

Matthew 24

Main Idea: Christ's return happens in two stages: the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing.

DidYouKnow?

A basic knowledge of biblical prophecy should be **important to every follower of Jesus** because His return should be our focus and hope. The Bible seems to assume that knowing that **God has a plan** (even if we don't understand it completely) is **good for us**. Nothing affirms the belief that God is in control like knowing He has already written the end.

BIG Idea!

A close examination of biblical prophecy reveals Christ's return happens in two stages: the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing. Sometimes the Bible addresses both simultaneously as one and sometimes it addresses each individually as separate. You could say, the 2nd Coming is not the Rapture, but the Rapture is part of the 2nd Coming. The only way to be consistent in your conclusions is to study both the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing.

2 Distinct Parts of Christ's Return

- Rapture – He comes for His followers**
- Appearing – He comes with His followers**

- Rapture – we meet Him in the air**
- Appearing – He comes to earth**

- Rapture – only His followers will see Him**
- Appearing – everyone will see Him**

- Rapture – Tribulation begins**
- Appearing – Millennium begins**

- Rapture – no signs proceed the Rapture**
- Appearing – signs proceed His appearing**

Family Night Big Idea – Read Matthew 24:36-42

Help your children understand the fact that God has already written the end. It should help them find comfort knowing that God has already planned out everything. Also emphasize the ideas of **anticipation** and **faithfulness**.

- **Preschool/ Elementary** – Ask, "How does God show His love to you? How does it make you feel knowing that God loves you so much that He already has a plan for you?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "What does it say about the character of God that He has already written the end? How does that demonstrate His love for us? How does knowing how everything will end help you?"

Prayer

"Father, thank you that you have already planned the end. Help us feel secure knowing that whatever happens in our world, it is part of your overall plan. Help us be watchful and ready when Jesus returns for us. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Velocity goes Whitewater Rafting June tomorrow.

Gravity: Middle Schoolers come to the Community Room.

Today's Songs

All We Need.....Charlie Hall

Hymn of Heaven.....Phil Wickham

Holy is the Lord.....Chris Tomlin

Building Dino-sized Faith in God's Big Plan

Summer Camp for rising Kindergarten – 3rd graders is June 12-16 from 9am-Noon. Registration online and in the lobby. Cost is \$10. Today is the last day to register to be assured a T-shirt.

Fostering Bulloch Donations

If you can donate toiletry items, please see list in the lobby and take to Hope Chest in downtown Statesboro at 102 Elm Street. Thank you!

Baptism

June 18th. Use the Communication Card for more information.

Summer Camp Donations

Thank you for your participation! Everything was covered but one big item. We still need 100 count Chocolate Snack Pack Pudding Cups. Please let Amy know if you can bring any of the 100.