

Living in Light of Jesus' Imminent Return

Matthew 24

Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1:8-11)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

How often do you think about Jesus' return...

in a given day?

in a given week?

in a given month?

The Context (Matt 24)

- Jesus is in Jerusalem, has just visited the temple**
- Has lamented over Jerusalem**
- Jesus has just foretold the destruction of the temple**

Matt 24:3-8

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

1. Don't be led astray, but pay attention to the signs.

- There will be false Messiahs

Recent Examples: Jim Jones, Charles Manson, David Koresh

When Jesus returns, we'll know it

Other Signs:

- wars and rumors of wars
- famine and earthquakes

Matt 24:36-42

36 But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matt 24:36-42

40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

2. Stay Awake, for you do not know when He is coming. [Matt 24:36-42]

A) Jesus could come sooner than we think

Noah, Our Example of Faith

”By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” ~ Heb 11:7

2. Stay Awake, for you do not know when He is coming. [Matt 24:36-44]

B) Jesus could come later than we think

* Tendency for us to interpret events of the day as signs of the end times.

Predictions of Christ's 2nd Coming:

90AD by Saint Clement 1

400 by Saint Martin of Tours

968 by the German Emperor Otto III

1000 by many Christians in Europe

1033 the 1000th anniversary of Jesus' death and resurrection

1284 Pope Innocent III

1346 Saw Black Plague as being prelude to end of the world

1783 After a volcanic eruption in Iceland

1843-1844 William Miller made 2 predictions

1850, 1856 by Ellen White

1891 or before by Joseph Smith

Why has it taken so long for Jesus to return?

...you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ~ 2 Peter 3:2-7

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ~ 2 Peter 3:8-10

* The Lord's timing is perfect, it is not slow.

* Rather, He is patient, not wishing any should perish.

Matt 24:43-51

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

3. Always be ready because he could come at any time [Matt 24:43-51]

A. The Thief in The Night

If a thief was coming to your house tonight what would you do?

If Jesus was returning tonight what would you do?

3. Always be ready because he could come at any time [Matt 24:43-51]

B. The Faithful Servant and the Foolish Servant
Being a servant...

The Great Commandment (Matt 22:36-40)

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

3. Always be ready because he could come at any time [Matt 24:43-51]

B. The Faithful Servant and the Foolish Servant Being a servant...

The Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20)

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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2. Stay awake, for you don't know when he is coming.
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Mongolia

Population: 3,353,470

Religion: Buddhist (51%), no religion (41%)

Ethnicity: Mongols (95%), Kazakhs (4%)



Zavkhan Province



Zavkhan, Mongolia

* 700 miles from Mongolia's Capital (Ulaanbaatar)



Zavkhan, Mongolia

Capital: Uliastai

Population: 15,742



Zavkhan, Mongolia



Zavkhan, Mongolia



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