

J.J.

WATCH OUT FOR THE COMING DAYS

Matthew 24:36-42

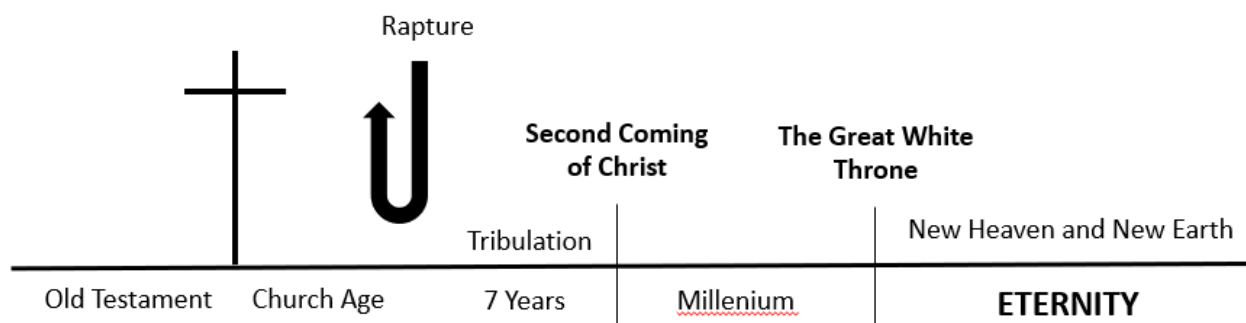
Matthew 24: 36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, [f but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, 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.

III. WATCH OUT FOR THE SON according to our Lord Jesus in Matthew 24

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

1. HE WILL BE SEEN BY EVERYBODY

It’s not a private event. It’s going to be a worldwide spectacular 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.** 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.*

*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.***

Last week, by God’s grace, I’ve shown extensively how it is not impossible today because of the internet age.

2. HE WILL COME AGAIN SUDDENLY

Do you know in the course of history, there are many what you call date-setters?

Date-setters are person who sets a date to when Jesus is coming back.

- The more recent one is Harold Camping wrote that somewhere between September 15 and September 27, 1994. He even wrote, "I will be surprised if we reach October 1, 1994"... Although he offered a back up date of 2011 if 1994 was wrong.

(show photo)

This is Harold camping followers that it begins May 21, 2011

Some of the recent or famous ones.

- Christopher Columbus predicted the end-of-the world. He even wrote a volume in a book called "The Book of Prophecies" He predicted that end of the world will happen in year 1656.
- Jehovah's Witness predicted that Christ will return in 1914, then 1918, then 1920, then 1925, then 1941, then 1975 and then 1994
- David Koresh calculated that the end of the world will happen in 1995
- A Korean pastor Lee Jang Rim predicted the Rapture to happen on October 28, 1992. He embezzled 4.4M dollars of his 10,000 cult followers. The followers believed that Jesus will come in the Sydney Harbor at 9:00 a.m. There was even a large countdown and then nothing happened... after an hour, the leaders disappeared. Some members committed suicide.
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- And remember Y2K? when year 2000 came, there were a lot of predictions that's the time Jesus will come. There was a very popular book called "The Bible Code", that predicted World War III will start in year 2000 and there will be a worldwide atomic holocaust.
- **It also happened in the Philippines, a sect called Rizalistas flocked to Mount Banahaw which they believe is a Holy Mountain...they predicted major earthquakes, famine, calamities of Biblical proportion...countdown. Nothing happened.**

When you hear date-setters, don't trust them. Don't believe them.

Our Lord Jesus is very clear.

Matthew 24: 36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Now, the question is, why hasn't he come back yet? What is He waiting for? Let's look at the Bible.

Revelation 14 : 14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man[b] with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

What are they harvesting? This is not the same harvest Jesus talked about in John 4 about souls being saved.

7 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.

Remember, the harvest here are the ones who will be suffering God's wrath.

In short when the wickedness of this earth has reached its peak.,

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

Matthew 24: 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

He is waiting to gather all the saints.

Romans 11:25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

That's why in verse 14 of Matthew 24

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.

And again, this is not impossible anymore nowadays because of the age of the internet.

Why is our Lord waiting until the end?

2 Peter 3: 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.

Now when the time is ripe...again look at what the Bible says :

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.

Illustration : Two years ago, there was a spate of petty robberies happening in our neighborhood.

They opened garages and stole bikes. One time also, I opened my car and all of the things in my glove compartment was on the floor and the seat. The worst thing is that during winter, my neighbor was warming up the engine of his car and when he went inside, his car was gone, somebody took it.

