

The Second Coming of Christ

Matthew 24:23-51

Introduction:

- Review – why does God tell us about future events?
 1. So that we know His p_____
 2. So that we trust in His p_____
 3. So that we adjust to His p_____
- Jesus has revealed that someday He will return a second time.
 1. If we get this doctrine wrong, we may end up acting contrary to the way God desires as individuals and as a c_____.
 2. If we accept Jesus's words – we will live productive lives as an individual and as a church.

Jesus will come visibly – every e_____ will see Him (23-31)

- What is one way that people will be deceived about Jesus's coming? – They will listen to c_____ that Jesus has returned.
 1. Verse 23 – don't b_____ anyone's claim.
 2. Verse 24 – even if that person displays m_____ powers, don't believe them.
 3. Some believers will not listen to Jesus (v. 25) and be d_____ (the word elect refers to believers).
- The Seventh Day Adventist, Christian Science Church, and Jehovah's Witnesses arose out of the belief of an invisible return.
- The metaphor of lightning flashing from east to west (v. 27)
 1. Is in contrast to what the false prophets say, namely that you have to _____ here or there to see that Christ has returned.
 2. Illustrates that one can _____ it from where they are.
- The metaphor of the vultures gathering around a corpse (v. 28) – Applies to the false p_____ who prey on rottenness as they twist Christ's words.
- Jesus's return will be visible to every individual (vv. 30, 31)
 1. The sign will appear in the sky
 - a. I Thess 4:16,17 – the Lord will descend with a s_____ and with the blast of a t_____.
 - b. I Cor 15:52 – it will occur at the blast of the l_____ trumpet.
 - c. Rev 8:2 tells us there will be _____ trumpets, the last one envisioned in Rev 11:15 – a heavenly announcement.

2. At the trumpet, believers will be gathered up (Matt 24:31) and all the tribes on the earth (unbelievers) will m_____ as they see Jesus coming (Matt 24:30) – see also Rev 1:7.
 - a. Remember that by this time the g_____ will have been preached to the whole world (Matt 24:14).
 - b. The gathering up of believers all happens in a _____ of an eye (I Cor 15:52; I Thess 4:16,17; 5:23,24)

Jesus will come s_____ (37-41)

- Verse 29 states that immediately after the tribulation of those days there will be a heavenly shaking.
 1. The word translated as *tribulation* (NIV – *distress*; NLT – *anguish*) is the one Jesus talked about in verse 21. – it refers to the events leading up to the destruction of the t_____.
 2. The word translated as *immediately* can also mean *suddenly* (e.g. Matt 13:5 is where it cannot mean immediately but must mean suddenly – seeds do not instantaneously sprout when hitting shallow soil, but they do sprout suddenly).
 - a. Since the heavenly shaking and Christ’s return has not happened yet, then *immediately* is not what Jesus meant.
 - b. Later, Jesus gives metaphors of suddenness.
- The metaphors of suddenness
 1. The flood in Noah’s day suddenly s_____ the people away as they were having a good time (v. 37 – see I Thess 5:2).
 2. Two men will be in the field, one will suddenly be t_____ and the other left (sounds like vv. 30,31)
 3. Two women will be grinding at the mill, one will suddenly be taken and the other left.
- Side note as to the three pronged question of the disciples and the order that Jesus answered them.
 1. The three questions (v. 3)
 - a. When will these things (the temple’s destruction) happen?
 - b. What will be the sign of Your c_____?
 - c. What will be the sign of the e_____ of the age?
 2. Jesus’s answers
 - a. He answers their last question, first (vv. 4-14)
 - 1) He first tells them what is NOT the sign of the end.
 - 2) Then He gives them the sign as the preaching of the g_____ to the whole world.

- b. He answers their first question, second (vv. 15-35)
 - 1) He tells them to look for the abomination of desolation to avoid the coming Jewish tribulation (vv. 15-22)
 - 2) He has a parenthetical note on false prophets teaching an i_____ return when in fact it will be visible (vv. 23-31)
 - 3) He returns to the subject of the destruction and tells them how they know that it is n_____. (Some translations read, *He is near*, but there is no pronoun he. The verb is in the 3rd person singular and so can be translated as either, *he*, *she*, or *it*.)
- c. He answers their second question, last (36-41)
 - 1) No one k_____ the exact time.
 - 2) It will happen s_____
 - 3) Therefore be on the a_____

We must live expectantly – expecting His return (42-51)

- If we knew the exact time of Jesus's return, we would have no problem being on the alert
 1. The example of knowing the time of night that a _____ would break into your house and rob you (v. 43)
 2. But Jesus is going to come at a time that NO ONE will e_____ (v. 44).
- Therefore, it takes effort to be on the alert, which is illustrated by the following scenarios of a master leaving after giving his slave the responsibility of managing his household (vv. 45-51)
 1. The first scenario – the slave is f_____ and is rewarded when his master returns.
 2. The slave does not expect his master to return for a while and lives a c_____ free life, abusing his stewardship. He is severely p_____ when his master returns.
- How do we live in expectation of Jesus's return? – next message.