

## AT ANY TIME...

The doctrine of Messiah's imminent return was not found in the Old Testament! This is a New Testament doctrine revealed in conjunction with NT truth related essentially 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 – meaning it could happen at any time. Israel never lived in view of this, but the early Church did and the true Church is ever called to live ready.

- 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,"
- 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 (coming as a thief in the night) 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 God's 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 “for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matt. 24:44)

Perhaps today!  
Live ready!  
Maranatha!