

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.**
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In our study we are in Matthew 24-25 which is called the Olivet Discourse. It was given on Tues – just a few days before Christ was crucified. The Olivet discourse is essentially prophetic in nature. It is the KEY prophetic passage in the NT because the rest of the NT builds on it. I call Daniel 9:24-27 “God’s Prophetic Seed Plot of the OT” and I call Matthew 24 “God’s Prophetic Seed Plot of the NT”.

Slide # 2

Revelation is Progressive

Daniel 9:24-27

“God’s Prophetic Seed Plot in the OT”

*Daniel 9 gives an overview of God’s prophetic plan for Israel culminating in the kingdom.

Slide # 3

Matthew 24

“God’s Prophetic Seed Plot in the NT”

*In Matthew 24 Jesus ties “the end” and His coming to Daniel 9, giving more background information, and giving NEW revelation showing there are TWO phases to His second coming.

Slide # 4

Further New Testament Prophetic Revelation

1 Thessalonians 4-5
The book of Revelation
Etc.

Slide # 5

Revelation is Progressive...

Daniel 9:24-27 – Outline of God’s Prophetic Program

Matthew 24 – Builds on Daniel

NT Epistles Builds on Jesus’ Teaching

Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17 and Luke 21 are considered parallel passages. And while there is overlap there are also distinctions. What makes Matthew 24 stand out is that it is most clear in presenting the reality of two different phases to Christ’s second coming.

Slide # 6

- “When its branch...puts forth leaves, you **know...near.**” (v. 32)
- “When you see all these things, **know that it is near**” (v. 33)

TRANSITION (“peri de”) – v. 36

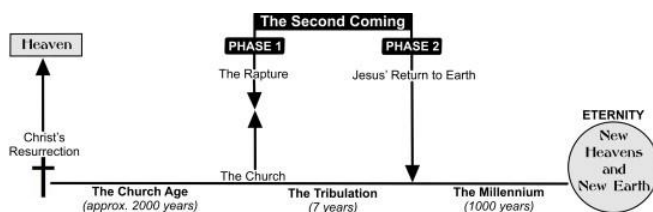
- “But of that day and hour no one knows” (v. 36)
- “and did not know...” (v. 39)
- “Watch therefore, for you do not know” (v. 42)
- “if the master of the house had known” (v. 43)
- “the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (v. 44)

“...Mathew 24:36 begins with the word ‘But’...He is now introducing a new subject, and that is the Rapture.” - **Arnold Fruchtenbaum**

"The pretribulation rapture is the best exegetical and theological interpretation of Matthew 24:36-44. Other rapture theories do not do justice to the transitional nature of verse 36, to the nature of the Noah illustration, or the imminence resident in the passage as illustrated in the thief imagery and the very “to be alert” (gregoreo). It should be acknowledged that Jesus was the originator of the pretribulation rapture teaching (both in the Olivet Discourse and John 14:1-3), and that Paul, Peter, and John were dependent upon the Discourse for much of their teaching about the rapture." – (**John F. Hart**, Evidence for the Rapture – p. 65)

We commonly call the 1st Phase of Christ’s second coming the Rapture and the 2nd Phase His return to the earth.

Slide # 7 – Two Phases



Note that the phrase “*that day*” or “*the day*” in parallel passages often is used in an elastic way in that it may embrace the entire package of both aspects of Christ’s second coming as well as the 70th week of Daniel. But note that while it may refer to the entire package, it may also have just one particular aspect of the package in view – all depending on the context.

Slide # 8**“that day” or “the day” – A PACKAGE**

1st Phase of Second Coming
 70th Week of Daniel (7 Year Tribulation)
 2nd Phase of Second Coming

Slide # 9**Matthew 24:33–37 (NKJV)**

33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

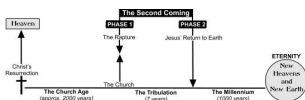
36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

So I would see “**that day**” in Matthew 24:36 as being a connector to both an introduction to the 70th week of Daniel and at the same time being connected to Lord’s unexpected coming at the Rapture.

“After 24:36 Jesus looks at the events of Daniel’s seventieth week as a whole and how the beginning of that week will catch everyone by surprise.” – **Robert Thomas**

This is why I describe both the 1st and 2nd phase of the second coming as bookends to the 70th week of Daniel that are closely connected and yet distinct from the 70th week. This is a package and yet made up of distinct parts.

Slide # 10 – bookends...

