

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

Behold, I Come Quickly

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And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. REVELATION 22:12

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 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. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 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, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. MATTHEW 24:42-51

The prophetic signs of the Lord's coming are increasing. This week, a peace accord in the Middle East was announced between Israel and the UAE. This could lead to the final covenant of peace and rebuilding of the temple recorded in the books of Daniel and Revelation. Many Bible scholars believe these to be the final signs prior to the catching away of the bride of Christ. No doubt, the Lord's return is near, even at the door!

After the Lord raptures His church and takes them to the Marriage supper of the Lamb, the world will experience a horrible Tribulation. This will culminate in the nations of the earth coming against Israel in the plain of Megiddo. The Lord will lead the saints back to earth and defend Jerusalem in the final battle of Armageddon. The Lord will then establish His physical kingdom on the earth and reign as the King of kings for a thousand years! His church will rule with Him over all the nations of the world. What we do now will determine our place in that kingdom. It will be a wonderful time of peace and prosperity. The knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth and nations will learn war no more.

Application

The Lord taught in Mathew 24:42-51 that we should always be ready for His return. Because He comes suddenly, there will be no last minute opportunities to change things or repent. Therefore, we need to take advantage of every opportunity now to seek the Lord and be about our Father's business. The Lord promises to reward those servants who continue to be faithful in their labors. When He comes, He should find us exercising our faith, using our talents to further His kingdom, praying, laboring in His harvest, teaching Bible studies, and feeding His sheep.

Discussion

1. How do we know the Lord's coming is near?
2. How should we prepare for His coming?
3. What qualifies us for the first resurrection?
4. What will happen to the Lord's servants who sleep and begin to mistreat their fellow servants?
5. What will be our role during the thousand year millennial reign of Christ?

Prayer Focus

Pray that God's people awaken to the near return of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God's people have a sense of urgency and prepare themselves.

Pray that the Lord removes all distractions that keep us from being about our Father's business.

Pray that the Lord thrusts laborers into the harvest.