

## EXPECTING THE LORD'S RETURN

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

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.

**Zech 14 v 4-5** - “*And 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 (Jews)*

➤➤ As the Jews flee ‘*into the wilderness*’, all the saints are ‘gathered together’ there with them

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](#)