This is why the coming of the Lord in the Rapture is described as a thief coming in the night as is the coming of the Day of the Lord (Mt. 24:43-44; 1 Thess. 5:2). It is like two sides of the same coin. On the one side you have the coming of the Lord – on the other side you have the coming of the day of the Lord.

It's like the doorway of the ark. On one side you have the Lord locking Noah inside signifying deliverance – on the other side you have judgment. And it all happened on the same day (Gen. 7:16). Note the language of Matthew 24:38-39, “*Until **the DAY** that Noah entered the ark....until the flood came and took them all away.*” This same day meant deliverance for some and judgment for the others. “The coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah” (Mt. 24:37)

The Rapture should not be studied as a stand alone issue. It is directly related to the Day of the Lord, and functions as an evacuation for the church before the Day of the Lord begins (1 Thess 1:10; Rev 3:10). – **Dr. Michael Vlach**

Christ is the first one to reveal that there are two phases to the second coming but then the NT goes on to make many clear distinctions between the two. The following comparison is from Precept Austin ministries.

Slide # 11

THE RETURN OF CHRIST...		
	... FOR His saints	... WITH His saints
WHAT IS THE MOST GENERALLY ACCEPTED DESIGNATION?	THE RAPTURE	THE SECOND COMING
WHAT OTHER TERMS ARE USED?	THE "TRANSLATION" OF THE SAINTS ><>><>><> THE FIRST STAGE OF CHRIST'S RETURN	THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST ><>><>><> THE SECOND STAGE OF CHRIST'S RETURN
WHAT RELATIONSHIP TO THE SAINTS?	Christ will come FOR HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH	Christ will come WITH HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH
WHAT GREEK VERBS ARE SPECIFIC?	HARPAZO CAUGHT UP	NO SPECIFIC GREEK VERB

Slide # 12

WHAT GREEK NOUNS REFER TO THIS EVENT?	Parousia = coming Apokalupsis = revelation Epiphaneia = appearing	Parousia = coming Apokalupsis = revelation Epiphaneia = appearing
HOW IS CHRIST PORTRAYED?	BRIDEGROOM (A MARRIAGE CEREMONY)	KING OF KINGS LORD OF LORDS (CORONATION OF A KING)
WHY DOES CHRIST RETURN?	TO DELIVER SAINTS	TO JUDGE & WAGE WAR AGAINST SINNERS
WHO IS REMOVED AT THE RETURN?	BELIEVERS - THEY HAVE A BLESSED HOPE	UNBELIEVERS - THEY HAVE NO HOPE
WHAT IS THE RELATION TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?	NO DIRECT RELATION TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM	IMMEDIATELY PRECEDES THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Slide # 13

WHICH SCRIPTURES ARE RELATIVELY SPECIFIC?	1Thes 4:16-17 John 14:3 1Cor 15:51-52	Mt 24:27, 28, 29, 30 Re 19:11, 12, 13, 14 2Th 1:7 2Th 2:8
WHERE ARE THESE EVENTS DESCRIBED?	REVEALED ONLY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	REVEALED IN BOTH TESTAMENTS
WHAT IS THE TIMING?	PRECEDES Daniel's Seventieth Week (Seven Year Tribulation)	TERMINATES Daniel's Seventieth Week (Seven Year Tribulation) (After Great Tribulation)
HOW CAN THIS EVENT BE PREDICTED?	CANNOT BE PREDICTED... IT'S UNKNOWN... IT IS <u>IMMINENT</u> SPECIFIC TIME UNKNOWN	YES CAN BE PREDICTED... IT'S KNOWABLE... 2520 days after Antichrist signs treaty with Israel or 1260 days after he breaks the covenant Da 9:27, Mt 24:15

Slide # 14

HOW QUICKLY WILL IT OCCUR?	IN A MOMENT (In an "atom") TWINKLING OF AN EYE 1Cor 15:52	SLOW ENOUGH to be visible to the eye Mt 24:27 , Rev 1:7 Ps 2:2 , Rev 19:19
WHAT WILL THE WORLD SEE? WILL THE WORLD SEE THE EVENT?	IT IS A PRIVATE MANIFESTATION Only believers see Him The world is spiritually "asleep" 1Thes 5:2	YES... IT IS A PUBLIC PRESENTATION Believers and nonbelievers Every eye will see Him Rev 1:7
WHAT SIGNS SIGNAL THIS EVENT?	NO SIGNS	MANY SIGNS... Mt 24:4-14 SIGN OF SON OF MAN Mt 24:29, 30
WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION?	OCCURS BEFORE REVELATION — CHAPTER 4	OCCURS AFTER REVELATION — CHAPTERS 6-18

