

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Sermon by Mark Aites

INTRODUCTION:

1. Man has a deep interest and curiosity in the unknown. Various books and TV shows make us aware of that.
2. Regarding the second coming of Christ, man has tried to prophecy His return.
 - 1) Among the projected dates that have come and gone, 1843, 1844, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1937, 1945, 1967, 1975.
 - 2) *“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matt. 24:36).*
 - 3) *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God...” (Deut. 29:29).*

DISCUSSION:

I. THE TIME OF HIS COMING.

- A. God has not left us entirely without clues as to when He will come.
- B. **Matt. 24:37-42** *“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
42 Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”*
- C. The situation in Noah’s Day:
 1. Evil prevailed: *“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5).*
 2. The parallels to our own day are much the same.
- D. The Flood came in Noah’s day on an ordinary day.
 1. Ordinary: the Bible defines as a day when there is eating, drinking, and marrying, normal functions of life (**Matt. 24:38**).
 2. Ordinary: the Bible also defines as a day when people are working (**Matt. 24:40-41**).
- E. In **1 Thess. 5:1-3**, Paul describes the Lord as coming like *“a thief in the night.”*
 1. There is nothing to tip off His coming; no catastrophe or cataclysmic event; just an ordinary day.
 2. A thief does not announce His coming.

II. THE MANNER OF HIS COMING.

- A. As He ascended, He will descend: **Acts 1:9-11** *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*

10 *And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*

11 *Which also said, 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."*

- B. He will come with the clouds: *"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen" (Rev. 1:7).*
- C. He will come with power: *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thess. 1:7-9).***
- D. The order of events: *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16-17).**
- E. It all takes place in the *"twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:52).*

III.THE REASONS FOR HIS COMING.

- A. He is coming with a reward:
 - 1. For the righteous: *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21).*
 - 2. For the wicked: *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).*
- B. He is coming to be glorified: *"When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day" (2 Thess. 1:10).*

IV.OUR RESPONSE TO HIS COMING.

- A. Given the uncertainty of when He is coming, we must prepare ourselves as though today is The Day!
- B. *"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Pet. 4:18).*
- C. *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).*

CONCLUSION: Are you ready?