

THE END TIME COMING: “WATCH”

THESIS: Are you keeping watch?

TEXT: Matthew 24:35-51

OPEN: (False predictions—non-religious—about the End of Time or destruction of planet)

In **Matthew 24:35-51** let’s discover how to “watch” for the End Time coming without falling prey to the hoax of predicting days and times.

Matthew 24:35-36 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. ³⁶No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

v36 “No one knows about that day...” What “day” is Jesus referring to? When heaven(s) and earth pass away.

Pass away (Greek: *parerchomai*) means to come to an end, disappear, or be taken away.

Isaiah 65:17-18a “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create...”

2 Peter 3:10-13 “The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

What to “watch” for in the End Time coming? A new heaven(s) and a new earth—the home of righteousness.

What to “watch out” for in the meantime? Do not predict days and times of the End nor follow those who do.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 “You may say to yourselves, ‘How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?’ If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously (arrogantly). Do not be afraid of him.”

Illustration: (False prophecies—religious—about the End of Time)

Matthew 24:37-39 “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

Insight from John Drane: “In the book of Daniel, the ‘Son of Man’ was a transcendent, heavenly figure who shared in God’s own power. Jesus uses the title ‘Son of Man’ with reference to His

future coming on the clouds of Heaven and to His exaltation at God's right hand (*Mtt 24:27, 37*). This is the same use in Daniel, but most often Jesus used it in a new way, with reference to His suffering and death. It's at this point that He has given an entirely new meaning to what may well have been a little-known idea before His time. It is characteristic of Him that He should have talked about Himself most often as a suffering Son of Man. In nine out of the fourteen uses in the gospel of Mark, the term 'Son of Man' is used by Jesus to refer to His coming death" (*Jesus and the Four Gospels*, p. 46).

Although Jesus remained God, He also became a man and thus identified with those He came to save when He calls Himself the "Son of Man." It's how He refers to Himself most often (over 80 times in the gospels).

John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

John 3:16-17 (NASB) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

1 Tim 2:3-6a "God our Savior wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men..."

Hebrews 2:11, 14-18 "Both the One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers... Since the children have flesh and blood, Christ too shared in their humanity, so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels He helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted."

Hebrews 4:15-16 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

What to "watch" for in the End Time coming? The ultimate wrath of the Lord that will be once and forever upon those who fail to repent and turn to Christ for salvation.

***Matthew 24:48-51** "But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'

⁴⁹and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰The master of that servant

will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹He will cut him to pieces and

assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

What to "watch out" for in the meantime? Life continues as it normally does ("eating, drinking, marrying") and many give no thought or heed to the warnings of God's Word. They do not expect the Judgment to come. Beware and do not live a worldly life which is not "watching" and expecting to meet the Lord.

Historical: “Cut to pieces” was a punishment prevalent among ancient nations and referred to in Daniel 2:5 and Hebrews 11:37 (J.W. McGarvey, *Fourfold Gospel*, p. 323). It was a most severe and awful punishment (D.A. Carson, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Matthew*, p. 511).

Insight from John MacArthur: “The fact that such persons will be assigned along with the hypocrites suggests that they were not hypocrites. Just as today, many people in the End Time will be open and honest about their unbelief, even wearing such honesty as a badge of intellectual and moral integrity. But honest unbelievers are just as lost as hypocrites who pretend to have faith. They will go to the same place as the religious phonies they feel superior to and despise. All unbelievers—those who completely reject the Lord and those who think one day they will trust Him, those who are honest in their unbelief and those who are hypocritical in their faith—will suffer the same destiny of hell. In that place there will be ‘weeping and gnashing of teeth,’ figures representing inconsolable grief and unremitting torment” (*The MacArthur NT Commentary, Matthew 24-28*, p. 79-80).

Matthew 24:40-44 “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴²Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.”

Some people are wrong for predicting days or times of the End—the Lord warns us not to do that or follow the teaching of those who do. However, in light of what Jesus says here in Matthew 24—would you agree it’s a grave mistake never to expect Him to come back for Judgment Day?

Watch (Greek: *gregoreo*) means to be alert, awake, or vigilant. Be awake to the fact that one day you’ll face the Lord. Make decisions with that in mind. Live to hear “Well done, good and faithful servant” (*Mtt 25:21*)—not “I never knew you. Away from Me you, evildoer” (*Mtt 7:21-23*).

*Watch and pray—the spirit is willing but the body is weak (*Matthew 26:41*): Be alert/vigilant by supplicating (praying).

*Watch your life and your doctrine closely—persevere in them—you will save both yourself and your hearers (*1 Timothy 4:16*): Be alert/vigilant by studying (being in Scripture).

1 Peter 5:8-9a “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...”

Insight from LeRoy Lawson: “Jesus certainly does not promise in Matthew 24 that His disciples will escape all of life’s problems. In fact, He predicts suffering, persecution, betrayal, and deception. However, He does urge them—and us—to be prepared for any eventuality, including His return...The passage is about the unknown hour of Jesus’ return, but its overtones of preparation for death are too loud to be passed over. The Lord will return only once, but in every generation, everybody dies; sometimes death strikes with terrible suddenness. Blessed are those who are ready” (*Standard Bible Studies, Matthew*, p. 289-290).

Let's not predict days and times of the End nor follow the teaching of those who do, but don't think it never comes.

CLOSE: Are you living like you're watching?