

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Watch! Be Ready!

Matthew 24:32–25:13

We don't have to be scared of knowing about the End

- Head in the sand or Sky is falling
- **Balanced belief**

Previously:

- End Times: Temple Prophecy, Signs of the End, Deception!
- Abomination of Desolation

Today:

- **Times & Seasons**
- **Start Parables on Preparation**

Parable - earthly story with a heavenly meaning

Jesus keeps telling us “beforehand?”

He wants us to understand TO BE READY

Maranatha *“The Lord is Coming” “Come, O Lord!”*

[Pray]

:32-35

Taught by a tree!

Do we ever look around and learn “glean wisdom” from nature? What we see?

Proverbs 6:6-8 - Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, Provides her supplies in the summer, [And] gathers her food in the harvest.

Prophets - Jeremiah asked what does he see? A branch of an almond tree...potter and clay...

Here a fig tree

- Third tree mentioned - tree of life, knowledge of Good & Evil, fig tree
- Leaves for Adam and Eve's covering
- Associated with prosperity, peace, security
- Symbolically Israel
- Jesus cursed it when one bore no fruit Mt. 21:18-19

We can tell seasons from a tree easily -

leaves changing back east, quaking aspen's yellow

What does Jesus want us to learn?

When we see these signs the season of judgment is arriving.

1 - The generation of the disciples was around for the Second Temple's destruction

Great video on the resources page > watch > educational videos

AD 66, 70

Remember, not the final fulfillment. But a type...just like "many antichrists" but not THE antichrist

2 - The generation that sees the Beginning of the End will see the End of the End

The end will be swift and severe

Isaiah 66:8 - Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? [Or] shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

May 14, 1948

My mom and dad born in 1942, they're still alive and well. Surely someone born in 1948 living to be 110 at the most gives us only 33 years...

Coming to salvation, 9/11, asteroids in this decade, swift push towards one-world government, currency, great falling away of the church/Laodicea...

Jesus assures us of this truth - heaven and earth will pass away

This world will end. Will die. Not just the world but the entire universe.

But his Word will not.

Matthew 5:17-18 - "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Creation's demise is promised in God's Word - and His Word never fails.

- Where is your trust?
- Where is your hope?
- On what do you build your life upon?

:36

That day and that hour...

The exact date and the exact time are not known to anyone but the Father.

He's got it planned. It's on His calendar.

Even the angels don't know...

Yet, many people claim all the time they know the date

ALL THE TIME

But my Father Only

"Have you not read?"

We can calculate Jesus' return from the covenant with Israel - 7 years

2,520 days, broken 1,260 days

What day can't we know? The rapture.

This is a sign of the end. False prophets. Many are deceived.

Media loves it because of the sensationalism and that it helps them make fun of Christianity and the real return of Jesus

But you! Know what the scripture says!

:37-39

Fig tree...now Noah

They knew their Bible and history

Jesus talks about Noah as a real event

A worldwide flood

Why should we believe otherwise?

Great Resource: Answers in Genesis

Ken Ham

So what were Noah's days like?

Turn to Genesis 6:1-8

(if not time) Genesis 6:5-6 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every intent of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

- **Men's hearts continually wicked, nephilim**
- **Enoch walked with God (Gen 5:24)**
- **Church and Israel**

Church raptured, Focus back on Israel

Church in Heaven Rev 4 on

We're not preserved THROUGH judgment

Our judgment was taken at the cross

We're given a DIFFERENT judgment

One of reward for righteousness

Not punishment of sin

So what will our days be like?

Eating, drinking, marrying...right up until the rain drops fell

"Men loved to fight" book

If time... Luke 17:28-30 - "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed [them] all. "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

DGCI means life centered around the normal things...life will be business as usual; reprobate perhaps, but usual.

A sign of the end is that people pay no attention to the end

- Ignorance
- Unbelief
- Lukewarmness
- Hard heartedness
- Worn out from hearing it all the time

Noah was ready for the judgment. Others were surprised and didn't understand.

:40-42

Some taken, some left behind

Home alone

Business as usual when it happens

Working together in field, in factory

“Be in the world but not of it”

What is our responsibility then?

To watch and not be idle.

Your Lord

Is he Your Lord?

Master? Boss? Shepherd?

Are you actually following from Him? Learning FROM him?

Not just ABOUT Him?

If you are, you will be watching.

If something else is your master, you won't be paying attention.

Are you busy about kingdom business?

Ready for His return, even while at work? At the supermarket? In school?

