

November 2, 2025

CFBC... "Perfect Ending" (Matthew 24-25)

"READY OR NOT"

Matthew 24:32-51

Johann Sebastian Bach, the musical genius, had a habit of sleeping late. His children had a unique way of waking him up. They would go to the piano and would begin playing a composition. When they got to the last note, they would stop playing. It would wake Bach up and he would get up, go to the piano and play the final chord.

Don't you sense that the Most High God is about to play the last note on the last song concerning this world that He created? That song is entitled "Victory In Jesus." The last note is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it's a prevalent theme throughout the New Testament:

1 Corinthians 1:7... so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Thessalonians 5:23... Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13... looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

1 John 2:28... Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Revelation 3:11... "I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."

As followers of Christ, we should long for Him to come because when He comes:

- **Satan will be defeated.**
- **The curse will be lifted.**
- **Believers will be glorified.**
- **Jesus will be worshiped.**

- **Sin and death will be eliminated.**
- **We will receive our inheritance.**

In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C. S. Lewis gives us a rich, imaginative picture of what that eternal glory with the Lord will be like. He ends the last book in the series like this:

As Aslan spoke, he no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before. For

believers, the return of Christ and the end of this world will be the beginning of a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21–22).¹

It’s a fact. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming to play the final note in God’s song of victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. Do you remember the game we used to play as children? It was called *“Hide N Seek.”* We would call out, *“Ready or not, here I come.”*

That’s the message Jesus left with His disciples in our text today and that’s the message He wants you to hear today.

“READY OR NOT, JESUS IS COMING.”

Are you ready for the moment when you will have a face-to-face meeting with the King of Glory?

¹ David Platt, [*Exalting Jesus in Matthew*](#), ed. Daniel L. Akin, David Platt, and Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2013), 323.

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Okay, take your Bible and turn to Matthew 24. We’re going to focus on verses 32-51.

1. THE LESSON TO LEARN

Matthew 24:32–33... “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; **33** so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right at the door*.

Here is a lesson from nature. Like tender fig tree branches and new leaves signal the arrival of summer, all the events of Matt 24 point to the nearness of Christ’s return (Luke 21:29-31).²

“**See all these things**” refers to the signs of the Lord’s coming. These include some general signs: spiritual deception, global conflict, natural disasters, Christian persecution, massive

² Craig Blomberg, [Matthew](#), vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 363.

apostasy, blatant lawlessness, and gospel proclamation.

This is also a reference to some specific signs like: the abomination of desolation, the onset of the great tribulation (21), antisemitism on a drastic level, and cosmic disturbances.

As history unfolds and it becomes apparent that the signs of the times are increasing in intensity and frequency, then one can be very sure that **"He is near, right at the door."**

2. THE TRUTH TO TREASURE

Matthew 24:34–35... "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

The generation that experiences the phenomena of **the general and the specific signs** in the last days will see the fulfillment of all these things. In other words, when it comes, it will come fast. We're talking about an intense and condensed time frame of 3½ years for the great

tribulation. Don’t miss this— **the generation that is alive when the specific signs begin is going to still be around when it ends!**

Look at verse 35. The truth of our Lord’s Word is permanent. He prophesied the destruction of the temple 40 years before it happened. In addition, He prophesied:

- **His own death and resurrection**
- **His ascension to heaven’s throne**
- **His glorious second coming**
- **His millennial reign as King of the world**
- **His creation of a new heaven and earth**

Jesus is not some sham, two bit fortune-teller offering His opinion; He is the Lord of history, and He speaks with authority about the future.³ How much value do you place on what He says?

³ David Platt, [*Exalting Jesus in Matthew*](#), ed. Daniel L. Akin, David Platt, and Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2013), 317.

3. THE CAUTION TO CONSIDER

Matthew 24:36–42... “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. **37** “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. **38** “For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. **40** “Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. **41** “Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

Don't be lulled to sleep by our Lord's delay in coming. He cautions us to count on the fact that **His return will be sudden**. To make His point, Jesus refers to the days of Noah prior to the flood, when people were eating and drinking and marrying; in other words, everything was normal—that is, until all of a sudden a flood came and swept them away.

The unbelieving world in Noah's day ignored God's will and the powerful preaching of Noah. **They did not know the precise day on which God's judgment would begin. Therefore, they did not know the specific time by which they had to be prepared.** As a result, they were not ready to escape God's judgment (40-41).

It won't matter who you're around on the day Jesus comes, as homes, neighborhoods, communities, and nations will be divided among two groups: those who truly know Christ and those who do not know Christ.

That's how it's going to be at Christ's second coming: people will be eating lunch, enjoying company, going through their routine, and to their surprise, Christ will return in judgment. Beware of thinking that the day-to-day "stuff" of your life in this world will last. One day none of this stuff will matter! It's all going to be turned upside down—instantaneously.

4. THE APPEAL TO ALERTNESS

Matthew 24:42–44... "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. **43** "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **44** "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*."

This is a powerful yet simple illustration. A homeowner who knows the basic time frame but not the precise hour in which a thief will come to rob his house will watch vigilantly and be prepared to prevent the thief from breaking into his house.

It also teaches the sudden and unpredictable coming of the Lord and is used this way in four other New Testament passages. Here are three of them:

1 Thessalonians 5:2–3... For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

Revelation 16:15... ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")

Revelation 3:3... 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.'

Christ presented two practical implications of His teaching. . .

- **Be on the alert continuously (present tense) for His Second Coming (42)**

- **Make sure you're ready to meet the Lord when He does come (44)**

5. THE INVITATION TO INTEGRITY

Matthew 24:45–51... "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? **46** "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. **47** "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. **48** "But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' **49** and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; **50** the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know, **51** and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Notice the contrast between the faithful and the unfaithful servant. In light of the fact that one day we will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, we would do well to devote ourselves to a life of

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integrity. I would like to throw out some questions for you to answer:

Am I staying alert for the coming of Jesus?

Am I faithfully following Jesus?

How would you live differently today if you knew Jesus was coming back tonight?

- Will you read the Word?
- Will you love people?
- Will you devote yourself to your spouse?
- Will you live in holiness?

Am I certain that I am saved?

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