

Matthew 24:36-39

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Wayne Dailey
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As it was in the days of Noah.

In those days, Noah and his family were the only righteous ones on the entire earth. There was a great falling away - until everything was so apostate that God was sick of the whole mess.

Genesis 6:5-6

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

God is giving this as an example to show forth what will take place at the very end of the age, that we might be aware of the nearness of the end.

Note that the people of that day didn't know the reality of God's warning - until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood actually came.

They let His warning slip in one ear and out the other!

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Noah didn't build that ark overnight. God warned the people for 120 years; but no one wanted to believe judgment was at hand!

This wasn't a secret done in the dark. No, it was done out in the open, for all to see.

Now, what were the people doing while Noah was building that ark? They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage.

And the Lord warns us that this is just the way it will be in the end. He warns us to watch and pray, that we be counted worthy to escape:

Luke 21:34-36

And take heed to yourselves,
lest at any time your hearts be overcharged
with surfeiting, and drunkenness,
and cares of this life,
and so that day come upon you unawares.

For as a snare shall it come on all them
that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always,
that ye may be accounted worthy to escape
all these things that shall come to pass,
and to stand before the Son of man.

If you're not cautious, if you're surfeiting and being taken up with the cares of this life - you might find yourself in the same position they found themselves in during Noah's day.

Now, eating and drinking, in themselves, are not wrong. We need to eat and drink in order to stay alive.

But the error is found when we are eating and drinking to excess.

The people in Noah's day were living for pleasure - living it up, so to speak - having a merry time, taking no notice of spiritual things.

see II Peter 3:3-7

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

In Noah's day they disregarded God and His ways. And in their waywardness, they became very wicked. Their thoughts were evil continually.

And we can see a similarity to these conditions in our present day.

. . . marrying, and giving in marriage. The church of our day is in a mess over this issue. Many preachers have no regard for God's Word in this matter. They encourage divorce and remarriage as a way of life, saying that God will forgive!

Back in Noah's day, God's people were intermarrying with the unsaved, and bringing down the judgment of God.

Oil and water just don't mix - they might appear to mix when you shake them together, but they soon separate.

see Genesis 6:1-3

And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Now, when Noah and his family entered the ark, and the door was shut, the people began to realize that God meant business.

What God said was about to come to pass - Suddenly, interest was not in eating or drinking; interest wasn't in the imaginations of their wicked hearts -

interest suddenly shifted to spiritual things.

The ground broke up, and the water began to gush out. The dark clouds began to roll in, and the rains came. It rained so hard that the floods began to rise upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

They all perished in that flood - except those eight souls who were saved in the ark, able to ride above the storm in safety.

The Lord likens all of this to the end of the age, when all will perish - but for those who are safe in Jesus Christ.

Don't tell me - then I won't be responsible.

That only makes you doubly **responsible!** You make yourself not only **responsible** for the message, but also **responsible** for rejecting it.

Recognize that hearing the truth is important - but acting upon what we hear is also important.

It's to your own benefit that you hear the truth, and that you take it to heart, applying it to your life.

Matthew 24:40-42

**Then shall two be in the field;
the one shall be taken, and the other left.
Two women shall be grinding at the mill;
the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

**Watch therefore:
for ye know not what hour
your Lord doth come.**

You could be walking down the street with someone, and suddenly be taken away leaving the other behind - or, if you're not ready, you could be the one left behind!

This is why the Lord would exhort you to watch. It is your duty and your obligation to watch unto the coming of the Lord.

Always remember that it is your life; it is your soul that is at stake. Yes, it is your heaven, or it is your hell - period!

If your soul is cast into hell, no matter what you say, you are the one who will be forever there in the flames and torment. It will be you who will be suffering.

Why watch?

First of all, it's your obligation to consider your soul in light of God's Word - that you may do your part to be ready for the coming of the Lord.

It's not the responsibility of the church to do your watching.

There are those who will end up in hell, in spite of how much others pray and seek God for their souls.

They'll lose out - just because they refused to repent, because they wouldn't heed the warnings that came their way.

Many allow themselves to become careless in their living, disregarding eternal issues. It may be just little things, but they get careless in these areas, drawing away more and more.

We may not know the day nor the hour of the Lord's coming, but we do know the season.

The day and the hour are one of heaven's closely guarded secrets. Why? Because the Lord wants us to live in readiness every day.

If we knew exactly when the Lord would return, the churches would be full that day - souls would get down to business on that day - and not one minute earlier.

