

06112023 **Stay Ready!!...Did you know there are 260 chapters in the New Testament, and Jesus return is mentioned over 315 times in those chapters. Statistically, one verse in 25 mentions the Lord's return. Only three books don't mention the second coming...Galatians, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John.**

**Jesus himself spoke often of His return...at this point in Gospel of Luke, we find the first extended teaching on the second coming as Jesus warned his disciples to be ready for this event...and don't let trouble, persecution, or the evil actions of men throw you off your service ...**

**Jesus reassures and encourages his disciples. saying things like in verse 4... "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more," and then in verse 22, Jesus says; "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life," and again in verse 32, Jesus says; "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." But we see that this discussion ends on a seemingly more ominous note....actually words of warning... As he knew what his disciples would experience delays, set backs, disappointments, rejection and persecution and martyrdom....**

**and They are specifically commanded not to consider themselves off duty at any time no matter what...**

*NLT LK 12: 35* "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning....

- **He goes on to tell them it will be worth it...when he comes back**

*Nlt 12:37 The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! <sup>38</sup> He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn.<sup>[d]</sup> But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.*

**As he continues to move toward the city of Jerusalem ...he now turns to communicate with the curious crowd who are always following him following him ...**

**He speaks to the crowd**: *NLT Luke 12: 54 Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, ‘Here comes a shower.’ And you are right. <sup>55</sup> When the south wind blows, you say, ‘Today will be a scorcher.’ And it is. <sup>56</sup> You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the present times.*

- **Jesus resorts to a weather analogy to try and shake the listening crowd out of its sleepy-headedness, out of its Pharisaic-influenced hypocrisy.:**
- **Knowing how to read weather patterns and signs was more than a convenient source of small talk for the rural populations perched at various outposts in Palestine's outback.**
- **Clouds from the west over Mediterranean Sea... indicate moisture from the Mediterranean was riding in , rain storms are approaching ...which could trigger catastrophic and almost instantaneous flash floods through dry desert canyons.**
- **While These Winds across the Galilean sea could whip up towers of waves, transforming the usually tranquil waters extremely dangerous storms.**

- **Any wind from the south would come blowing up from the barren Negev desert, bringing scorching heat in its breath. Or devastating sand storms form the Arabian desert...**
- **Knowing how to interpret the earth and the sky were life and death skills.**
- **Now, If people are able to discern weather patterns from such obvious simple signs, Jesus points out, then why can't they perceive the significance of the "present time"? with all the signs... miracle signs, healing disease, casting out demons, controlling nature, word signs “no one had ever spoken like him”, far wiser than any of the religious leaders... his teaching were electrified and charged with spiritual energy....these signs were obvious and verifiable simply by watching, listening ot to mention thye personally experienced much .**

**So Why can't they read the 'signs of their times'? because they are in denial...denial is saying something is not true despite overwhelming evidence that it is true... he calls them fools, other versions hypocrites...**

**Jesus reprimands his listeners for being so dense and oblivious on purpose ignoring the signs...it was as though they were standing in the middle of a cloudburst or scorching wind and wondering why in the world they were getting wet or sand in their eyes.**

- **Jesus has little patience with the crowd, branding them fools...ignorant on purpose.**
- **Such an accusation would indicate that Jesus kmew that they knew the truth, yet pretended not to understand.**

- They would rather deny what they know in their hearts than publicly identify the Messiah...why? Fear of the leaders. They were people pleasers...

**Jesus' point is that when we choose to be blind to a reality that presents itself in a multitude of ways, we bring judgment upon ourselves...**

**Jesus tells them a story to emphasize his message..**

*LK 12: 57 “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”*

**The scenario...if your going to court and you know you are in the wrong...and going to lose the case...**

- A wise person would do all they could to minimize loss and try to settle before they face the judge...and there is a judgment coming...
- This person would read the sign of the times right...
- Well if the Messiah who you have been waiting for appears...you would be wise to get right with him...and not wait until you were at the judgment seat....
- Our time on this earth is limited and therefore precious. It would be a shame to allow time to pass without seriously considering information of potential importance to eternal destiny, particularly if that information is verifiable yet different from what we currently believe.