Slide # 15

WHERE DOES CHRIST COME?	AIR... CHRIST'S FEET DO NOT TOUCH EARTH	EARTH... CHRIST'S FEET DO TOUCH EARTH
HOW DOES CHRIST COME?	IN THE CLOUDS NO MENTION OF HORSE 1Thes 4:17	ON CLOUDS ON A WHITE HORSE Mt 24:30 , Rev 19:11
WHO COMES WITH CHRIST?	Christ will bring with him the souls of those who "sleep in Jesus" – 1 Thess. 4:14	Those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful (saints) Rev 17:14 ><>><>><> The armies (saints and angels) which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses Rev 19:14

Slide # 16

WHAT ARE THE ASSOCIATED JUDGMENTS?	BEMA SEAT JUDGMENT OF SAINTS IN HEAVEN 1Cor 3:11, 12, 13, 14,15 2Cor 5:10 2 Ti 4:1, 2Ti4:8 Tribulation Judgments fall on the Earth	JUDGMENT OF ANTICHRIST Re 19:17 , Re 19:18 Re 19:19 , Re 19:20 JUDGMENT OF SHEEP & GOATS ON EARTH Mt 25:31-46
WHAT ATTITUDES ARE REFLECTED?	COMFORT FOR BELIEVERS 1Thes4:18	MOURNING FOR ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH Rev 1:7 , Mt 24:30
WHAT HAPPENS TO BODIES OF BELIEVERS?	BELIEVERS RESURRECTED & PUT ON IMMORTALITY 1 Cor 15:51-52, 53, 54, 55	BELIEVERS SURVIVING TRIBULATION ENTER MILLENNIUM IN NATURAL BODIES Mt 25:23

Slide # 17

WHERE MENTIONED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?	NO SPECIFIC MENTION	MENTIONED IN Da 2:44, 45 Da 7:11, 12, 13, 14
WHAT CHANGES ON EARTH?	NO SPECIFIC CHANGES	MT OF OLIVES SPLITS IN THE MIDDLE Zech 14:4

Christ in Matthew 24 introduced the reality of two phases to His second coming and in doing so He introduced what is called the doctrine of imminency in relation to the first phase – which we call the rapture.

The Jews commonly saw a time of great trouble coming before the Messiah would come but they knew nothing of imminency. That is because they did not know about the first phase of Christ's second coming which is imminent.

When we say the coming of Christ is imminent it means that it could happen at any time. After revealing that no one knows the day nor hour when He will come unexpected as a thief in the night, Christ then in three parables goes on to highlight and emphasize this idea of His imminent and unexpected return and the need to "live ready". This emphasis is seen in the parable of the servants (Mt. 24:46-51); the parable of the ten virgins (Mt. 25:1-13); and the parable of talents (Mt. 25:14-30).

In this section, the emphasis is on the Lord delaying His return...It seems reasonable to assign Matthew 24:45-25:30 to our present age of the church, during which time it appears that the Lord is delaying His return (2 Peter 3). The closing section (Matt. 25:31-46) describes the judgment the Lord will execute when He returns to earth.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

Matthew 24:45–51 (NKJV)

45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”

The next illustration is bound to Matthew 24:32-44 by the word “then” (ara). -**Stanley Toussaint**

This parable therefore underscores the importance of living ready in light of Christ's imminent return. Here in verse 45 Christ introduces the first of two servants. The first one is faithful and wise, the second one is evil.

Life is a stewardship for which all will give an account. In this parable the master (the Lord) made this servant ruler over his household “to give them food in due season”.

The word “servant” is the Greek word *doulos* which literally means “slave”. As God's people we are God's slaves. As believers we rightfully belong to God by virtue of creation and redemption. Jesus bought us with His blood and we now belong to Him.

Slide # 18

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?**

20 For you were **bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

As God's slaves we have been given a stewardship in relation to the household (the family) of God (cf. 1 Pet. 4:10-11). To give them food is the idea of taking care of them.

Slide # 19**1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)**

10 As **each one** has received a gift, minister it to one another, as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

In the world there is nothing more important to God than the welfare of His people. This slave was put in a stewardship position of taking care of the family.

