

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **The Destruction of Jerusalem and The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ, Part 7**

Last times...a very important prophesy regarding the days before He returns to earth  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)

First, a broad picture of “the beginning of sorrows”

Second, zoomed in on “The Tribulation”, the 1<sup>st</sup> Half of Jacob’s Trouble

Third, “Abomination of Desolation”, the mid-point of Jacob’s Trouble/70<sup>th</sup> Week  
of Daniel (whoso reads, let him understand)

Fourth, “Great Tribulation”, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Jacob’s Trouble

Then “panning out” from His close-up of Jacob’s Trouble, teaching the Parable of the  
Fig Tree, “this generation” and My words”

This time...given all He has said thus far, a warning to His disciples

We will be in Matt 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13

#### **Matt 24:42-51**

v42-44 Watch...ready:

Sitting on the western slope of the Mount of Olives, looking across the  
Kidron Valley (aka Valley of Jehoshaphat in Joel’s prophesies about DoL)  
toward the Temple, Jesus has been speaking with Peter and Andrew and  
James and John regarding the days before His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

His prophesy

- started with a “wide angle lens” and a warning (about deception)
- then zoomed in on Jacob’s Trouble
- then panned back out to the fig tree and “this generation”

Now, the prophesy concludes as He started it, with

- the “wide angle lens”
- a warning

This is a message for all of Jesus’ disciples, and even for us who will be returning  
with Him

No man knows the day or the hour or the instant of Jesus' return to earth...  
But know this: an echo of "Know this and understand..." (Dan 9:25a)

We do **not know when** He is coming but we **do know** that He **is** coming!

Jesus tells His disciples that they are to

1. watch..."keep awake", "vigilant watchfulness"
2. be ready..."adjusted", "prepared" (in heart, mind, living)

The first word of Jesus Christ's warning: Watch

For His coming will be as a thief in the night

- 1 Thes 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- 2 Peter 3:10 the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night

He could come at any time in that specific day known only by the Father (v36)  
He will come at a time we suppose He would not

The Lord expects His disciples to be watching and to be ready for Him

Some will...and some will not

v45-47 faithful and wise servant:

The faithful (trustworthy) and wise (thoughtful; to heed God's warning is wise!)  
servant of the Lord will be watching and will be ready

The faithful and wise servant will be

- feed, spiritually care for, others
- faithfully about his Lord's business when the Lord returns...
  - a faithful steward of the Lord's things and people entrusted to their care
  - faithful to the calling his Lord has given him
- subsequently given greater responsibility by his Lord

On the other hand, the unfaithful and unwise servant...

v48-51 evil servant...smite...portion with the hypocrites:

The Lord calls an unfaithful (not trustworthy)  
and unwise (not thoughtful, not heeding His warning) servant  
an evil servant

#### The evil servant

- is neither watching for his Lord nor is ready for his Lord's return
- grows impatient waiting for his Lord
  - "He sure is taking His time, isn't He!"
  - "He won't come for a very long time!"
  - "Where is the promise of His coming?! Christians have been saying for how many centuries that Jesus is coming soon. Not!!!"
- is short-sighted, not looking up, not believing his redemption draws near, but is looking around at "what's in it for me"
- begins to feed on vs feed others
  - he is now the lord of his life, Jesus is not...double-minded
  - serving Self rather than serving Jesus
  - indulging Self (lusts of the flesh) rather than denying Self and following Jesus
- will be VERY surprised when on the day the Lord returns...because he was not expecting Him and was not ready for Him

#### The Lord will

- punish the evil (unfaithful and unwise) servant, just as He blessed the faithful and wise servant (Rev 22:12)
- give the evil servant his reward – a portion with the hypocrites/actors/pretenders in
  - outer darkness
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> death

#### The penalty for the Creator NOT being Lord is severe!

Jesus Christ cannot be and will not be "2<sup>nd</sup> fiddle"

Before we leave Matt 24, let's re-examine v45-51...because there are people coming to your front door to deceive you and to give you a publication called *Awake!* – JW's