- **The answer repent...and produce actions in accordance to that...**
- **May the roots of our mind and heart be soft to embrace the nourishment...brought by the weather and season we are in...**

**But thankfully Jesus the Messiah ...gives second chances...even to the Israelites...who were often represented as a fig tree...but the analogy works for all the curious onlookers...whether they are dumb on purpose... or anti Owner...**

For he tells them this parable...

*LK 13:6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' LK 13:8 " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "*

- A tree has an owner God the Father, the caretaker is Jesus, the fig Israel... should have produced fruit for it was the fruit season...but did not
- The fig tree represents the leaders and nation Israel as the tension with Israel continues to grow, so that by its end the Jewish nation's rejection of Jesus is virtually inevitable. Perhaps typical of the unit is 13:34-35, where Jesus issues a prophetic declaration that Israel's house is now desolate.

*NLT Luke 13:34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. <sup>35</sup> And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will*

*never see me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!'*

Its foolishness will remain until it recognizes the Messiah.

- This barren tree required the same space, moisture, fertilizer, time and labor just like all the other trees, but it bore no fruit.
- How is this fig tree loving God and its neighbor? It is not...it is sucking up nutrients, using a gardener to nurture it, soaking up the sun's rays to produce food. Starving out other plants of necessary sunlight...and producing nothing...
- But this also can include ...others..and those evil people living in our time...

*NLT 2 Peter 3:3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."*

*<sup>5</sup> They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. <sup>6</sup> Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. <sup>7</sup> And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.*

*<sup>8</sup> But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A Day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief.....Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in*



fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. <sup>11</sup> Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live...

### **So what are we to do... Paul tells us**

**NLT1 Thessalonians 5:** <sup>2</sup> For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

<sup>4</sup> But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. <sup>6</sup> So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.

Paul is telling them they will know enough to be ready for Jesus' return, and they will not be surprised. Nor be judged!

<sup>9</sup> For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. <sup>10</sup> Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. <sup>11</sup> So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

### **Stay alert and be about the business...He is coming soon with reward or Judgment...**

*Nlt 12:37 The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded.*

**End**

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- it recognizes the Messiah. After this section Jesus' attention will turn to instructing his disciples in light of his approaching departure. They must be made ready to live in his absence. Know the Time (12:49-59)

A little later while at the Temple... Then Jesus switches to the Temple of which the religious leaders took great pride in...and the symbol of their Religion... cast Judgment on it! Jesus Speaks about the desolation to take place in the temple and the lives of the Israelites... then speaks about the distant future

- **Because the Religious leaders failed in their responsibility..... they are being removed from the position...** we recall that Jesus had just finished calling the religious leaders...the Pharisees and the teachers of the law... on the carpet for their misrepresentation of God to the People

But this also can include ...others..

<sup>3</sup> Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. <sup>4</sup>They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."

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world with a mighty flood. <sup>7</sup> And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

<sup>8</sup> But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief.....Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live...

- Judgment starts in the house of God! Then and now

**24** As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. <sup>2</sup> But he responded, “Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”

<sup>3</sup> Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, “Don't let anyone mislead you, <sup>5</sup> for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. <sup>7</sup> Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. <sup>8</sup> But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

<sup>9</sup> “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>10</sup> And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. <sup>11</sup> And many false

prophets will appear and will deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations<sup>[c]</sup> will hear it; and then the end will come.

- When you see these signs...continue to endure and stay loyal to me!! I am coming soon
- But wait there is more:

*NLT 2 Tim 3: 1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!*

### [Although the time is close](#)

Matthew 24:36-37, “No one knows about that *day or hour*, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

- Jesus states that people and angels and even he does not know the day or hour, but then qualifies that statement noting the similarity in his return and the times of Noah.

- Like Noah we will be ready. Noah was in the light. He lived by faith and hope. He built the ark the way we are building our lives and the Church.
- He had tried to warn the people of the coming judgment, just like we are doing and will do. Then he saw the flood, he saw God's wrath poured out on the earth, *and he went through the flood.*
- Like Noah we will see the storm clouds coming, signs of the end times, and like him we will get ready.