Some have emphasized that this has special application to those who serve in leadership roles in the Church – especially to elders. It is true that elders have the special responsibility of feeding the flock the Word. And it is true that teachers are more accountable.

Slide # 20**Hebrews 13:7 (NKJV)**

7 Remember those who **rule over you**, who have **spoken the word of God to you**, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

James 3:1 (NKJV)

1 My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.**

Feeding the flock is the major responsibility of those who are pastor-teachers and elders. Paul says, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." (1 Tim. 5:17)

But we need to remember that this is a parable and parables generally are making ONE main point. And because of this most commentators think that while there is application to spiritual leaders, the application is broader than that as all God's children are gifted and have a stewardship responsibility in relation to the household of God.

“The wise servant is the one who is found caring for God's people.”
– **William MacDonald**

46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

All that God asks is that when He comes He finds us doing what He has given us to do. The faithful and wise servant makes the household of God a priority. They are involved with God's people. They are making a contribution. They make the welfare of Christ's Church family a primary issue – simply because this is God's PRIORITY.

This is what God is doing in the world today – He is building a forever family of believers called the Church. He has gifted each one of His children and placed them into the body for the express purpose of building up the body.

Slide # 21

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

When John Calvin was persuaded to give up his ministerial labors because of ill health, he said with some resentment, “What, would you have my Master find me idle?” – **Jack Arnold**

There is a time when we can no longer do what we used to do, but the idea is to finish the course that God has given us to run (2 Tim. 4:7). I believe there are many genuine Christians who will be ashamed when they see Jesus because in fact they are not on the same page with Jesus when it comes to His household (1 Jn. 2:28). They had other priorities! They were distracted with the many cares of this life. They had no time for the family of God. Rewards are for service and those rewards largely relate to how we served God's family.

47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

For the faithful and wise servant there will be great reward. “The reward for obedient service is the capacity for greater service.” (Warren Wiersbe)
Those who are good stewards over what God gave them charge over in this life will have an even greater role of ruling in the kingdom.

In Luke 19 Jesus gave a parable of stewardship concerning Minas. One was faithful and given authority over 10 cities, another was faithful and was given authority over 5 cities, but the unfaithful steward was called wicked and judged accordingly (cf. Mt. 25:19-23).

All believers are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17); and as overcomers they will “inherit all things” (Rev. 21:7). However, there will be differences of rewards in the kingdom related to our faithfulness in service. Those faithful in little will be made ruler over much.

48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’

In contrast to the faithful and wise servant is the evil servant. Evil (Gk. kakos) is the idea of bad, wrong, or one who does harm. The evil servant is a nominal Christian who claims to be serving the Lord but in truth ends up serving himself. As seen in verse 51 the destiny of this person is ultimately the place of “weeping and gnashing of teeth” which is descriptive of hell – showing this person was never a true believer.

Yet, he is here called a servant (more literally a slave) and he calls Jesus his master (more literally Lord). In a general sense Jesus is Lord over all and all owe their allegiance to Him (cf. Mt. 18:23-34; Luke 15 – Prodigal son).

Jesus was teaching that every person in the world holds his life, natural abilities, wealth, and possessions in trust from God and must give account of how these things are used. – **John MacArthur**

Slide # 22

2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even **denying the Lord who bought them**, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

Note the evil servant's most fundamental problem is that he has a heart problem. The heart represents the spiritual core of a person – the “deepest recesses of his being”. In his heart this evil servant thinks Jesus has delayed His coming and that affects how he lives. What you think about the Lord's coming is no trivial matter because if you really believe Christ might come at any time it affects how you live.

Slide # 23

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed**, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And **everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself**, just as He is pure.

Living in light of the hope of Christ's coming has a sanctifying effect on a person's life.

Years ago a radio preacher by the name of Harold Camping set a date for the second coming – which is always a foolish thing to do. But he went all in and quite a few Christians joined him. One of his followers called me up and wondered if he could start coming to church since the Lord was about to come. I invited him and he started coming faithfully. He was one of our most faithful attenders until the date arrived that Christ was supposedly going to come. Christ didn't come and this person didn't come to church any more either. He just totally dropped out!

The evil servant here represents the “dropouts”! I am not saying all “dropouts” are lost apostates but that is the point of Christ's illustration here.

Harold Camping initially said the Lord had come in some sort of spiritual sense, but finally he had to admit he was wrong. He basically admitted he was wrong and died shortly thereafter. He certainly never got his credibility back.

