

EXPECTING THE LORD'S RETURN

Understanding 'WHY' we are still here in 2022 .. 2023 .. 2024 .. 2025, now even in 2026 !!

We often hear it said: "He will come . . . when we are **NOT** expecting him". This understanding has its origins in many bible passages such as the Parables of the Lord , and particularly those where the metaphor of '**a thief**' is employed.

Matt 24v36 - "... of that day and hour knoweth **NO** man , no , **NOT** the angels of heaven , but my Father only "

Matt 24v42 - "Watch therefore , for ye know **NOT** what hour your Lord doth come "

Matt 24v43 - "if the goodman of the house had known in what watch '**the thief**' would come, he would have watched "

1 Thess 5v2 - "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh '**as a thief**' in the night"

2 Pet 3v10 - "But the day of the Lord will come '**as a thief**' in the night"

For almost two thousand years , the servants of the Lord have lived with the constant and ever-present '**uncertainty**' concerning '**THE TIME**' of the Lord's return. In many ways this *uncertainty* has been '**a blessing**'. Perhaps by design , this uncertainty has kept *the faithful* in a heightened and perpetual *state of expectation*. Being encouraged and excited by the joyful prospect of an early return has been a constant help to all believers to stay *faithful* and remain *in the way*.

This anticipation of a sudden , un-announced return of the Lord (*like a thief*), has for many generations been a theme used to remind us - the Lord could come "*at anytime / at any moment / even today / tonite / this week / next week*". In other words , He may well come '**SOONER**' than we expect.

Yet this principle is '**EQUALLY TRUE**' if He returns '**LATER**' than we expect.

(though , this '**latter**' possibility is NEVER heard openly expressed . . . **WHY ??**)

If we've lived *a life-time* in a constant & hopeful anticipation of his '**EARLY** return' (*to call us away from the world and remove us from the troubles / tribulations still yet to come*) then we'd certainly **NOT** expect Him to return at a time beyond the outbreak of these calamitous events. But *if* He did . . . this would also be at a time '*that we expect NOT*'. Therefore BOTH scenarios are equally legitimate and possible. Yet we NEVER discuss the Lord's return being delayed.

At this point , some people may question this reasoning , and perhaps cite the parable of the ' evil steward ':

Mat 24v48 - "But and if that **evil servant** shall say in his heart, **My lord delayeth his coming** ;

v49 - "And shall begin to smite his fellow servants , and to eat and drink with the drunken ;

v50 - "The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him , in an hour he is not aware of "

Was it that the steward said "*My lord delayeth his coming*" that made him intrinsically '**evil**'? Or was it his immoral behaviour that followed , which revealed the secret motivations and desires of his heart ? Had the steward simply observed the reality of his lord's delayed arrival and stated this (*without the cruel and riotous behaviour*) would he have been considered an "**evil steward**" ? Of course not !! Neither will it be for us.

Also , those bible passages which '*seem*' to liken the Lord's coming to a secretive "**thief-like**" approach . . . **WHY** are they always directly connected to *violent judgment and destruction* ? Isn't his '*stealthy un-announced return*' for the sole purpose of calling away His saints? Doesn't '*the destruction*' come only AFTER his subsequent , visible appearing with His glorified saints ? Is it possible we have a 'fundamental misconception' concerning the Lord's coming ? [[see link](#)]

❖ [HIS COMING vs. HIS APPEARING - Understanding the distinction (Click Link) : [THE RETURN OF CHRIST - The Need For Bible Truth](#)]

THE TRUTH IS . . . We ARE most definitely told '**WHEN**' He will return. While Daniel 12v1 provides neither "*the hour , nor the day*" , nevertheless he does reveal in clear , unmistakable language the true "**TIME**" of the Lord's return :

DANIEL 12 v 1-2

And **AT THAT TIME** shall Michael stand up , the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people :

And there shall be **a time of trouble** , such as never was
since there was a nation . . . even **TO THAT SAME TIME** :

and **AT THAT TIME** thy people shall be delivered , every one that shall be found written in the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake ,
some to everlasting life , and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Without disclosing “*the hour or the day*” the prophet Daniel - by aligning other contemporaneous events that happen at this one moment of time - reveals “THE TIME” of the Lord’s advent.

- It’s the “SAME TIME” the Lord Jesus Christ stands upon the Mount of Olives,
- It’s the “SAME TIME” that God’s people are ‘*delivered*’ (those “*written in the book* ”) ;
- It’s the “SAME TIME” the dead in Christ are ‘*raised*’ (those “*that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake* ”)

Can there be any dispute or disagreement with the rendering of this verse ? Furthermore , Daniel’s description of these momentous events is entirely consistent with (and corroborated by) other passages throughout scripture :

Acts 1 v 11-12 - “*Ye men of Galilee , why stand ye gazing up into heaven ? this same Jesus , which is taken up from you into heaven , shall so come IN LIKE MANNER as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet ”

➤➤ The Lord Jesus will return in like manner (*visibly & physically*) as he left , from the mount of Olives.

Job 19 v 25-27 - “*For I know that my redeemer liveth , and that ‘ he shall STAND ’ at the latter day upon the earth : And though after my skin worms destroy this body , ‘ yet in my flesh ’ shall I SEE God : Whom I shall SEE for myself & mine eyes shall behold & not another ; though my reins be consumed within me ”*
➤➤ Just like Job , the saints will ‘SEE’ the Lord ‘STAND upon the earth’ while still in their mortal flesh.

