



## The Return Series

### Part 1

September 4, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Mark 13:32-37, <sup>32</sup>“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at

midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.<sup>37</sup> May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word. Amen. You may be seated...

The Return of Christ and the Rapture of the Church has been a common theme within Christendom especially within the last 100 years of world history. From the great world wars to the rise of empires, the resurrection of the Nation of Israel, and the advent of the nuclear age, it would seem that all of these are markers on the road map of when world history and bible prophecy converge onto the same heading.

With this convergence being before our very eyes, it would be easy for us to fall into the trap of thinking that this message of the Return of the Lord is a new word or some form of new revelation but, in actuality, it is not. Not only was the Return of the Lord spoke of by Christ Himself, His Disciples whom became the Apostles of the Early Church echoed the same message. And even more so was this message propagated by the Early Church Fathers such as Tertullian and Irenaeus.

Many of us equate this message to be only within the writ of the Book of the Revelation but this is not the case. The Return of Messiah just as the noted coming or “First Advent” are both noted within the Old and New Testaments alike.

Thus, we can surmise that this message is not new; however it has gained new fervor and re-ignition of the message in the past 100 years or so because what was once only recorded within the annals of the Bible itself are now being broadcast as news headlines, break news, and stories being shared around the globe. Church family, there has been more technological advancements made within the past 100 years than there has been in possibly upwards of the previous 1,000 years.

125 years ago, transportation was by foot, horseback or buggy; ships were a “primitive” option as well. Now we have bullet trains, hypersonic planes, ships of all sizes, automobiles, motorcycles, etc. This is just one very simple example of our advancements in the arena of travel.

Ultimately, it has been this massive advancement in technology that has allowed for humanity, with its global population density, to explode the way that it has regarding its birth rates because our technology and advancements as a society have created for us the opportunity to harness the global assets and resources to support our population density concerning humanity and animal alike.

With all of that said, quite a bit regarding the end times prophetically speaking and even more so the Return of the Lord to rapture His Church are coupled with this prophetic declaration with the “symptoms”, if you will, that would precede His Coming.

Jesus spoke of these noted symptoms or signs, as it were, within the Gospel of Saint Matthew 24 and the Gospel of Saint Luke 21. With all of this said, it is my intent to teach on this topic but not in the normal by which it is typically taught or preached. I want to slow down and let's navigate the Text together to discover some nuggets of truth regarding His coming that were taught by Christ Himself as well as His Apostles. Thus, point #1 this morning...

## 1. The Return of the Lord is known only by The Father!

- a. Verse 32, "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."
- b. In the mid to late 1980s, there was a string of books that came out exclaim that Christ's return would happen in a certain year etc. and the author wrote the book with such certainty that it sold many books but was fully in violation of the Scriptural Text.
- c. Church family, not one knows the day nor the hour of the return of the Son of Man except the Father; NO ONE. PERIOD.
- d. And any one who claims a date or year is false in their teachings and should not be listened to.
- e. With that said, no one knows the day nor hour but we can all see the signs of His Return.

f. Gospel of Saint Luke 21:25-33, <sup>25</sup>“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

g. Note that Jesus gives us signs and expectation of things to come and then states that when you see these things begin to manifest in the earth and the heavens, know that His coming is ever approaching and is closer than we realize.

- h. Hear the Words of Christ found in Verses 29-31, “<sup>29</sup> And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.”
- i. Church family, Jesus is coming! These signs are all the more clear in the world around us!
- j. Now why is it so important that we pay attention to what’s happening in the world around us? Because Jesus told us to! Notice in the Gospel of Saint Luke 21:34-36, “<sup>34</sup> “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
- k. Not only is the Return of the Lord known only to the Father, point #2...

## 2. The Return of the Lord should keep our lives in check!

- a. Verse 33, “<sup>33</sup> Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.”
- b. Church family, we should live in each day as if the Lord could return at any moment but live out the Great Commission as if He will not return in our lifetime.
- c. Far too many Christians live their lives in either or of these two noted postures but Church, I tell you that we must live as both: Live for Christ daily in His Commission and Live as if Christ is to return in the next 30 seconds!
- d. It’s just Christ commanded us! Be on guard, keep awake! Don’t slack up. Don’t get lazy. Don’t let go of the plow!
- e. Christian! It is time to stop living as if you have time to repent later! That you will have time to live right later in life!
- f. We should each live in such a way that causes us to embrace His return and not disdain it!
- g. Church! The King is Coming! I don’t know the date nor the hour but I see the olive tree blooming! I know that summer is near! It’s even at the door! The King is Coming and my question for all of us hear today is are you ready for His return?

- h. Living for His Return should keep our lives in check for we do not know when the time will come!
- i. Point #3...

### 3. The Return of the Lord should cause us to be faithful to His Charge because His Return is Imminent!

- a. Verse 34, “It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.<sup>35</sup> Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.<sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”
- b. We all have our assignments from the Lord!
- c. Do the Work
- d. Stay awake
- e. Remain Vigilant