But God hasn't stated when it would be - only that it would be. And He has revealed that that day would be a two-fold event.

Jesus is coming to take away those who are ready for His coming - then judgment is going to fall on those who are left behind. God has an obligation to the righteous. Remember this - the righteous are the apple of His eye. He hasn't appointed the righteous unto His wrath.

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

We are to watch and pray, that we may be ready to escape. Watch, and pray, and be ready - that's as simple as ABC.

Ready for what? ready for His coming.

Matthew 24:27

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Jesus is going to come so quickly, and so suddenly, that all will be caught unaware **except**- except those who love Him, those who are living in readiness for that moment. That day won't catch them unaware.

It's not that we've got to recognize this day when it comes. No, it's that we've got to be ready when it comes: found ready, watching and praying, living in expectation - and, thus, be caught up to meet Him in the air.

Many won't be ready. They'll be preoccupied with self, all taken up with the cares and pleasures of this life, having no thought or time for the Lord.

And a lot of these will be church people! - churchy, but not serving the Lord in truth. They won't be ready.

You don't want to be one of these people, do you? No, you want to be found watching and praying, living in readiness for His coming.

Oh, we'd best be found ready that we may escape all that shall come upon this earth.

Of all previous generations, we see so much in our day that tells us we are at the end of the age. Everywhere we look prophecy is being fulfilled.

Yes, all the signs are right before our eyes:

see Matthew 24:6-8

- + ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars
- + nation shall rise against nation
- + kingdom against kingdom
- + famines and pestilences
- + earthquakes, in divers places

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Wars and rumors of wars - this is certainly commonplace in our day. Anywhere you turn it seems there is either a war or one brewing ready to break out.

Famines - a common word in world news today.

What about earthquakes? Some weeks it appears the earth is rumbling from one continent to another with earthquakes, and many of them major.

Well, the Lord said it would be like this as the end approaches. How did He know? Because there isn't anything He doesn't know.

And He takes time to tell us that we might be aware of the time in which we are living - and that we might watch and pray.

The greatest sign -

I believe the greatest sign we have to go by is the restoration of the little nation of Israel, and the return of the Jews to their homeland. The very existence of that nation is crucial to world history.

Whenever you hear or see the word Israel, let it be a sign unto you that the end is very near.

Realize that Israel wasn't re-established just yesterday. God brought this to pass over forty years ago.

And of all the things you'll ever see that tell of the end being at hand, the fact that Israel has been restored (after being taken by Titus in the year 70) is a sign to us that the end is very near.

For nearly 2,000 years there was no nation of Israel - from 70 AD right down to 1948.

Every time you hear any news about the nation of Israel, let its very existence be a sign to you of the shortness of the hour.

Luke 21:24

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

This is a sign unto us Gentiles. Our days are numbered, just like those of Noah's time.

God is getting prepared for the end, for the climax of all time. He has the stage all set.

Matthew 24:32-33

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh . . .

. . . so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

This parable refers to God's bringing His people back together, and bringing forth Israel as a nation again. Yes, this is the most pronounced event of our generation in this end time.

Know the season - God wants us to recognize the season in which we are living. When the fig tree begins to shoot forth buds, it tells you something -

summer is near at hand.

And as we look at the signs of the time being fulfilled we can know that the end is near at hand.

All of this tells the church to put great emphasis upon watching and praying.

Matthew 24:34

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

This verse refers to the generation that sees these things begin to occur. The generation that sees this climatic event begin to take place will also see it's conclusion.

Now, the event of restoring Israel as a nation back in 1948 came into being in my generation. I have witnessed the fulfillment of God's Word right in my own lifetime.

Do you remember 1967? What took place in that year that was so outstanding? The famous Six-Day War!

That war that lasted only six days and then it was all over with.

God was with Israel during that war: I don't know how else you could account for such a victory. The newspaper read like an Old Testament account, like the wars back in Bible days.

My, if Israel loses a war, they will be lost as a nation. But God isn't about to let that happen - because Israel plays a prominent part in God's end-time plans.

But there is one thing we'd best know. God said this generation won't pass till all the these things are fulfilled. He will wind all of this down to a showdown in one generation.

Now, let me ask you something in light of all this. Do you have any time to play church? Do you have any time to fool around?

I Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant;
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour

Do you have any time not to be serious?

If you don't make it to heaven in that day, whose fault will it really be? Will it do you any good in hell to blame someone else for your being there?

If you wind up in hell there will be nobody else to blame. It will be your own fault. You can't blame Mom! you can't blame Dad! you can't blame your husband or wife! you can't blame the preacher or the church!

