

This is what Paul says to Timothy

2 Timothy 3: 1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

So this is carcass and vultures will come in. It means He is describing what will happen to them when Jesus Christ comes again for the second time. It's not as Saviour but as Righteous Judge.

They will be torn out.

Let's read again how the Lord will come back the second time.

Revelation 19: 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame

*of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood**, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. **He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:*

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Now, let's see again the reaction of men who did not put their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour... when they see Him as Righteous Judge in His Second Coming.

*Revelation 1: 7 "Look, he is coming with the clouds,"
and "every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him";
and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him."*

So shall it be! Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

*Matthew 24 : 30 "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. **And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn** when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, **with power and great glory**."*

Etymology : mourn, in KJV wail (kopto)

Interesting word here because it means to cut; to smite; this is repeated blows...
Same word used also of cutting down branches.

Now, based on context and based on the original language the wailing here... a loud cry. It's not because of regret... or it's not because they lost someone...

THEY ARE WAILING BECAUSE OF FEAR, BECAUSE OF TERROR!!!

If someone is hacking you with a bolo or a knife, what's your reaction? YOU ARE WAILING OUT OF TERROR! That's the reaction of unbelievers when Christ comes back again.

This is the reason why the world is decaying. Why?

Romans 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Look at what our Lord Jesus says :

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Now if people don't fear Him today, one of these days, they will be wailing out of fear of Him when He comes back again in judgement.

STORY :

There was this atheist professor who mocks students who were Christians by asking them if they believe in God. So one time, this professor asked a Christian student, do you believe in God? The student said, "Yes." So the professor said, "If God is real, I will mock Him and curse Him and if He is real, since I insulted Him, then since God of yours who is Almighty should strike me down, dead." So the professor started cursing, insulting and mocking God and after a few minutes of doing that, the professor looked at the student, "See, nothing happened to me so there is no Almighty God." The student replied, "Professor, with all due respect, God is also loving and patient and since He has been patient with you all your life, He is still being patient with you right now."

That's what a lot of people are believing, if God is real then why does it seem that nothing is happening in their life in spite of their unbelief or why is He not doing anything to others who have done evil

Now, let me read for you this last passage :

2 Peter 3: 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

*8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. **Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.***

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Next week :

2. HE WILL COME AGAIN SUDDENLY

3. BELIEVERS SHOULD BE SERVING FAITHFULLY.

S.G.D.