

COMING READY OR NOT!

Text: 1 Thes 5:2

5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Introduction: Remember playing as a child the game- hide and seek. Remember the rules. One person was to hide his or her face and count to a certain number while all the others who were involved would go hide. Then the person who was counting would come looking for the others. Usually the person would count real fast in order to catch someone who was not hidden yet. Then he or she would yell, "Coming ready or not!"

Our text makes this same sort of statement to us. Listen as I read it again using the Amplified Bible translation:

"For your selves know perfectly well that the day of the (return of the) Lord will come (as unexpectedly and suddenly) as a thief in the night."

Let us look at what is said to us here because the message is evident. We are supposed to be aware that Jesus is coming again.

I. Why We Should Know, Be Aware.

A. The Times and the Seasons.

1 Thes 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

1. Paul knew he and others had shared the warnings of Christ concerning the time of His return.

Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

- a. False Christ's

Matt 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

b. Wars and rumors of war.

Matt 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

c. Conflicts, famine, pestilence and earthquakes.

Matt 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Matt 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

d. Hatred and slaughter of the Jews.

Matt 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

e. Hatred, malice and strife.

Matt 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

f. False prophets and false religions.

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

g. A great falling away from the faith because of sin.

Matt 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Matt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

h. Evangelization of the world.

Matt 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

i. Deception and manipulation.

Matt 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Matt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

2. Listen to the warning given here by Jesus Himself. (Note: Jesus here expected those to whom He was speaking to have prior knowledge.)

Matt 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

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.

3. He gives the key to the end time fulfillment.

Matt 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Matt 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

4. He acknowledges that those who witness this will live to see Him come again.

Matt 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

B. The condition of men's hearts.

1. Same conditions as in Noah's day.

Matt 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matt 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

Matt 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

2. Note: Again the strong warning of Christ Jesus here.

Matt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

3. This is good advice for those who are looking for Christ's return.

Matt 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

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

4. This is the fifth reference in this text that speaks of the fact that we do not know the hour that the Son of Man cometh.

Matt 24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

2. "For Yourselves Know Perfectly" (Accurately)

A. We are not in the dark about this.

1 Thes 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Thes 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

1. Darkness here implies:
 - a. Ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and morality, together with their consequent misery.
 - b. Persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway.
 - c. To be given up to the power of darkness.
2. Light here refers to:

- a. One in whom wisdom and spiritual insight shine forth, and who imparts the same to others.
- b. Reason, the power of understanding especially moral and spiritual truth.

B. We are awake and alert.

1 Thes 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thes 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1 Thes 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Conclusion: Note the words of Paul as he continues this discourse concerning the coming again of our Lord.

1 Thes 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

A. "God has not appointed us to wrath."

- 1. Wrath speaks of men exposed to divine punishment, to undergo punishment in misery.
- 2. Appointed: to decree one to be subject to wrath.

B. "But to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus."

- 1. Obtain here means a preserving, an obtaining, that is to be made a partaker of eternal salvation.
- 2. Salvation refers to all the benefits and blessings which Christians redeemed from all earthly ill, will enjoy after the return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.

Note: Remember He is coming at an appointed time set by the Father. You know He has started the countdown since Israel became a nation in 1948. So you better get ready because He is “Coming Ready or Not!”

VIDEO HERE