No, you can't blame anybody else but yourself, if you don't make it.

What do you suppose it's going to mean in the day of judgment when people tend to make excuses?

Now, Lord, You know it's not my fault that I didn't live for you! And what will the Lord say? You're here, aren't you?

That is why we are warned in the Word to be ready, to be found watching and waiting.

Matthew 24:42

**Watch therefore:
for ye know not what hour
your Lord doth come.**

He said you don't know the day nor the hour of His coming. But there is one thing you can know for sure - He is coming!

Matthew 24:44

**Therefore be ye also ready:
for in such an hour as ye think not
the Son of man cometh.**

Now, when is this hour going to take place? When is it going to be? When? In such an hour as you think not - when you least expect it.

Have you given any thought to His coming? Could it be today? You don't know, do you? Does that mean you can take a chance and live the way you want for a bit longer? After all, He didn't come yesterday, so it's unlikely that He'll come today - so you say.

An hour we think not!

Don't waste time in trying to figure out when the Lord is coming. The thing you can do is - take time to get ready for His coming. And stay ready!!

Do you want to make it heaven? Do you want to make it to that eternal kingdom? I do. I want to live with Jesus throughout eternity.

Do you want to face the worst holocaust that has ever come upon the face of the earth? Do you want to be here to see that terrible period of time come to pass? Do you want to be in this world when God has altogether turned to bring judgment?

Someone as great and mighty as God is, Someone as powerful as He is - what will He do when He releases His power to bring forth His wrath?

The book of Revelation (see Revelation 19:11-16) gives us some insight into what He will do - but I don't want to be here to find out first hand. [Do you?](#)

God is going to pour out His wrath without mixture - in wrath and fierce anger as He punishes man for his wickedness at the end of this age.

Now, the world is going to get worse - every day, right up to the end. Some of those conditions are going to be very subtle to turn many aside.

[What are we going to do?](#) Well, if we are ready, then we have nothing to worry about.

But it's so easy to begin to play church. It's easy to get our minds all taken up with other things, and think that we are all set for the coming of the Lord.

Revelation 3:16

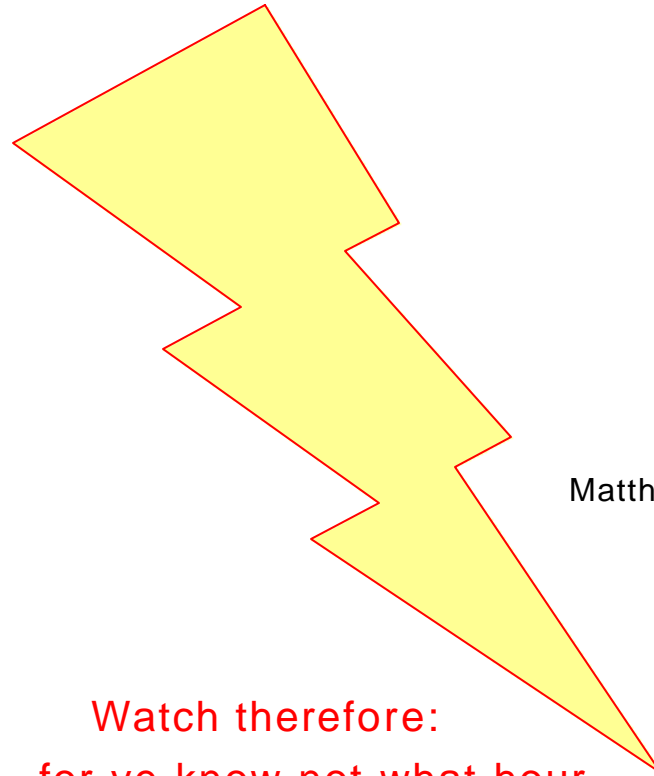
**So then because thou art lukewarm,
and neither cold nor hot,
I will spue thee out of My mouth.**

You can't afford to grow cool. You can't afford to get lukewarm in your heart - for that opens you up to the temptations of the devil.

The lukewarm have just enough to cause them to think they're all right. They have just enough to keep their heads above water, doing as they please, assuming nothing is wrong with their souls.

It's not enough to be a churchgoer, to simply be religious. You have to be born again and go on to live in expectation of the coming of the Lord.

I trust this message has helped you see the seriousness of being ready - and if you're not, that you'll take steps to get ready.



Matthew 24:42

**Watch therefore:
for ye know not what hour
your Lord doth come.**