



(Matthew 24:34-51)  
Messiah On A Mission  
(Part 51)

“Faithfulness In The End Times”

# INTRODUCTION:

The books of Daniel and Revelation both make clear that the full weight of Jacob's troubles will last seven years and the second part of it will be a time of great tribulation that will last 3 1/2 years (Daniel 7:25; 9:27; 12:7; Revelation 11:2–3; 12:14; 13:5). Then “immediately after the tribulation of those days the son of man will come on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:29-30).

# The Sign of Noah (24:34-39)

Christ's emphasis in this sign is on these key subjects:

- faithfulness
- watchfulness
- stewardship
- expectancy
- preparedness

# The Sign of Noah (24:34-39) cont.

Unbelief is precisely the attitude of response that will prevail before the coming of the Son of Man. Perilous times, signs, the abomination of desolation, the disruption of the heavenly bodies, and the preaching of God's witnesses during the tribulation will have no effect on most men. They will see God's signs but will attribute them to natural causes or supernatural causes apart from God. They will hear his word, supernaturally preached worldwide by an angel (Revelation 15:6–7), but they will respond with disdain or indifference. They will heed neither warnings nor appeals from God until the very moment the Son of Man appears to confront them in righteous judgment.

Alertness is the message that Jesus was preaching to those who were standing there that day. He was telling them that there would be an overwhelming spirit of unbelief that would cause the end-time generation to disbelieve the preaching. Be alert in your discourse and in your faith (Malachi 3:16-18; 2 Peter 2:4-9). The Apostolic Church must remain alert, in love with Jesus, and faithful to his word.

# The Need for Readiness (24:40-44)

Jesus was not comparing himself in character to a thief but was comparing his coming to the stealth and unexpectedness of a thief. The New Testament frequently compares the second coming to a thief's coming (Luke 12:35–40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3; 16:15) for the obvious reason that, as Jesus here points out, a thief never tries to rob a place where he knows he is expected, and certainly not at the exact time he's expected. In the sense that Jesus will come in the role of the unexpectedness of a thief as far as the ungodly are concerned, he will take away everything they have, all the things that they have cherished and trusted in instead of him.

# An Appeal to Faithfulness (Matt. 24:45-51)

Jesus in this analogy expects all his servants to be faithful and sensible about stewardship. Here, Jesus is obviously addressing the faithful believer who has submitted to him and had faith in him as the divine master. Jesus is teaching here that every person in the world holds his life, possessions, and abilities in trust from God, whether or not he acknowledges that trust or even acknowledges God. He will, therefore, be held accountable by his creator for how he uses what he has been given. That truth is seen in the parable the king recorded in Matthew 18:23–34.

# An Appeal to Faithfulness (cont.) (Matt. 24:45-51)

The unfaithful shall mock and ridicule the incredulous claim that Jesus is returning (2 Peter 3:3-6). But Paul pleads with the Roman church to remain faithful to the idea that Jesus shall return and judge the world for what they have done with what he has allotted them (Romans 13:11-14). James pleads for them to strengthen their hearts and remain faithful (James 5:8). The end is coming (1 Peter 4:7). Children, the last hour is coming (1 John 2:18) and the last words of Jesus in the New Testament ring in our ears, “Yes, I am coming quickly” (Revelation 22:20).