*NLT Luke 21:*<sup>31</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near.

### **So what are we to do...**

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Paul is telling them they will know enough to be ready for Jesus' return, and they will not be surprised. Nor be judged!

<sup>9</sup> For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. <sup>10</sup> Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. <sup>11</sup> So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

**Stay alert and be about the business...He is coming soon**

**End**

**WHY BECAUSE HE IS COMING ...HE WILL DELIVER...WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN...SO WE SERVE AND WATCH OUR LIVES ON DUTY...UNTIL HE COMES AND AMAZINGLY WHEN HE COMES HE WILL SERVE US...THE MASTER SERVING THE SERVANT...**

*Luke 12:<sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak*

**So what this means is...I must persevere in my faith in Jesus between the beginning and the end... another words... in my living ...IN MY WORDS AND IN MY WORK AND MINISSTRY...UNTIL THE TIME HE COMES...**

*THIS IS THE ISSUE....TIMING...keep serving ....keep waiting... keep pace*

*LK 12: 36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.*

- **Run around and delay opening the door for him...because were trying to straighten up the mess we made....catch up on the work we should have done...get our attitude right...**
- **end**

[Lets jump ahead 2000 years...](#)

## \*\*\* This is the truth...the hard thing is usually the right thing...keep doing the Right Thing

### We

*Luke 9:51 tells us* As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. Jesus mind and attention are focused on his date with the cross...He is also increasingly concerned with the preparation of his disciples for the work of the Kingdom when he leaves...

As Jesus speaks of his ministry, he asks the multitudes to think of a weather forecast. Unlike meteorologists today, who work with satellite images and Doppler radar, the ancients could predict the weather in Palestine by making a few simple observations.

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- **Our time on this earth is limited and therefore precious. It would be a shame to allow time to pass without seriously considering information of potential importance to eternal destiny, particularly if that information is verifiable yet different from what we currently believe.**
- **The answer repent...and produce actions in accordance to that...**
- **May the roots of our mind and heart be soft to embrace the nourishment...brought by the weather and season we are in...**

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Matthew 24:36-37, “No one knows about that *day or hour*, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” Jesus states that people and angels and even he does not know the day or hour, but then qualifies that statement noting the similarity in his return and the times of Noah.

Like Noah we will be ready. Noah was in the light. He lived by faith and hope. He built the ark the way we are building our lives and the Church. He got into the ark *seven days before the floodwaters came* (Gen 7:7, 10). He had



tried to warn the people of the coming judgment, just like we are doing and will do. Then he saw the flood, he saw God's wrath poured out on the earth, *and he went through the flood.*

Like Noah we will see the storm clouds coming, signs of the end times, and like him we will get ready. Luke 21:31, "Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near." Jesus says we won't know the day or hour, but we will know it is near.

The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonian church, "For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.** You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled." 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4-6. Paul is telling them they will know enough to be ready for Jesus' return, and they will not be surprised.

Only the non-believers, living in the dark, will be taken unawares. This scripture specifically states that the people living in the light will *not* be taken by surprise; they will know what is going on, and if not the exact day and hour, then pretty close to it.

Jesus speaking to the Church of Laodicea said, "But **if** you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you." The implication here is that the people who are awake will know at what time he will come for them (Rev 3:3). Again, the people who are spiritually "awake," will not be surprised.

In the Gospels Jesus also said to be ready: "But understand this: **If** the owner of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. *So, you also must be ready...*" (Matt 24:43).

A thief wants to quietly enter the house, quickly grab some valuables and quietly depart, all without waking anyone. The thief will come and go before the occupants even know he was there. When they wake up, it will already be too late. But if they are awake, alert and ready, the thief never sneaks into the house unseen.

When will Jesus return? We can't predict the exact day, but as we get very close to it, we will know enough to be ready and waiting.

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### **So the solution...**

*LK 12: 36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.*

- **Run around and delay opening the door for him...because were trying to straighten up the mess we made....catch up on the work we should have done...get our attitude right...**

- **end**