**Matthew 24:36-44 – The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ: Part II**

**Main: The coming of our Lord is to save and to judge; get ready!**

**Review**

* **Mt. 23:37-39 – Jerusalem destroyed; Israel set aside**
* **Mt. 24:1-3 – Knowing the kingdom was coming and the Temple existed in the Kingdom, they wanted to know when the King was coming with the Kingdom (Lk. 21:10-12, 24-27, 31).**
* **Jesus answers their questions in reverse order (24:3)**
* **He mentions the 70th Week of Daniel (24:15f), but overviews it first (24:4-14).**
* **Things get so bad, the period had to be limited (“cut short”) to 7 years.**
* **Without shortening, no life would have survived.**
* **When the end comes, they wouldn’t have to look for Jesus.**
* **When He returns in glory, every eye will see Him!**
* **That’s the sign *which is* the Son of Man spoken of in Dan. 7**

**But, what about the question of *when* all this happens?**

**The Apostle Paul was taught by Jesus. He can help us set the table.**

**1. The reality of the rapture – 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-55**

* **The concern: Are we forever separated from believers who die?**
* **Just as Jesus was resurrected, so they shall be (4:14).**
* **They are like “troops” rallied to battle (4:16).**
* **Dead believers are given new bodies, then we join them (4:16-17).**
* **We meet the Lord in the clouds in the air and we are always with Him (4:17).**
* **This reality is to be a comfort for us all (4:18).**

**2. The timing of the rapture – 1 Thess. 5:1-10**

* **The Day of the Lord comes unexpectedly (5:1-2).**
* **The idea of a “thief” is often used preparing for the Day of the Lord (2 Pet. 3:10; Mt. 24:42-43; Rev. 16:15).**
* **To unbelievers, life is normal, peaceful, and safe, but destruction comes on them suddenly, unexpectedly, and completely (5:3).**
* **Believers don’t have to have that happen (5:4-5).**
* **Paul changes from using “sleep” to reference “death” to it referencing believers who are out of it, morally “asleep” (5:6-8).**
* **The word “wrath” is temporal in the NT, not eternal; the Tribulation.**
* **God has not appointed believers to the temporal wrath of the Day of the Lord, but to be delivered, or saved, from it (5:9-10).**
* **This is true for all believers, spiritual or not (5:10).**
* **These realities should comfort and build us up (5:11).**

**3. Matthew 24:36-44**

**A. The coming: Part II Mt. 24:23-35 “All the tribes of the earth…will see”**

* + - **24:27 - “The state of being at a place” or “Presence”**
    - **Nothing to do with “movement, He’s already here!**
    - **This idea of coming covers a span of time, not just “arrival.”**
    - **The “sign which is the Son of Man” (24:30).**

**B. The coming: Part I Mt. 24:36-44 “No one knows”**

**Two words; two ideas**

* **Coming #1 (P) has nothing to do with movement, but presence. It is after the arrival, not the trip. “To be near with, to have come.” It’s like the English “advent.;” the second advent!**
* **Coming #2 (E) “Movement from one place to another,” “to make a public appearance.” He’s already present and makes an appearance.**
* ***When* His initial coming (P) occurs, it is unknown to all, except the Father (24:36-37).**
* **His coming (P) comes unexpectantly, when people are enjoying normal life (24:38-39), oblivious to His judgements. His descent from the Father brings judgment to the earth!**
* **After the Tribulation the sign of the Son appears in the heaven.**
* **The Second Coming is in two parts**
  + **The Rapture, the Surprise coming; to deliver believers**
  + **The Appearance; as King – Mt. 25:31; Rev. 19:11-16**
* **Part II is a dramatic, world-wide event (E). Part I (P) is unknown and completely unexpected!**
* **The only view that fits Jesus’ words here of an unexpected, sudden coming (P) is a Pre-tribulation event.**
  + **Mid-trib = ½ the world dead, 1/3 eco-system destroyed**
  + **“Pre-wrath” = See above…and worse**
  + **Post-trib = Even worse.**
  + **And, we also know when the middle of the Tribulation occurs; 3 ½ years, 42 months, 1,260 days.**

**Summary: The Second Advent begins unexpectedly, without a sign and with His judgments, and it is *disclosed* the “the sign of the Son of Man.”**

**C. This sounds exactly like 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11…and it is!**

**Jesus’ conclusion: Since we don’t know when He will return for believers and start the Day of the Lord, we need to get ready and live as though it may be today! Matthew 24:42-44**