The point is that the faithful LIVE READY – ever expecting that Christ could come at any time. Christ wants us to live ready! That is the point.

The Church Age seems to be a time of delay. For this reason the mocker says, “Where is the promise of His coming?... all things continue as they were...” (2 Pet. 3:3-4).

But Peter says don't overlook the fact that with the Lord a thousand years is as one day and that He is not slow to fulfill His promise but rather is patient not wanting any to perish (2 Pet. 3:8-9). We need to realize we live in the age of GRACE and God is waiting for more to get saved.

This evil servant has both a doctrinal defection and an ethical defection. He believes wrong ("My master is delaying his coming) and therefore he lives wrong. When a person no longer takes the coming of Christ seriously there is something majorly wrong in his heart. A huge part of the NT is given over to this theme.

Slide # 24

Hebrews 9:28 (NKJV)

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who eagerly wait for Him** He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

The expectation of this verse is that the saved are those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

What began as wrong thinking in his heart now works its way out in his behavior. Because he did not think his master was coming for a long time he began to mistreat his fellow servants and he began to fellowship with the wayward drunkards of the world. The potential coming of the Lord at any time has no bearing on him. He's got his life to live!

This is indicative of wickedness. It lives for self. It takes advantage of other people. It carouses with the world. It has no thought for God, His people, or the Lord's imminent return.

Jesus is NOT this person's Lord. He flouts the Lord's instructions and acts as if he is his own master. He assumes a position of authority for himself. He is self-governed. He is violent and self-indulgent. He uses his position to exploit people for his own selfish gratification. It's all about him! His selfishness is intrinsic to his being evil. He doesn't care about anyone but himself – certainly not the well-being and good of God's people.

The evil servant represents a nominal believer whose behavior is not affected by the prospect of his Master's soon return. ...Many who profess to be Christians show by their hostility toward God's people and their fraternization with the ungodly that they are not looking for Christ's Return. – **William MacDonald**

He has no conviction about the coming of the Lord. He abuses his authority; he abuses those under him; and finds his fellowship with drunkards. ... In spite of all his pretensions of being a Christians he has never been saved at all. – **John Phillips**

Frankly, I think this is where MOST professing evangelicals are at today. Someone has said that Americans claim to revere the Bible but they don't live by it. Many professing Christians are in fact practical atheists. In the recent January edition of Decision Magazine Lee Weeks reported...

Barna [of Barna Research] said 51% of adults surveyed claim to live according to a Biblical worldview. However, when their beliefs and behaviors are measured by what he calls the “seven cornerstones of a Biblical worldview” only 6% of American adults actually have a Biblical world view. – **Decision**, Jan. 2023, p. 15

Slide # 25

Reduced from 51% to 6%....

- God is the eternal omniscient, omnipotent and just Creator.
- Humans are sinful by nature.
- Jesus Christ grants forgiveness of sin and eternal life when sinners repent and profess their faith in Him alone.
- The Bible is true, reliable and always relevant.
- Absolute moral truth exists.
- Success is defined as consistent obedience to God.
- Life's purpose is to know, love and serve God with all one's heart, mind, strength and soul.

50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

This is the entire point – this person was not ready! He did not take Christ's coming seriously. There was no urgency! Notice this person was “not looking for him”. He was totally oblivious to Christ's imminent coming. He was “not aware of” it and consequently it caught him totally unprepared.

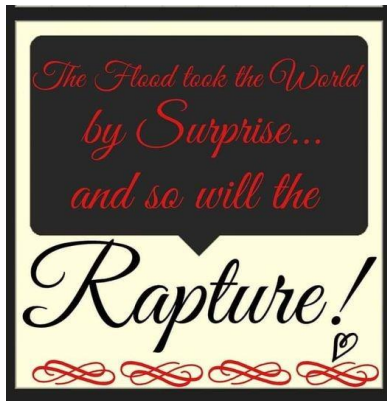
There was no forewarning, no announcement, no signs, no warning signal. Suddenly, the Master shows up totally unexpectedly. This is how it will be at the time of the rapture. Once it happens there will be no time to get ready. That is why we have to be ready and live ready.

The Parable of the Unrighteous Slave typifies the lack of readiness for the rapture. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

Like the wicked people of Noah’s day (vv. 37-39), he was unaware of the sudden coming judgment (v. 50).

- ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

Slide # 26



The thing about the rapture is that it comes at a time when life is just carrying on as normal. Yes, there will be “trends” of apostasy, but not clear signposts like will be obvious in the Tribulation Period. This is the point - it comes unexpectedly with no forewarning.

