



**Doctrine: The Rapture  
Anything Going On Today?  
Part 5  
Matthew 24:36-42**

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**Matthew 24:36–42**

**“But as for that day and hour no one knows it—not even the angels in heaven—except the Father alone. For just like the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. For in those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. And they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. It will be the same at**



the coming of the Son of Man. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one left. There will be two women grinding grain with a mill; one will be taken and one left. **Therefore stay alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.**" (NET 2nd ed.)

Prior to His physical return people, even at the end of the Great Tribulation, will still be clueless. Amazing, with all we read in Revelation. We see that here, but we also see that as events that have no signs connected with them kick off, people will be caught off guard. The rapture of the church will be a shock, just like the flood.

Imagine, some guy building a huge barge out in the backyard for over 100 years. Everyday he invites anyone who will listen to sign on and join him to be rescued from what is coming. Like what we are doing as we share the word with others.

There is also the comparative to the Days of Lot. Shock.

But really, Ken, how bad is it? How blind are we really? Pretty blind to what is going on in plain sight all around us. What we see taking place today in technology is not new but a repeat of what was going on before the flood. Once again there is talk of altering the human genome, ostensibly in the name of science or defense, but is it really?

There is a race going on right now among the nations of the world to be the first to develop a super soldier. A modified superhuman with a mix of genetic alterations as well as cybernetic enhancements. This country is no different.

Scientists have proposed ideas for neurological and physical enhancements of soldiers at the genetic level to help build resistance to battle fatigue, enhance sensing and monitoring of the battlefield, aid faster recovery, and endure extreme conditions and extended operations. Ideally, these enhancements would increase force ability to adapt and adjust to changing battlefield conditions and conduct major operations using a smaller force by creating a soldier who is stronger, faster, has more endurance, and is better protected against unpredictable enemy tactics. (Buchner 2013, 7)

From neuralink.com we discover that work has already begun to "Create a generalized brain interface to restore autonomy to those with unmet medical needs today and unlock human potential tomorrow." For those with certain types of injuries or deficits, this looks like a solution with promise. But, as with all things, there is also a negative side as well. This brings up the whole idea of what is human and does one cease being human once enhanced with non-human DNA or cybernetically enhanced to interface with various networks. Is the move once again, to do away with what defines human? Didn't we go through a flood over this? But business is looking for an advantage. Matthew E. Gladden, in his book, *Posthuman Management*, has a series of monographs exploring this topic from a business perspective.

The use of neuroprosthetics for purposes of human enhancement is expected to grow over the coming decades, resulting in a segment of the population whose minds possess unique kinds of sensory perception, memory, imagination, and emotional intelligence and who participate in **social relations that are mediated not through the exchange of traditional oral, written, or nonverbal communication but by neurotechnologies that allow the sharing of thoughts and volitions directly with other human minds and with computers.** Until now, communicating a thought to another mind has required the thought to be expressed physically as a social action that is audible, visible, or tangible in nature, however future neuroprosthetics may facilitate the exchange of ideas directly at the level of thought, thereby allowing the creation of human networks that can be understood as either 'supersocial' or 'postsocial' in nature. Not only might such posthuman digital ecosystems be inaccessible to those who lack the appropriate form of neural augmentation, but even their very existence may be invisible to unmodified human beings. (Gladden 2016, 261)



Welcome to the days of Noah. These are signs pointing to the nearness of the second coming of Jesus Christ. His returning to take the church home to be with Him is imminent. If we see shadows like this, we know and must look up for his return for us is close.

One more thing. "Noah's testimony was largely unheeded. There was no great revival before the flood." (DeHaan 1997, 115)

About the days of Lot. Lot was the nephew of Abraham and if Abraham had followed the word of the Lord, he would have been left back in Mesopotamia and not brought along to Canaan with Abraham. That would have prevented the future problems we see in the scriptures involving Moab and Ammon. A point was reached where Lot had to leave. What we see in Genesis 13 is Abraham separating himself from Lot and Lot, choosing the best for himself.

Lot took his things and settled towards Sodom and Gomorrah.

Over time, Lot ceased to be salt and light and became more and more part of the governing body of Sodom. He compromised.

God warned Abraham what was about to happen in Sodom. The believer was warned and knew ahead of time what was about to take place. Lot was not as faithful though as Abraham, and he has no idea until two angels call on him one afternoon.

He was living right in the middle of a culture on the verge of judgement and didn't even recognize it was doomed. But he was bothered by what was going on and did nothing (2 Peter 2:4-10). Sounds like today.

Lot made several bad decisions that snowballed into worse ones. He found himself living in a culture that was at war with itself and involved in sinful practices that we see being mirrored and extolled in our culture today. Confusion with sexuality and living a lifestyle attached to that confusion was something subject to judgement from God. In fact, He considers this to be an abomination. Or to put it another way, to be doing something defiling and detestable that results in wrath from God; "something or someone as essentially unique in the sense of being "dangerous," "sinister," and "repulsive" to another individual." (Vine, Unger and White Jr. 1996, 1)

Those things which God calls an abomination, the culture of Sodom and Gomorrah considered to be worthwhile activities. There is more to this than simply same sex relationships, but that was the primary issue in the text. We see God's attitude towards this sin in Leviticus.

Leviticus 18:22

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination." (ESV)

Deuteronomy 22:5

"A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God." (ESV)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**" (ESV)

God is in the business of changing lives and the people of Corinth were examples of that.



The culture of Sodom and Gomorrah accepted the sin as normal behavior. Here is the thing, our culture has also done the same. Just because the culture is okay with a sin or sins, does not mean that God has changed His mind about them.