Zechariah 14 v 4-5 - “*His feet shall STAND in that day upon the mount of Olives , which is before Jerusalem on the east ... And ye (Jews) shall flee to the valley of the mountains ... yea , ye shall flee , like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah & the LORD my God shall come , all the saints with thee . ”*
➤➤ As the Jews flee ‘into the wilderness’ , Christ returns with all the holy angels (*Hb. ‘qadosh’*) with him

ALL in complete accordance with Daniel 12v1. Yet, HOW can these bible passages be true if (*as we currently believe*) :

BEFORE the final time of trouble . . . ✕ Christ returns secretly ‘as a thief’ . . .
✕ Saints are called away to Sinai for ‘10 years’
✕ Judgment Seat takes place ‘prior to’ Armageddon
✕ Christ returns with ‘glorified’ Saints to Mt. Olives
✕ The Saints ‘fight with Christ’ at Armageddon

Down through the ages , an ‘**EARLY REMOVAL**’ (*BEFORE . . . the trial & tribulation*) has **NEVER** been the experience of the Lord Jesus / NOR of his prophets and servants of old / NOR has it been of the saints

- NOAH was **NOT** removed from the earth . . . He was just “*KEPT*” from God’s wrath
- LOT was **NOT** removed from the earth . . . he was just “*KEPT*” from destruction
- Israel’s firstborn were **NOT** removed during the Passover . . . they were “*KEPT*” from the ‘Angel of Death’
- Daniel’s 3 friends were **NOT** removed from the furnace . . . they were “*KEPT*” from the engulfing flames
- Daniel was **NOT** removed from the lion’s den . . . he was “*KEPT*” & protected from harm

LIKEWISE . . . The believers (ecclesia) will **NOT** be removed from the world ‘PRE-tribulation’

But they will be . . . ♦ HIDDEN IN SECRET - in an end-times ‘*PASSOVER*’
♦ PRESERVED & “*KEPT*” - through the Time of Trouble
♦ DELIVERED & SAVED - at Christ’s Return (*Dan12v1*)

❖ [Over **60 bible texts** proving saints will endure thro’ the Time of Trouble [[‘CLICK’ Link](#)] >> [ENDURING THE FINAL TRIBULATION](#)]

This has always been God’s purpose - from the time of the first ‘*PASSOVER*’ to the final days of the kingdoms of men - to allow His children to ‘*endure through*’ times of trouble and tribulation for the development of a people *precious* to Him. It is for the refinement of *our* character and the purification of *our* faith. It is what the Father seeks and what gives glory to Him. Our ‘trust in Him’ (*faith*) manifested through fiery trials , afflictions and adversity. How can we hope to be the recipients of ‘*praise and honour and glory*’ if we’re taken before the hour of trial and before we can exhibit those qualities ? It is why we’re still here in 2022. It is why our Lord’s return may be later than ‘we expected’.

1 Peter 1v7 “*.. the trial of your faith , being much more precious than of gold that perisheth , though it be tried with fire , might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ ”*

*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience,
I also will ‘KEEP’ THEE from the hour of temptation,
which shall come upon all the world,
. . . to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

REVELATION 3:10

NOTE: G5083 ‘KEEP’ From τηρός teros - ‘A WATCH ; TO GUARD’
From loss or injury ‘by keeping the eye upon’

MOST IMPORTANT ►►► ‘NO REMOVAL’ OF SAINTS
FROM THIS HOUR OF TEMPTATION (ie. ‘Time of Trouble’)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (‘CLICK’ on Blue Links)

‘BIBLE EVIDENCE ONLY !!’ DOCUMENTS

- [TIME OF TROUBLE - or - CHRIST’S RETURN \(Which comes first ? \)](#)
- [SAINTS ENDURE ‘THE FINAL TRIBULATION’](#)
- [DIVINE JUDGMENT . . . THRO’ MAN’S ‘WICKED DEVICES’](#)
- [THE COMING ‘END-TIMES’ PASSOVER](#)

FURTHER READING (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

1. [THE FINAL VISION . . . Where there is NO VISION the people perish](#)
2. [EXPECTING THE LORD’S RETURN . . . Why we are still here in 2023](#)
3. [THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE . . . Can we know “the day & hour” ??](#)
4. [THE TIME OF TROUBLE . . . We Are Here Until The End](#)
5. [THE RETURN OF CHRIST . . . The Need For Bible Truth](#)
6. [THE END OF THE WORLD . . . Parable Of The Wheat & Tares](#)
7. [OUR CALLING AWAY . . . When will it really happen ?](#)
8. [AT THE LAST TRUMP . . . The Moment of Our Deliverance](#)
9. [THE SIGN OF OLIVET . . . A final ‘sign’ for the faithful ?](#)
10. [THE SEVEN TRUMPETS . . . The ‘end-times’ fulfilment revealed](#)
11. [REVELATION 12 \(Pt.1 \) . . . The Great Red Dragon](#)
12. [REVELATION 12 \(Pt.2 \) . . . The Dragon](#)
13. [THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD . . . Cometh](#)
14. [CLIMATE CHANGE . . . The ‘Apocalyptic’ Bible Truth](#)
15. [THE DESTROYING ANGEL . . . & The Coming ‘End-Times’ Passover](#)
16. [THE COMING JUDGMENTS OF FIRE . . . ‘Pre-cursor’ to Armageddon](#)
17. [THE GREAT NOISE . . . Soon To Consume Both Heaven & Earth](#)
18. [THE BUYER & THE SELLER . . . The ‘Rod of Wickedness’ revealed](#)
19. [THE 2020 PROPHECY . . . \(Job 20 \) A Warning For The Last Days](#)
20. [GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR . . . & The ‘End-Times’ Passover](#)