That's how the Lord will come back again. When we think we're safe. When we think nothing's going to happen because everything seems to be normal anyway. Look at what our Lord said.

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.

Eating and drinking and marrying is not a sin. It's a normal part of life. We do these things when everything is normal. Remember during the time of COVID, when wedding dates were pushed back because those were abnormal times.

Our Lord even further elaborates :

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.

Remember, they were an agricultural economy during that time.

Note : The men goes to the field to harvest and then brings it home where the woman grind what the men harvested.

Again, it's routine. You go to work and then go back home. And that's the time, our Lord Jesus will come again when people think it's just a normal day.

Look at what the Bible says when the Day of the Lord happens :

1 Thessalonians 5: 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. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

When people think everything is normal. Everything is safe, that's when the Lord will come.

So as His followers, what should we be doing while the Lord hasn't returned yet.

3. BELIEVERS SHOULD BE SERVING FAITHFULLY.

- **Keep watching for His return.**

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.

Etymology : watch "gregoreo" - you give strict attention to. It's like you're watching to make sure no calamity happens.

Illustration: Last year, some of you might remember that we have 2 huge pine trees at the side of our house. It happened on a Saturday. Usually, we don't go out on Saturdays but that day, my wife and Mica had to buy something so they took the van and then I decided to take the car to go to Home Depot. Thirty minutes after, there was a strong wind that there was even an amber alert on it. My wife and I were calling each other. My wife decided to check our door camera and she saw that there was something blocking the driveway. When we got home, it was one of the huge pine trees. It's 60-ft tall that fell on the drive way with only an inch from the gutter of the house. If the car was there, it would have been smashed or if the wind pushed it 2 feet to the right, it would have fell on our house and it would have been a disaster. I watched the recording on how it fell and it was sudden, not slow.

Now there was one more tree left. We had it cut already. But before it was cut, whenever there's a strong wind, I will praying to the Lord and I'm really looking outside the window and watching that tree...sometimes even at night.

Application : That tree was a reminder that anytime, our Lord can come again soon. So we better be ready and keep watching.

This is the reason why I always say, that the test of prosperity is harder than the test of poverty.

Why? It's because when everything seems normal, when money is ok or when our health is ok, our tendency is to forget the Lord.

That's why sometimes, if you're a true Christian, whenever there's a problem. We sometimes say, "Lord, let this be the day that you come back already."

Do you know that's the reason why our Lord allows trials and sufferings in our lives? So that we will be aware that there is a much better world, that the ultimate happiness is not found in this world but in Christ alone.

Look at what Peter wrote :

1 Peter 4: 12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice in as much as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

- **Keep serving until His return.**

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

By the way, you know that word "Watch"

Etymology : gregoreo but it comes from "egeiro" - to awake from sleep.

Now Jesus is saying "Watch" – wag tutulog-tulog...instead keep on serving me.

Example : Instead of you sleeping, go to church. Serve in church.

Remember, a lot of people go to church trying to find ways for what they can get.

Example : I want to be encouraged. I want to be motivated. I want to know what God says...

This is all good. But make sure you're also going to church to find ways to what you can give or serve others.

EXAMPLE : Find a person you can encourage and etc. Call a person who you can encourage.

Why should we keep on serving?

47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Again, there will be rewards coming from the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION : This is the reason why after Jesus explained this, in Matthew 25, he told the parable of the ten virgins where the 5 virgins were waiting for the groom while the others were relaxing. What happened is the ones who were waiting were the ones who enjoyed the wedding banquet.

Then our Lord told the parable of the servant.

To those who were serving the master faithfully, there were great rewards and our Lord said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Now, we will have to end this in a sobering note :

Illustration : I remember my brother-in-law telling the story that one time he got home drunk so while he was washing his face, my mother-in-law came in with Vicks and put Vicks all over his face and then washed his face. Drunkenness went away.

Now here is how our Lord ended this chapter.

48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Note : The wickedness of the servant here, just shows that he is not saved. He doesn't even care if the our Lord is coming back soon or not and continues with his wicked ways. A time will coming when that person thinks everything is "peace and safety" "eating and drinking and weddings" "going back and forth to work" When the Lord comes back again...TERROR and it will be too late.

CONCLUSION :

One of the workmates of my wife, he was excited for his retirement. He was just in a corner of the office. This is before the pandemic. He didn't go anywhere. News went around that he was saving all his money to go on a big vacation when he retires. A few days before he retired, he was found lying on the floor in the office – died of a heart attack.

Let me end with the Word of God :

Hebrews 3:15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

SO FOR 2023 AND BEYOND, WATCH OUT FOR JESUS IN THE COMING DAYS.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S.G.D.