As Paul told us in 1 Corinthians 6, some in the Corinthian church used to engage in the same lifestyle, until they met Jesus Christ. As a result of following Jesus, they have now been washed in His blood and set free. The Holy Spirit came into them to live, and He is the one who began changing them, something He still does today.

The presence of Lot retarded and held back the destruction of Sodom, but it did not prevent it. God had promised that until Lot was safely out, He would not destroy the city of Sodom. He had promised that until Noah was safe, the flood would not come. While neither the flood nor the destruction of Sodom could come until Noah and Lot were safe, nevertheless the judgment of God did fall when finally they were taken out in safety. Noah is the type of the spiritual believer; Lot is the type of the carnal believer. (DeHaan 1997, 116)

What we see with Lot is a type of the rapture from the perspective of someone who is not looking for the rapture to take place anytime soon. The wrath of God could not come down until Lot, and his family were out of the way.

Genesis 19:15–16

“At daybreak the angels urged Lot on: “Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” But he hesitated. Because of the LORD’s compassion for him, the men grabbed his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters. They brought him out and left him outside the city.” (CSB)

There are those who are looking for Jesus to return. They will not be caught off guard. Then there are those who are believers but are too embedded in the culture and will be a bit surprised at what takes place. And there are also those, who say they believe, but do not know Jesus. In Revelation, we learn of a church that is characteristic of many churches here in the last days. Unfortunately, this Laodicean church is in denial, and Jesus is on the outside knocking on the door.

As the church, we are looking for the Day of Christ, not the Day of the Lord. The Day of Christ is a day of triumph, and for the true church, per Dr. Chafer, there are seven things anticipated.

Day of Christ

1. the last days for the Church,
2. the resurrection of the bodies of the saints,
3. the translation of living saints,
4. the judgment seat of Christ,
5. the marriage of the Lamb,
6. the return of the Church with Christ, and
7. the reign of the Church with Christ. (Chafer 1993, 374)

The last days for the church are not the same as we see regarding end times and end of the age. But we are familiar with it.

Those Scriptures which set forth the last days for the Church give no consideration to political or world conditions but are confined to the Church itself.

- These Scriptures picture men as departing from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1–2).



- There will be a manifestation of characteristics which belong to unregenerate men, though it is under the profession of “a form of godliness” (cf. 2 Tim. 3:1–5).
- The indication is that, having denied the power of the blood of Christ (cf. 2 Tim. 3:5 with Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:23–24; 2 Tim. 4:2–4), the leaders in these forms of righteousness will be unregenerate men from whom nothing more spiritual than this could proceed (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14).
- The following is a partial list of the passages which present the truth respecting the last days of the Church: 1 Timothy 4:1–3; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; 4:3–4; James 5:1–8; 2 Peter 2:1–22; 3:3–6; Jude 1:1–25. (Chafer 1993, 375)

We have no signs for the imminent rapture of the church. But we do have signs, or rather warnings, about the condition of the church as Jesus returns. What does the last days of the church look like? Dr. Pentecost goes into that.

### **Last Days of the Church**

These conditions center around a system of denials.

- There is a denial of God (Luke 17:26; 2 Tim. 3:4–5),
- a denial of Christ (1 John 2:18; 1 John 4:3; 2 Pet. 2:6),
- a denial of Christ’s return (2 Pet. 3:3–4), (Something I see fulfilled regularly now online with the comments from believers I receive.)
- a denial of the faith (1 Tim. 4:1–2; Jude 3),
- a denial of sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3–4),
- a denial of the separated life (2 Tim. 3:1–7),
- a denial of Christian liberty (1 Tim. 4:3–4);
- a denial of morals (2 Tim. 3:1–8, 13; Jude 18),
- a denial of authority (2 Tim. 3:4).

This condition at the close of the age is seen to coincide with the state within the Laodicean Church, before which Christ must stand to seek admission. In view of its close it is not surprising that the age is called an “evil age” in Scripture. (Pentecost 1958, 155)

Laodicea lurks inside every church today. We see some churches fully overtaken by this “spirit.” They are the ones seriously resembling the picture drawn by Dr. Pentecost.

Jesus was clear in His letter to this church.

Revelation 3:15–21

“I know what you have done; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am going to spit you out of my mouth! You say, ‘I am rich and well off; I have all I need.’ But you do not know how miserable and pitiful you are! You are poor, naked, and blind. I advise you, then, to buy gold from me, pure gold, in order to be rich. Buy also white clothing to dress yourself and cover up your shameful nakedness. Buy also some ointment to put on your eyes, so that you may see. I rebuke and punish all whom I love. Be in earnest, then, and turn from your sins. Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they will eat with me. To those who win the victory I will give the right to sit beside me on my throne, just as I have been victorious and now sit by my Father on his throne.” (GNB)



When Jesus answered questions on the Mount of Olives, He provided a clear picture of the world prior to the second coming of Jesus. The picture of the days of Noah in Matthew 24 and the days of Lot in Luke 17 provides for us the examples of a previous rescue. One a picture of the rapture, the other, those events beginning pre-rapture but then accelerating once the rapture has taken place.

When Paul came to Thessalonica, he had Timothy with him. Timothy heard the teaching about the rapture and knew the details associated with the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Later, Paul, in his letter to Timothy, draws a clear picture of the state of the world in the final run up to the second coming. Doing so, he provides us a glimpse of the days of Noah and what the world would look like in the time of Jesus coming to take His church home.

#### 2 Timothy 3:1–5

“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!” (NLT)

Unfortunately, these are things we see taking place in increasing frequency and severity all around us today. It is becoming not a symptom, but a sign of the age we live in. We are in indeed the terminal generation, and Jesus is returning at any second.

I urge you, if you find yourself more aligned with Lot rather than Noah, return to Him right now while there is still time. 1 John 1:9 is indeed still applicable. Let's pray.

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