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, the voice/"lord" of JW's, declares that they are "the faithful and wise servant" in v45

The Watch Tower claims to be God's sole channel for communicating truth to humankind today. [*Watchtower*, 10/1/1967, p. 590]

The Watch Tower claims to be "Jehovah's theocratically controlled organization under the immediate direction of Jehovah God Himself."  
[*Watchtower*, 6/1/1965, p.352]

#### But they are false teachers

Charles Taze Russell, the "founding pastor" of JW, declared that Jesus Christ was returning to earth in October 1914, even though

- Jesus said v35-36
- Scripture says every eye will see Jesus Christ when He returns

When that obviously did not happen, Russell doubled down,  
declaring Jesus returned *invisibly* in 1914 and is ruling now...  
thru the Watch Tower

The Watch Tower believes and teaches

- Michael the archangel is Jesus Christ (wrong Jesus)
- Salvation by works (wrong gospel)
- John 1:1
- Hell does not exist
- some of them (done enough works for the Watch Tower  
e.g. give away lots of publications) are the 144,000 (Rev 7)  
to live in heaven with God forever

The Watch Tower is NOT the “faithful and wise servant”,  
it is an evil servant and part of the spiritual deception in these  
last days  
and JWs are prisoners-of-war in need of search and rescue from eternal  
destruction

Let's go to Luke's account

### **Luke 21:34-38**

v34-35 take heed...as a snare:

Jesus' warning recorded in Luke –

- Take heed
- Watch
- Pray

take heed...be cautious and attentive

to yourselves...every individual is accountable

lest at any time your hearts...the issue is always our hearts

be overcharged...burdened, not “liberated”

with surfeiting and drunkenness...intoxication and the hangover from it,  
the mind-blurring counterfeit joy offered by the things of the world

and cares of this life...Soil #3 (unfruitful)

so that day...the specific day of Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

come upon you unawares...suddenly, unexpected  
Jesus expects His disciples to heed His warning

For as a snare shall it come...that day will be like a spring of an inescapable trap

on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth...inhabitants of the world  
that do not believe (vs Phil 3:20, John 17:16)

v36 Watch...pray always...accounted worthy to escape:  
Watch...keep awake, be diligently watchful

pray...ala "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou  
shouldest keep them from the evil" (John 17:15) to the Bishop and Great  
Shepherd of our souls

that ye may be accounted worthy...deemed deserving by the LORD the Judge  
(Judges 11:27)

1. to escape all these things that shall/will come to pass  
2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and  
precious promises: that by these ye might be  
partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the  
corruption that is in the world through lust  
v11b-27...the worldwide judgment of God

2. to stand before the Son of Man...able to stand before Him  
In the days of Jeremiah, the sons of Jonadab the Rechabite

were

faithful to their father, Judah was unfaithful to the

Lord.

I spoke to you, you did not listen.

I called you, you did not answer.

I warned you repeatedly, you have not heeded My

warnings.

In the midst of an evil people was a remnant of faithful people

Jer 35:18-19 Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites,  
Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel;  
Because ye have obeyed the commandment of  
Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and  
done according unto all that he hath commanded  
you: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the  
God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not

want a man to stand before me for ever

2 Thes 1:4-10

v37-38 day time...at night:

Jesus' whereabouts in the Final Week of His ministry

During the day: teaching in the Temple

At night: lodging/staying on the Mount of Olives...

in the Garden of Gethsemane

John 18:1-2

Now let's conclude in Mark's account

### **Mark 13:33-37**

v33 Take ye heed, watch, and pray:

Jesus' warning in Mark

1. Take heed
2. Watch
3. Pray

Take ye heed...beware, be attentive

watch...keep awake

pray...talk AND listen

James 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways

For ye know not when the time is...the exact time of Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (v32)

v34-36 far journey...watch...coming suddenly:

This is the situation for the disciples of Jesus Christ alive today:

Jesus has taken a far journey...returning from whence He came,  
to the right hand of the Father in heaven

