



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The King's Perfect Prediction: Ready or Not!

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David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / 804-796-9411 / www.capitolcom.org

Matthew 24:36-51 *“But concerning that day and hour no one has known, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37) For as the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38) For as they were in those days before the flood eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39) And they knew not until the flood came and took them all, so the coming of the Son of Man shall be also. 40) Then there will be two men in the field, one is taken away and one is being left. 41) Two women are grinding in the mill, one is being taken away and one is being left. 42) Ye watch therefore, because ye know not on what day your Lord is coming. 43) But ye know this, that if the housemaster had known in what watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through. 44) Because of this ye yourselves be ready, because the hour in which ye think not, the Son of Man is coming. 45) Who then is a faithful slave and prudent who the Lord appointed over his household to give them food in season? 46) Blessed is that slave whom his coming Lord will find so doing; 47) Amen I say to you that he will appoint him over all his goods. 48) But if the wicked slave may say in his heart, ‘My Lord is delaying.’ 49) And begins to strike his fellow slaves, and may eat and drink with those being drunk, 50) The Lord of that slave will come on a day which he is not expecting and in an hour which he is not knowing, 51) And will cut him asunder, and will assign his lot with the hypocrites; there will be the wailing and gnashing of teeth.”*

“THIS VERSE (36) BECOMES THE MAIN PROPOSITION WHICH IS DEVELOPED FROM THIS POINT TO MATTHEW 25:30. SINCE NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR, THE BELIEVER IS TO WATCH AND BE PREPARED AT ANY MOMENT FOR HIS COMING.” STAN TOUSSAINT

How is it possible for the Father to know something that the Son does not know? Will the world be in a state of spiritual revival or unbelief when Jesus comes? Are we actually being promised not only ignorance, but other than our expectation regarding the precise day and hour of Jesus' coming? What is the one thing the good slave is found doing? Is it possible for the wicked slave to determine when his Lord will return?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 24: MATTHEW 24:25:1-13 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: THE UNPREPARED'S FATE
- APRIL 20-22: MATTHEW 25:14-30 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: HIS VERDICT ON TALENTS

The surprises must have been overwhelming the disciples as they accompanied Jesus that Tuesday of the Passion Week. They were surprised at the withered fig tree on the way to the temple, but Jesus used it to strengthen their faith in prayer. They must have been surprised at the hardness of their leader's wicked hearts as they tried to trap Jesus for cleansing the temple of their robberies. They must have marveled at Jesus' wisdom as He answered the indicting tax question in such a way that his questioners were indicted and had to agree. No one had ever been able to answer the liberal Sadducees' question, but Jesus surprised them with their most well known description of their God. Their jaws must have dropped as Christ produced the greatest deterrent to crime which would provide peace and prosperity for any society, when he quoted the Greatest Commandments to love God supremely and others as ourselves. Christ's question about David's Lord, proving He was the Messiah, was a pleasant surprise. But then Jesus' seven woes upon the Pharisees must have held them in awe. And the final statements of their temple becoming desolate and one stone not being left upon another must have been a total surprise. Thus the disciples question Jesus, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Jesus has given them the signs of His coming and the end of the age, but they are surprised again that the timing is a top secret kept from the angels and even Jesus Himself!

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM – INTERCESSORY PRAYER – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
 THURSDAY @ 7:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
 THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON – BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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"IT IS THE GLORY OF GOD TO CONCEAL A THING; BUT THE HONOR OF KINGS IS TO SEARCH OUT A MATTER."
PROVERBS 25:2

I. A PERVASIVE DISREGARD MT. 24:36-39

Noah invested a hundred years in building the ark and acquiring all its necessary provisions, a giant testimony to the fact that a flood was coming. The people of that day were so vile that 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"* (Genesis 6:5-6). Noah preached to everyone around him (2 Peter 2:5), but they all ignored him, though *"the earth also was corrupt before the God, and the earth was filled with violence"* (Gen. 6:11). While Noah prepared, they continued *"eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day which Noah entered the ark, and they knew not until the flood came and took them all."* One would expect that when all the animals went in two by two (Gen. 7:9), they would have feared and heeded the warning. But they had never seen rain before, since a dew always came up and *"watered the whole face of the ground"* (Gen. 2:6). So they all chose to ignore Noah and disregard the ark until *"the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened"* (Gen. 7:11), *"and all the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered"* (Gen. 7:19-20). Jesus states twice that the same foolish disregard for truth would be pervasive at His coming.

"THE PEOPLE WERE JUST AS UNCONCERNED ABOUT HIS PREACHING AS ABOUT THE ARK HE WAS BUILDING, THINKING BOTH WERE MEANINGLESS AND ABSURD."
JOHN MACARTHUR

II. A PERSONAL DISREGARD MT. 24:40-44

Jesus not only mentions a universal responsibility regarding the entire earth and Noah, He also points to a personal responsibility. Each individual is accountable to God for their acceptance of the truth. Individuals who have worked together for years will suddenly be separated forever because one was ready and the other was not. They were both caught by surprise, but there was nothing the believer could do at that point for the unbeliever. Jesus even points to leadership as he moves from those doing menial labor to the master of the house. That one in leadership would care enough for his possessions to be alert and watching for the thief if he knows when the thief will be coming. How much more should one care for their soul? Jesus commands us to *"watch"* and *"be ready, because the hour in which ye think not, the Son of Man is coming"* (Mt. 24:42, 44).

"WHAT PROFIT IS IT TO A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSES HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT WILL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?."
MATTHEW 16:26

III. A PERNICIOUS DISREGARD MT. 24:45-51

Christ continues pointing to leadership when He asks, *"Who then is a faithful slave and prudent who the Lord appointed over His household to give them food in season?"* Each believer is a *"slave"* to Jesus Christ his Lord because he has been *"bought with a price"* (1 Cor. 6:20). *"His household"* has to refer to His own children in the family of believers and the *"faithful slave"* is *"blessed"* and exalted when he is found feeding others what the family of God always loves—His Word! (Mt. 5:19) But the unfaithful slave is identified as *"wicked"* when he thinks his Lord's coming is delayed and he begins to do the opposite of the Greatest Commandments and he abuses those whom he has been given authority over. Jesus doubly emphasizes that He will come when He is not expected with immediate and eternal judgment.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you one who is willing to warn others of the danger of unbelief and the doom that awaits the unbeliever?
- 2) Do the imperatives to *"watch"* and *"be ready"* make a difference in your attitudes and actions?
- 3) Is your leadership characterized by feeding others the Word of God or taking advantage of those below you?