

Foundations pt13 – Jesus is Coming: A Thief is Coming

Dr. John Carmichael

[Heb 6:1-3 NASB95] 1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

[1Th 5:2 NASB95] 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

[2Pe 3:10 NASB95] 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

- A thief is coming.
- The Apostles Paul and Peter gave the exact description of the “day of the Lord.” What is the day of the Lord? While not wanting to go into the theological hair-splitting arguments of the statement, consider that 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5 are talking about the rapture, the return of Christ. Peter (2 Peter 3:4) also writes about the coming of the Lord. Therefore, from the context of scripture, it is not a stretch to believe that the “day of the Lord” would include the return of Christ, among other end-time events.
- Since “the day of the Lord” refers to the return of the Lord, consider the description: a thief in the night. This description gives us some clues as to the manner of His return. The return of Christ will be unexpected. It will be sudden. It will come when many people are asleep. It will require people to prepare for the event as one might lock the doors or have an alarm system.

What are some important things to remember about His Coming?

Here are three important things to remember about His Coming.

- I. THE MANNER OF HIS COMING** - [Jhn 14:1-3 NASB95] 1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, [there] you may be also.
 - a. PRE-EMINENT** v.1, ". . . believe in God, believe also in Me."
 - i. Jesus prefaces His comments on His second coming by affirming His deity. Jesus is coming to complete our redemption--He is coming victoriously as God. If you deny the Second Coming of Jesus, you deny faith in Christ.
 - ii. In Matthew 26:64 ([Mat 26:64 NASB95] Jesus said to him, "You have said it [yourself;] nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."). In this passage, Christ reveals that He is God by affirming His Second Coming.
 - b. PERSONAL** v. 2-3
 - c. PROPHETIC** [1Co 15:51 NASB95] 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed
 - i. The details of the Rapture were not revealed until this time. The word "MYSTERY" refers to something in the plan of God that, up to this time, was not divulged.

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- d. **PRECIPITATE** v. 52, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."
 - i. Literally, 'in an atom of time." It is a point of time that cannot be cut or divided. It is THAT SUDDEN and UNEXPECTED!! Jesus likened His coming to that like a "thief in the night."
 - ii. Rain is called precipitation because it is sudden and unexpected! Can you imagine planning a wedding outdoors and not having a backup place to go? You must because rain could pour unexpectedly!
- e. **PROFITABLE** v. 53, "For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality."
 - i. Our redemption will be complete!
 - ii. [Rom 8:22-23 NASB95] 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for [our] adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
- f. **PREVAILING** v. 54, "But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory."

II. THE MISSION OF HIS COMING. [1Th 4:16-17 NASB95] 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

- a. **TO RESURRECT HIS SAINTS** v.16
- b. **TO RECEIVE HIS SAINTS** v.17, The word "caught up" implies that an external power will raise us into the clouds. We will not slowly ascend to Christ--He will pull us out of this wicked world to be with Him.
- c. **TO REWARD HIS SAINTS**
 - i. [Rev 22:12 NASB95] 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.
 - ii. [1Jo 2:28 NASB95] 28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.
 - iii. [1Pe 5:4 NASB95] 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
 - iv. I Cor. 3:11-15 says that in that day our works will be tried, and we have two options: RECIEVE REWARD or BE SAVED AS BY FIRE!

III. THE MOTIVATION FROM KNOWLEDGE OF HIS COMING.

- a. **PERSPECTIVE** [Tit 2:13 NASB95] 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
 - i. We need to be looking for Jesus!
- b. **PURITY** [1Jo 3:2-3 NASB95] 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope [fixed] on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- c. **PERSEVERANCE** [1Co 15:58 NASB95] 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not [in] vain in the Lord.

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- Jesus came into this world for the first time as a baby-- He will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- He came to purchase our redemption--He will come to complete our redemption.
- When He came the first time, He died for all mankind. When He comes again, He will come to claim those who have accepted His SACRIFICE!!!
- Prayer for Lost - Family, Friends, and Area