

## Mark 13:32-37 – When will Jesus Return?

Henry, TSK, Poole, GreekLexicon, HebrewLexicon, Rienecker, DeMar, Handfuls, Geneva, Clarke, JFB, PNT, Barnes, Robertson, Trapp, Gill, Calvin Beloved Congregation: Before the city of Jerusalem, the temple, and the Jewish administrators of the kingdom were destroyed by the Romans there was severe persecution (逼迫) of Christians by the Jews, and there were many false christs who would try to deceive Christians so they would not leave Jerusalem before it was destroyed. But God told Christians to leave their homes when they saw the Romans coming. They did and they were safe. Then Jesus came in glorious judgment on Jerusalem and the world saw it!

Christians were then told to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations. Sometime after that is done, Jesus will return – return for the final judgment. This is what you will hear about. We'll use some of what Matthew wrote to flesh it out what Mark doesn't cover.

Our headings are:

Jesus' Final Return: At an unknown time

Jesus' Final Return: Be ready for it

Our goals are: That you will wait, pray, and work for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus and be ready to go with him when he returns!

### Jesus' Final Return: At an Unknown time

32 "But of that day and hour no one knows (Greek "oida"), not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

#### 1. How do we know that this was referring to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus and not continuing to talk about the destruction of the Jews, Jerusalem, and the Jewish order?

Matthew made it clear that the disciples had asked Jesus 2 questions. They wanted to know when the temple would be destroyed (and one stone not remain on another) and when the world would end. Maybe they thought they were the same event, but Jesus showed them 2 distinct events. Notice that Jesus was making a contrast to what he said earlier. He said, "But of that day..."

Matthew 24:36 - But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

The Apostle Paul pointed out that Jesus would come suddenly and quickly, not in a 3 ½ year siege or a warning.

1Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed —

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible (不可朽坏的), and we shall be changed.

There will be no dissolving (解体) of the social, political, and religious system taking place at the end of the world...there will be no difficulties on the Sabbath (安息日)...or if one were pregnant or nursing a baby...there will be no wars or rumors

(传言) of wars. This was the case when Jerusalem was destroyed. But those things won't matter at the end of the world!

#### 2. Jesus will return at a time that only the Father knows.

No man knows. Jesus was deliberately vague (模糊的) concerning the time of his return. It is contempt (轻视的) of God to pretend that one knows or that one can predict with even minor certainty the time of Jesus' return.

No angel knows. As wise and wonderful as they are, they are not privy (秘密参与的, 不公开的) to this knowledge.

Not even Jesus knows? Can that be true? Yes. As a man, Jesus was not omniscient (全知的). If he were omniscient as a man then he would not be a true man. If he weren't a true man, he would not be fit to be a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

34 "It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

#### 3. Jesus will return at an unknown time, illustrated.

Jesus' return will be like the sudden return of a master who went to a foreign country on a long journey.

But the Lord used this illustration not just to teach of his sudden return, he also wanted to teach about how the servants must be busy and do what he expects them to do until he returns. Look at the fuller account in Matthew.

Matthew 24:48 "But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 "and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards (酗酒的人), 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, 51 "and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites (假冒伪善者). There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

#### 4. Let us look as some other evidences from Matthew and Luke's account of the sudden, unknown time of Jesus' coming.

a. Jesus will come just as unexpectedly as the rains that came in Noah's days.

Matthew 24:37 "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 "For as in

the days before the flood, they were **eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage**, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 "and **did not know until the flood came** and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Was it bad in the days of Noah?" "Yes," it was bad. But Jesus was talking about how bad people were. **He was pointing out that people were going about their normal lives and then the rains came suddenly.** Eating, drinking, marrying, and giving our children in marriage are normal (not bad) activities. The people's refusal to worship God was the basis of their judgment – not eating, drinking, or marrying!

**b. Jesus will come just as unexpectedly as a thief comes in the night.** No one knows when a thief will come to his house.

Matthew 24:43 - But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

The master of the house simply went to bed after working, his normal routine. He did not sit and wait for the thief every night. If he waited for the thief every night, he would not have been able to do all the work he should do during the day!

**c. Jesus will come just as unexpectedly as the fire and brimstone (硫磺) that fell on Sodom when Lot left Sodom.**

Luke 17:28 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: **They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire** and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

"Ate, drank, bought, sold, and built" were normal activities. And suddenly the fire fell from heaven!

**d. Jesus will come unexpectedly and take one of two persons in a field.** Note the **passive tense**. No one will have to flee like when they had to flee when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Matthew 24:40 "Then two men will be in the field: **one will be taken** and the other left.