He has left us in charge of His house...1 Cor 3:9, 16 and 1 Cor 6:19-20

He has given each of us (ye = plural you) an assignment/work...  
ministry and calling

He has commanded the porter/gatekeeper...us, keeping our eye gates and  
ear gates and mouth gate  
to watch...keep awake, vigilant watchfulness

Therefore...watch, be busy about your assignment, be faithful to your calling

Because we do not know when, the “watch” (Matt 24:43), Jesus is returning

- late in the day
- midnight
- 3<sup>rd</sup> watch of the night
- dawn

But when Jesus does come, He will come suddenly...and we best not be asleep!  
We are to be awake, alert, ready always

v37 what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch:

The first word of Jesus’ warning to conclude His prophesy: Watch

The last word to conclude His prophesy: Watch

He said this to...Peter and Andrew and James and John

He says this to...all 12 disciples

He says this to...all, you and me

When is Jesus Christ the King and Judge returning to earth?

No man knows

When is Jesus Christ the Bridegroom coming to the clouds for His Bride?

BEFORE He returns as King and Judge, but no man knows when.

His coming to the clouds is...imminent (“at any moment” vs “soon”)

Jesus has forewarned us

Will we be faithful and wise and heed His warning?

Will we be evil and lose patience with His lingering?

## **Application**

To Whom was Jesus speaking in Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21?

To Peter and Andrew and James and John?

Yes

To all 12 disciples, including Judas?

Yes

To the Church, His Body and Building and Bride?

Yes

To Israel and the nations (Is 11:11-12)?

Yes  
To His “Jacob’s Trouble” disciples, the “Tribulation saints”?  
Yes

I believe His words are going to jump off the page after the Rapture and  
during Jacob’s Trouble!

“The time” is the “the beginning of sorrows” of Jesus’ prophesy  
The hallmark of this time is...deception  
Deception that gets increasingly intense as time passes

Let’s always

1. take heed...be cautious and attentive  
Prov 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in  
thy latter end (i.e. the wise man considers the end of the matter)  
The Lord does not speak to us just to hear His own voice
2. watch...”keep awake”, “vigilant watchfulness  
Prov 8:34 Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates,  
waiting at the posts of my doors  
1 Cor 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit/act you like men, be strong.  
1 Chron 12:32 the children of Issachar, *which were men* that had understanding of  
the times, to know what Israel ought to do
3. pray  
continue in prayer, talking AND listening  
always
4. be ready...readiness of mind and speech and actions  
Acts 21:10-13  
Col 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,  
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection  
on things above, not on things on the earth  
1 Peter 3:15 sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give*  
an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is  
in you with meekness and fear
5. be busy/faithful  
1 Cor 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and  
stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in  
stewards, that a man be found faithful  
Being diligent to continue our course and to finish our ministry with joy
6. sober  
2 Tim 4:1-5 watch = “sober”



1 Peter 1:13-16

1 Peter 4:7

1 Peter 5:8

7. expecting, awaiting (vs spiritually sleeping and surprised)

1 Thes 1:9-10 ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come

1 Thes 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober

Rom 13:11-14

To be surprised on that day is not a good thing!

Following Jesus Christ

- requires unconditional and complete surrender daily
- is not an event, it is a new nature and new life (Soils 2 and 3 vs Soil 4)
- is a race/course to be finished, not just started, come what may

Matt 24:15b whoso readeth, let him understand

Matt 24:25 Behold, I have told you before

<u>Section</u>	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Prophecy of Destruction, disciples' questions	24:1-3	13:1-4	21:5-7	not in John (to Church)
Beginning of Sorrows	24:4-8	13:5-8	21:8-11a	
Tribulation	24:9-14	13:9-13	21:11b-19	
Abomination of Desolation	24:15-20	13:14-18	21:20-21	
Great Tribulation	24:21-31	13:28-32	21:22-28	
Parable of Fig Tree	24:32-41	13:28-32	21:29-33	
Warning	24:42-51	13:33-37	21:34-36	