

The Second Coming – Sudden and Unexpected

Sermon 71 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 24:36-51

I. No Timetable is Given for our Lord’s Return – Matt. 24:36, 42

(see also 25:13)

A. We should not take the Words Day and Hour Literally.

B. “Nor the Son” (This is omitted in some translations)

The parallel passage in Mark 13:32 says “nor the Son”.

How could Jesus be God not know the appointed date of His return?

The answer is found in the hypostatic union and the two natures of Christ.

It is stated well in the Council of Chalcedon “perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man”.

C. Two Important Points that are Missed by So Many

1. There are no signs of the Second Coming – so that Christians in all ages will be diligent and watch – and this is repeated over and over in the Olivet Discourse.

2. Linked with the Second Coming you will usually find the Final Judgment.

1 Thess. 4:13-18 with 5:1-11

We are comforted by Christ’s Return – and so shall we ever be with the Lord. But his coming will take the lost by complete surprise – as a thief in the night.

We, as Christians are safe and protected from the judgment that will fall on all those through the ages who have rejected God and in these latter days rejected the Son and remain in their sin.

II. His Return will be Unexpected -- Matt. 24:37-44

A. The Days of Noah -- Matt. 24:37-39

Parallel passage -- Luke 17:24-37

B. One Taken and another Left 40-41

McArthur Study Bible – “that is – taken in judgment (see v. 39) just as in Noah’s day (“took them” v. 39). This is clearly not a reference to the catching away of believers (secret rapture).

The point is – there is a DIVISION.

A sudden and surprising separation of people.

Not a 50/50 division – but the world split into two parts.

Those who will belong to the Lord – and vindicated at the last day.

Those who will be judged – and condemned at the last day.

See Chapter 32 of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith.

C. Be Ready 42-44

The Day of the Lord comes – as a thief – suddenly and unexpectedly!

2 Peter 3:10-11 -- But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night**, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 -- But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly **that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night**. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, **so that this Day should overtake you as a thief**.

Revelation 3:3 -- Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, **I will come upon you as a thief**, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 16:15 -- Behold, **I am coming as a thief**. Blessed is he who watches

III. The Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servant 45-51

One servant is faithful – while the other servant is wicked.

One servant is rewarded -- while the other suffers.

It is obvious – this is again dividing mankind into two categories.

Final Applications