This is all about faith! Faith takes God at His Word. It’s not all about signs and wonders but about taking God at His Word. Jesus wants people to take Him at His Word and live ready. A God honoring faith lives expectantly in keeping with Christ’s warning. A God honoring faith lives ready!

And when He comes the Master will deal in judgment with the wicked servant. He...

51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

To cut in two is descriptive of deadly judgment (cf. 2 Sam. 12:31; Heb. 11:37).

The Master will appoint him his portion with the hypocrites because in fact he was one. He claimed to believe in the Lord even in his heart saying Jesus is “My master” (v. 48). But it wasn’t real as his actions showed.

A hypocrite is a pretender – a disingenuous pretender. The person being described here in Matthew 24 is described in 2 Tim. 3:5 as “having a form of godliness” but denying its life changing power.

The “evil slave” represents not a true disciple but one who professes to serve the master. His wicked heart was revealed by his selfish life and abuse of power. His lack of anticipation of his lord’s return demonstrated that he was not genuine. – ***Ed Glasscock***

Jesus was harder on religious hypocrites than on anyone else. It seems to me that hypocrisy is especially offensive to God. God is not into “gamers” – who play the game but are totally phony. And there are a lot of “gamers”.

A hypocrite is essentially a “liar”. They lie about their relationship with God. They claim they are saved but they are not. Over and over the NT warns to not be deceived by those who claim to be Christian but live a lifestyle of sin.

Paul warns of this in 1 Cor. 6:9-11 where he says, “the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.. Do not be deceived.” And again in Eph. 5 after describing all manner of sinful living he says in 5:6, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” The apostle John in 1 John 3:7-8 says, “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil...”.

1 John 2:4 says, “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”. A liar as defined by John claims to know God but lives a life of disobedience. And John says in Revelation 21:8 “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death.”

The fate of the hypocrite is in the place where there “shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”. Consistently Jesus uses this language as being descriptive of the experience of hell (cf. Mt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 25:30).

There are true Christians and then there are hypocrites. True Christians characteristically “live ready” although we may lapse too which is why we are exhorted to ever be watching and ready (cf. 1 Thess. 5:6-10).

But hypocrites consistently do not take the Lord’s coming seriously. They live for the moment! They live for self.

They have their own agenda and live accordingly – but oh yes they profess to be a Christian. They are hypocrites who are headed to hell if they don't come to repentance.

The doctrine of Messiah's imminent return was not found in the OT. This is a NT doctrine revealed in conjunction with NT truth related especially to the Church. In contrast to the OT which knows nothing of imminency, the constant emphasis throughout the NT is that of Christ's imminent return. Israel never lived in view of this, but the early Church did and the true Church is ever called to live ready.

Slide # 27

- 1 Corinthians 1:7—"eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- 1 Corinthians 16:22—"Maranatha." - meaning "our Lord, come."
- Philippians 3:20—"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"
- Philippians 4:5—"The Lord is at hand."
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10—"to wait for His Son from heaven,"

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- Titus 2:13—"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"
- Hebrews 9:28—"To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."
- James 5:7-9—"Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. . . . for the coming of the Lord is at hand. . . . Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!"
- Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20—"I am coming quickly!"
- Revelation 22:17, 20—"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' ... He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

The doctrine of imminence that Christ introduced in Matthew 24 became an avalanche of revelatory emphasis in the NT revelation that followed.

For the Church the imminent return of Christ is paramount. It is the next thing on the prophetic calendar. And it could happen at any time!

There is a fable which tells of three apprentice devils who were coming to this earth to finish their apprenticeship. They were talking to Satan, the chief of the devils, about their plans to tempt and ruin men. The first said, "I will tell them there is no God." Satan said, "That will not delude many, for they know that there is a God." The second said, "I will tell men there is no hell." Satan answered, "You will deceive no one that way; men know even now that there is a hell for sin." The third said, "I will tell men there is no hurry." "Go," said Satan, "and you will ruin them by the thousand." The most dangerous of all delusions is that there is plenty of time. – **William Barclay**

One of the most dangerous lies of Satan is not that there is no God, or that there is no hell, but that there is no hurry.

The Bible says, "NOW is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2). The devil always says "later" – God says "NOW". And it may well be NOW or NEVER!

The Master will come at a time unexpected! Expect the unexpected!

Perhaps today!

Live ready!

Maranatha my beloved – Maranatha!