**e. Jesus will come unexpectedly and take 1 of 2 persons grinding 磨磨 at the mill.** Note the **passive tense (被动语气)**.

Matthew 24:41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

## 5. Lessons:

**a. God does not tell you when Jesus will return because he doesn't want you to get us preoccupied (沉迷于) with it and so ignore your regular duties.** You have work to do! Don't look for signs.

**b. Isn't it interesting that Jesus moved from the very specific signs for the destruction of Jerusalem to the very general instruction for his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.** The difference is noticeable. Don't confuse the two things!

**c. They are nothing but liars who purport (打算) to know when the Lord Jesus will return.** The one who claims he knows when Jesus will return **is committing blasphemy (亵渎), pretending to be the Father!** Only the Father knows when the Son will return!

## Jesus' Final Return: Be ready for it

33 "Take heed, **watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is. 35 "**Watch therefore**, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming-in the **evening**, at **midnight**, at the **crowing of the rooster**, or in the **morning** - 36 "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

### 1. Be ready for Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> return by...

**a. Watching – during all 4 watches – all the time.** Watch out for danger like a watchman. This meant that "watch" equals "work." **It is like when someone says "watch my child." He means you must take care of his child.** So you must watch out for the Devil, the world, and your own flesh which war against the Spirit of God. Do this to protect yourself and your charges. The Lord does not want his people to be sleeping...not doing what they shouldn't...when he returns. The master expects his workers to be busy and make a profit for him when he returns. So work hard for Christ's kingdom! Build Christ's kingdom!

Matthew 25:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. 45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 "**Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.**

Christians, fathers, mothers, elders, ministers, and friends are to tell others about Christ's salvation. You must work for and support others who are doing this task! Especially help your elders!

**b. Praying.** Pray for grace to endure the pressure that is guaranteed to come. Praying for grace to do the work he has called you to do.

### 2. What happens if you are not ready for Christ's 2nd coming – if you are not watching, and praying?

You will prove yourself to be unworthy of his favor! Look at an illustration of this:

Matthew 25:8 - And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those

who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

The foolish virgins were unprepared, and so they lost the opportunity of joining with the bridegroom when he suddenly appeared. The Bridegroom had to leave the foolish virgins behind.

**Now a 2<sup>nd</sup> illustration of what will happen to those who are not ready for Jesus.**

Matthew 25:19 - "After a long time **the lord of those servants came and settled accounts** with them. 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, '**You wicked and lazy servant**, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

When Jesus (pictured by the lord in this story) unexpectedly returns, he will demand an accounting. He does not give any indication (指示) when he will return; he simply returns and demands an accounting. This was surely a reminder that his people must be busy working while waiting for his return.

### **3. Be ready, is repeated, repeated for emphasis!**

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Many people have prophesied dates and times of Jesus' return only to leave many disappointed.**

**b. Many others continue to give dates and times of Jesus' return, lying.** Call these men out! Warn those who follow them. These people cause others to change their lifestyles, including giving up saving financially for the future. (**The Lord and his servants were strong to call out those who were guilty of serious errors** – errors that could hurt the people of God! And this is one such errors!) (Bewitched, dogs, foolish, used tombs, sons of the Devil, snakes!)

**c. You must be ready for the Lord return with work (watch) and prayer.** Are you ready? Are you working for a great reward when Christ returns? **These returns are more valuable than any returns you have in this life – from any job you might do.** These returns last for eternity! **Do you love your job more than you love Jesus** and his kingdom? Do you pray that your heart for grace, strength, and wisdom to do God's work?

**d. Do you work for the church?** When you are in the family, you have to act like you are a member by **doing your share of the work!** Are you? Are you playing your part in the life of the church?

#### **Conclusion:**

Jesus will come back at a time when no one knows but you must be ready for it. Wait, work and pray for it.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Jesus will come to take you to be with him forever because you are precious to him.** He saved you and he won't leave you as orphans.

**2. So don't be pulled in by all the cataclysmic (灾难性的) activity and dates for Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming you hear people talk about in some churches or TV.** Don't panic. Those who do this are liars and hurt people. Expose them. False doctrines (教义) have consequences. Don't let people be hurt by lies.

**3. Since there is no more time to repent after Christ's return, spread the Word so men would put their trust in Jesus now.**

Finally: Jesus will come back and whether you are living or dead you will have to meet him. You will meet him as your Lord or as your judge. It is up to you to decide how you will meet him, but I know you won't like to meet him as judge. I am ready to meet him as Lord, I hope you will be too.