

JESUS IS COMING: BE READY!

The second coming of Jesus is so important that He taught them to His disciples. In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus gives us a picture of the signs of the end times to protect us, prepare us, and encourage us to persevere in faith and obedience to Him to the very end.

PROTECT [MATTHEW 24:4-8]

To protect them, Jesus warned the disciples about being misled by false prophets claiming to be “Christ”. He told them that wars, famine, plagues, and earthquakes will take place — but that is not yet the end. They are merely the beginning of birth pangs and signals that His coming is near. What Jesus said is coming true. Today, we have more wars. Nations against nations. Wars between people groups and rumors of wars increase. There are famines in many countries like Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Somalia. Even with the advancement of science, pandemics and epidemics are still around. Instances of earthquakes have been steadily increasing through the years. God is shaking the world through these events. He wants us to know the end is near and He wants us to be ready.

PREPARE [MATTHEW 24:9-12]

Jesus warns His disciples of the reality of hardship and persecutions so that they will be prepared. He tells them that they will be hated by nations because of His name. Today, we see Christians being persecuted and attacked. Jesus told His disciples of the rise of many false prophets so that they would be careful and discerning whether someone is a real prophet or not (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). We can be prepared by knowing the word of God, because the word of God and the word of a real prophet will never contradict. Jesus warned them further that lawlessness will increase and will lead to people’s love for God growing cold. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Jesus wants us to be prepared so that when all

this week's memory verse

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

2 PETER 3:13

END GAME JESUS IS COMING: BE READY!

the things He has prophesied comes to pass, we will be able to endure hardships, overcome deceptions, and continue to persevere in faith, love, and obedience to His will.

PROMISE OF PROTECTION (EZEKIEL 38)

To persevere is to endure to the end. For a follower of Jesus, it is to continue believing and doing what is right. Persevere comes from the word “hupomeno” meaning “to remain under a burden”. In other words, we bear the burden with the strength of the Lord and with a positive attitude. We must keep believing and keep on sharing the gospel! Jesus told the disciples that the end is near when the gospel is preached to the whole world (v.14). God’s desire is for the whole world to know Him and repent. God has done His part. He wants us to do our part.

In vv. 21-25, Jesus talks of a great tribulation. The false Christ and false prophet will arise and will show signs and wonders to mislead many, even the elect. The word elect is “ekletos” referring to God’s chosen people (1 Peter 2:9). It is possible that even believers will be misled and go through tribulation (v.22). Jesus highlights for us the importance of heeding the signs so we will be ready, prepared, persevering, and will not fall away from the faith. Jesus gave five illustrations of His coming in this same chapter and two more in the following chapter to emphasize His call for us to be ready and prepared (Fig tree: 24:32-35, Noah: 24:36-39, two workers: 24:40-42, thief: 24:43-45, servants: 24:45-51, ten virgins: 25:1-13, and talents 25:14- 30).

Believing that Christ is coming again definitely matters! It affects our lives and our future. It will impact our eternity. We must be ready. To be ready means to act. Take Jesus seriously. He is the coming King and Judge to whom we will all give an account of our lives. To those who are faithful, it will be a time for great joy and celebration. That will be the most important day of our lives!

discussion questions

What must I do differently to be ready for the coming of Jesus?

How can you keep being fervent in your love for the Lord?

How can you be protected from false teachings and false prophets?

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