One taken. One left behind.

Two parts to the second coming: coming for the church, coming back with the church

The removal of the church is the start of judgment. (Romans 1 abandonment)

:43-44

**A thief wants the element of surprise.
A good security guard and plan tries to get rid of that**

Cameras, lighting, locks, no place to hide
If you knew of a plan wouldn't you set up a sting operation?
Locked and loaded

**Thieves come when no one is home to take the stuff
Thieves come when someone is home to take the people**

Jesus is coming back like a thief

- When it's spiritually dark
- When the world is spiritually asleep and aren't paying attention
- To take His people with him and leave the others behind

**You will not expect the hour itself
It's easy to think that there's plenty of time, end isn't yet. Not expectant.**

Can't be today, it's too nice out...
Can't be right now, I've got something going on...

Pay attention to when you're not expecting it. That's when it'll happen.

**Is the church expectant of Jesus' return?
Do we live like it?**

Criticism of those who say they believe in the rapture is that they don't live like it, could care less what happens around them. That's probably true, but that's not the rapture's fault. That's our fault for being lazy.

Jesus' imminent return should make us live MORE holy, work HARDER because we don't know how much time we have. No time to procrastinate.

Jesus tells us to be ready. It's on us whether we are or not.

:45-47

There's a reward for paying attention

Being a good steward is not just over the stuff

But over the people in your life and the time given you

And being aware that you have no control over how much time you have

Are you busy? Expectant? Ready? You will be rewarded.

:48-51

DGC "The servants serve the master, but the master cares for and rewards servants"

Difference between a good and evil servant:

Believing in and looking for the master

- **Evil servant doesn't think he'll keep his word and won't come back**
- **Good servant knows God will keep His word and can't wait for him to come back**

The Kingdom has evil servants - those who claim to be Christian but aren't working, aren't serving, aren't expectant

If time, Romans 6:1-2, 15 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ... What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

A wicked servant:

- **Distrusts the Promise of His Return**- God is delaying, lazy, slack (Peter says)
- **Beat fellow servants** - abusive, manipulative, false teacher, false prophet
- **Eat and drink with drunkards** - not reaching the lost but living like them, with them - unholy, friends with the world and its ways

Their reward?

Surprised/shocked when Jesus does actually return

Cut in two ... this is Jesus speaking (hypocrisy/two-faced, cannot serve two masters...)

Portion with the hypocrites - they lived for this life

Weeping of gnashing of teeth - remember the parable of the wedding feast?

Hell is awful

25:1-13

Jesus again revealing the spiritual state of the kingdom

10 Virgins - bridesmaids!

What are they doing? They're going out to meet the groom!

This is in fact another wedding parable (describe ancient wedding practice)

Split, five wise - five foolish (similar to one left one taken)

Difference between wise and foolish?

Being prepared.

*"Foolish, wise, not bad and good, but prudent and imprudent, thoughtless and thoughtful."
(Bruce)*

Oil

Fuel!

Flashlights, rechargeable batteries

Anointing, God's touch, Healing, The Holy Spirit

"it is the crisis which will divide the ready from the unready." (France)

There are many that claim the *name* of Jesus, but are devoid of his Spirit

You can know ABOUT Jesus and not be in the Spirit

You can't know Jesus and not have His Spirit

John 16:7-15 - "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear [them] now. **"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare [it] to you.** "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare [it] to you.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The Spirit points us to Jesus.

If we have the Spirit, we'll be excited and looking for His return.

If not, we'll be unprepared.

This can be a message about the gifts of the Spirit and actively using them
Being saved but not be/being filled

But I think it's more about do you have God's Spirit at all

Do you claim Jesus as Lord or not?

And if you do, is it for real?

Romans 8:9: Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

**Or are you just dressed in good works, thinking you're on the way to heaven,
but you don't have the oil of heaven in your lamp?**

The party is starting. There are no late arrivals.

When the time to choose him is over...it's over

Whether from His return or your life is over.

Went to buy Door was shut

Open to us! I do not know you

Knowing Jesus and knowing His return are related

(if not the same thing)

The heart of God and views on his return

- Would he subject us to judgment on the unbelieving world?
- Would he come get us out first? (citizens/diplomats out before a war)

If we know Him, we won't take his delay for granted

We will be watching excitedly/expectantly for his return

And we'll know the season of his return

"It is near. At the doors!"

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

It's a guarantee. HE IS COMING. Are you ready?

Be saved. Be filled. Be watching. Be waiting. Be excited. Be ready.