"THE SECOND COMING" Matthew 24:26-31

We've seen some amazing things—a meteor shower on a dark night, inventions that boggle the mind, and a snow-capped mountain against the backdrop of the setting sun. I hope we never lose the ability to be amazed. However, you haven't seen anything that can remotely compare to the moment that the Lord Jesus Christ comes again. The Bible refers to this as "THE SECOND COMING."

Daniel 7:13–14... "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And

His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Hebrews 9:27–28... 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to* sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Revelation 22:20... He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The second coming takes on different things for different people. For some, the second coming provides a reason:

- to mock believers
- scoff at the Bible
- to reject the church

For others, the doctrine of the second coming provides a reason:

to be filled with hope

- to study biblical prophecy
- live for Jesus now

For several weeks now we have immersed ourselves in a verse-by-verse study of Matthew 24-25. During the last sermon we looked at a graphic description of *The Abomination of Desolation* and *The Great Tribulation* and the *Antichrist.* During that time people will be subjected to the unbridled evil of the powers of darkness and the judgment of God on a Christ-rejecting world.

False prophets and false Christs will use every trick in the book to lead people astray today and in the future. Knowing what the Bible teaches will arm dads and moms, boys and girls with the spiritual discernment they desperately need. Hear the words of Jesus on this matter of the second coming:

Matthew 24:26–28... "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. 27 "For just as the lightning comes

from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Listen, when Jesus comes everyone will know it!

Revelation 1:7... BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

To illustrate how obvious His return will be, Jesus used the example of vultures circling in the air as they prepare to devour a corpse lying on the ground.

As I have studied our Lord's prophecy in Matthew 24-25, it has become apparent that the second coming of Jesus will be the climax of human history. This world, as we know it, will come to an end. The kingdom He inaugurated with His first coming will be consummated with His second coming!

THE KING IS COMING!

Jesus described the future in graphic detail. First, He focused on...

1. THE PRESENTATION OF THE KING

Matthew 24:29... "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Do you long to understand the truth about the second coming and the end of the world? In Matthew 24:29-31, Jesus prophesied about the most dramatic event in all of human history—<u>His own second coming</u>. Will you trust Many the validity of His words? I remind you. He was spot on when He prophesied that...

- Peter would deny Him three times.
- the disciples would desert Him at His arrest
- Judas would betray Him

- His death on the cross
- His resurrection from the dead
- His ascension to heaven

I could go on and on. I trust you see my point.

If Jesus is right in <u>every prophecy he ever made</u>, why wouldn't He be right concerning the prophecy of His own second coming?

As we look at how the King is presented, I want you to pay close attention to. . .

The Sequence

First, the 7 years of tribulation must occur. This divine judgment upon the human race will consist of the <u>7 seal judgments</u>, the <u>7 trumpet judgments</u>, and the <u>7 bowl judgments</u> as described in Revelation. Our minds cannot grasp the unprecedented evil that will be unleashed during this period of time. Again, Jesus prophesied this turn of events (24:21).

The wrath of God will be poured out on those who have rejected Jesus Christ! Are you a believer? Hear this...

- **1 Thessalonians 1:9–10**... For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, **10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9–11**... For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Pay close attention to *the sequence* and...

The Scene

Luke recorded this occurrence even more vividly. He wrote...

Luke 21:25–26... "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, **26** men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Think of the cosmic disturbances that will take place when the King is presented.

- The sun will be darkened.
- The moon will turn blood red.
- Meteors will crash through the atmosphere.
- Earthquakes will rock the world.
- Volcanoes will belch forth hot lava and ash.
- Tidal waves will inundate the coastal cities.

The whole earth will shake like a child with a high fever!

Isaiah 13:10... For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.

Joel 2:30–31... "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. 31 "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes."

Zechariah 14:6–7... In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. **7** For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

Fear will grip the hearts of all. Every eye will be focused on the heavens! There are over 50 biblical references that compel us to be ready for this series of events.

THE KING IS COMING!

Jesus described the future in graphic detail. First, He focused on <u>the presentation of the King</u> and then...

2. THE REVELATION OF THE KING

To the world Jesus is just a great teacher, a moral reformer, and an advocate for social justice. Humanity's last encounter with Him was at a blood-soaked cross where He died disgracefully. And yes, the world scoffs at the idea of His imminent return. One day all the scoffing will come to an abrupt end. The King of kings and the Lord of lords will come!

Matthew 24:30... "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."

The King Will Come Visually

The word "see" means to see with perception. No one will miss either the sight or the significance of this moment. Can you imagine how those who

have rejected Christ will feel? (Revelation 6:15-17)

The King Will Come Powerfully

When Jesus comes again, the world will see the greatest display of power ever! (Revelation 19:11-13) Notice, "the tribes of the earth will mourn."

The world will mourn because their power, riches, and glory have come to an end (Revelation 6:15-16; 18:9-19). And they will mourn because they have made themselves enemies of the King.

The King Will Come Gloriously

Picture the scene. Against the backdrop of the fading luminaries, the splendor of the King's unveiled glory will suddenly flood the universe and all of creation.

The world as you know it is coming to an end. I ask you again. Are you ready for the return of Jesus Christ the King?

After church, where she had been taught about the Second Coming, a little girl was quizzing her mother. . .

"Mommy, do you believe Jesus will come back?"

"Yes dear, I do."

"Could He come this week?"

"Yes He could."

"Today?"

"Yes."

"Could he come in the next hour?"

"Yes."

"In a few minutes?"

"Yes, dear."

"Mommy, would you comb my hair?"

How I wish that everyone of us could capture this little girl's desire to be ready and acceptable when Jesus comes.

THE KING IS COMING!

Jesus described the future in graphic detail. First, He focused on <u>the presentation of the King</u> and then <u>the revelation of the King</u>. Finally, I want you to see. . .

3. THE STIPULATION OF THE KING

Matthew 24:31... "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

Hear me now. When the King returns, He will command His angels to blow the trumpet and gather every single person who has ever believed in Jesus to their eternal reward. There will be...

Redemption For The Saved

Every single believer will be ushered into the presence of our Lord where they will experience the consummation of their salvation. Heaven will be their home forever! There will also be...

Retribution For The Lost

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9... the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

A failure to place your faith in Jesus will result in the harshest condemnation imaginable. Hell is a real place. . .

- a place of torment
- a place of separation from God
- a place of painful memories

a place of sheer evil.

CONCLUSION

Let me ask you again. Are you ready to meet King Jesus?

- Have you been genuinely saved? So many people are banking on a salvation that has not produced any change. Listen, Jesus Christ loves you, died on the cross for your sins, and rose from the dead that you might be justified before the Father. Don't take any chances with a hope-so salvation. Repent of your sin and place your faith in Christ alone!
- As a believer, is your commitment to Christ evident in the way you live? Give Christ first place in your heart and make it your goal to live for His glory and for His pleasure.
- Are you actively involved in church? The church is not perfect, but it is the Bride of Christ and He is coming soon for His Bride! (Hebrews 10:23-25)