

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN, BE READY!

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Read Matthew 24

The second coming of Jesus is important to us because it impacts our lives and our future. It is mentioned 300 times in the Bible, and 24 out of the 27 books of the New Testament talk about it. For every prophecy about the first coming of Jesus, there are eight prophecies about His second coming — and in it, He will come as the King of Kings and as the Righteous Judge. He will fix what is broken and will correct all injustices. We should be ready!

GOD WANTS US TO BE PROTECTED (Matthew 24:1-5)

When Jesus says something will happen, it will come true (Matthew 24:35). The Jerusalem temple was a massive structure that took 80 years to build, yet in 30 A.D., Jesus prophesied that its stones would be torn down. This was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

The disciples were very conscious of the coming kingdom at the end of the age, where God will create a new heaven and a new earth and all pain and sorrow will be removed. God wants us to know about the end times because there will be false teachers who will deceive God's people by claiming that they are the Christ (Matthew 24:24). This deception is Satan's lie (Revelation 12:9), and we can protect ourselves from these lies by aligning our thoughts with God's truth and trusting God's goodness and love. We don't know when Jesus will come again, so we always need to be ready (Matthew 24:25, 42). What we do today will impact our eternity (Matthew 24:48-51)!

GOD WANTS US TO PERSEVERE (Matthew 24:6-14)

The Great Tribulation will affect everyone and will be the worst time in history, but God will intervene to save His elect (Matthew 24:21-22). When Jesus comes again, it will be known to the whole world, and He will be in great power and glory (Matthew 24:30-31)! Wars, plagues, and famines around the world are "birth pangs" leading to His second coming — but a clear sign that the end is near is when the gospel is preached throughout the world. This is being fulfilled today, but there are still 2 billion people who have not heard the gospel. Christians

are also persecuted and killed because of their faith in Christ; many have been arrested and their properties have been destroyed. But though many Christians will survive persecution, few can survive prosperity — which gives us things that may draw us away from God. We are living in the last days wherein people are lovers of self, money, and pleasure (2 Timothy 3:1-4). The most dangerous thing that can happen is for our hearts to grow cold towards Jesus.

Let us live each day as if Jesus will come any time — but keep on doing what is right and not neglect our responsibilities. Some people spend a lot of their time studying prophecy while some claim that Jesus will not be coming again. Let us avoid these extreme beliefs.

GOD WANTS US TO BE PRUDENT (Matthew 24:37-39)

There are seven illustrations found in Matthew (Matthew 24:32-47, 25:1-30):

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|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Fig tree | 4. Thief | 6. Ten virgins |
| 2. Noah | 5. Servants | 7. Talents |
| 3. Two workers | | |

The last days will be as it was in the days of Noah (Genesis 5:32, 6:9-10) where the earth was corrupted and filled with violence — just like today. God commanded Noah to build an ark (Genesis 6:14-15) and everything on the earth was destroyed by the flood. But Noah and his family were saved because he obeyed God (Genesis 6:17-18, 7:1, 4-5, Hebrews 11:6-7). It was the Lord who closed the door of the ark after Noah, his family, and the animals were all inside (Genesis 7:13, 16). God alone has the right and the power to destroy everything, yet He is also good and holy.

All of us are given the chance to change but there are those today who will hear about Jesus' second coming but will not believe. The door of salvation is still open, but it will soon be too late for those who do not repent (2 Peter 2:5, 3:3-4). God wants all of us to be inside the "ark", and there is only one door to salvation: Jesus.

We don't know when Jesus will come again, but we are to preach the gospel by our words and by our lives (2 Timothy 4:1-2). Jesus is coming again soon! Be ready!

last week's memory verse

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

MATTHEW 24:14

discuss this message

How can we be protected from false teachings about Christ's return?

Why do we need to persevere?

What does it mean to be prudent?

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God brought you here
for His purpose.

God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13



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