

## THE COMING OF CHRIST

Study Text- I Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 5:1-6

Key Verse-5:2 *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the LORD so cometh as a thief in the night."*

### **1. Pretribulation Coming of Christ vs. Mid-tribulation or Post-tribulation Teachings**

Scripture Contrast between the "Sudden Coming" & "Second Coming of Christ."

#### Sudden Coming Scriptures:

I Thessalonians 5:2 *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the LORD so cometh as a thief in the night."*

Matt. 24: 44 *"Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as you think not the son of man cometh."*

Matt. 24:36 *"But of the day and the hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."*

Other Study Scriptures: Matt. 24: 37-44 Matt. 25:1-13 Mark 13:32-37 Luke 17 27-36

#### Second Coming Scriptures:

Matt. 24:30-31 *"Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all of the tribes of man mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with the sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, and from one end of heaven to the other."*

Matt. 24:27 *"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."* Mark 13:24-27 Luke 17:24

Mark 14:14-15 *"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house."*

Mark 13: 20 *"And except that the LORD shall shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he has chosen, he hath shortened the days."*

Other Study Scriptures: II Thessalonians 2:3-13

### **2. Marks of the Season of Christ's Return**

#### *a. Days of Noah-* Matt. 24:37-39

Season of Great Wickedness--Gen. 6:5-7 & 12-13 Compare to II Tim. 3:1-8

#### *b. General Mood of Apostasy Among Many of God's People*

Matt. 24:11 *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"*

Matt. 24: 48-51 *"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and eat and drink with the drunken: the lord of that servant shall come in a day when looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of and shall cut him asunder..."*

I Tim. 4:1 *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrine of devils."*

#### *c. General Dilution of Sound Doctrine and Rewriting of God's Word by Many*

II Tim. 4:2-4 *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;*

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but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn their ears from the truth..."

II Peter 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies..."

Matt. 24: 11 "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."

### *d. Great Unbelief Among the World Concerning the Return of Christ*

II Peter 3:3-4 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the father fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

Luke 21:35 "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the earth."

### *e. Preparation for the Coming of Antichrist*

Rev. 13:13-14 & 13:16-17 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast...And he causeth all, both rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark..."

Rev. 13:3 "...and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

## **3. The Benefit of the Teaching of the Return of Christ for the Church of Today.**

### *a. Comfort - I Thessalonians 4:18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

*b. Pruning and Purifying Effect on our Daily Walk-II Peter 3:11 "Seeing then that all of these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."*

Matt. 24: 13 "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Matt. 24:42-44 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doeth come. But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and not suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready..."

### *c. Warning to Those Who are Unprepared About the Sudden Return of Christ*

Matt. 25:1-13 Wise and Foolish Virgins.

Mark 13:36 "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."