

## **Matthew 24:36 – 25:13**

36. But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.
37. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
38. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,
39. and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
40. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.
41. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.
42. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

43. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
44. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
45. “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?
46. Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
47. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.
48. But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’
49. and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,

50. the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know
51. and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
1. Then, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
  2. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
  3. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
  4. but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
  5. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

6. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'
  7. Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.
  8. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
  9. But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'
  10. And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were
  11. ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.
  12. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'
  13. But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'
- Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## Malachi 2:17 – 3:5

17. You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”
  1. Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
  2. But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

3. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.
4. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.
5. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear Me, says the Lord of hosts.

## **The Doctrine of Imminence**

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- The imminent return of Christ as Bridegroom for His Bride
- The imminent coming of the God of justice to the Church as the One who comes as the refiner's fire and as the launderer's soap
- The imminent outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days

## The Doctrine of Imminence

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**imminent:** from the Latin verb **immineo, imminere**

- **overhang** or **project**
- hanging over one's head, ready to befall or overtake one, close at hand in its incidence (Oxford English Dictionary)
- could happen at any moment
- other things *may* happen before the imminent event but nothing else *must* take place before it happens
- if something else *must* take place before an event can happen, that event is not imminent

## Four truths: Doctrine of Imminence

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- We cannot count on a certain amount of time transpiring before the imminent event happens; therefore, we should always be prepared for it at any moment.
- We cannot legitimately set a date for its happening. As soon as we set a date, we destroy the concept of imminency and that an event could happen at any moment.
- We cannot legitimately say an imminent event will happen “soon.” The term “soon” implies that an event must take place “within a short time (after a particular point of time specified or implied.” (Oxford English Dictionary) By contrast, an imminent event may take place within a short period of time, but it does not have to do so in order to be imminent. **Imminent is not equal to soon!**
- Rightly perceived, imminency influences our expectations and our actions.

The date of Christ's coming is concealed. When He shall come, no man can tell. Watch for Him and be always ready, that you may not be ashamed at His advent. Should a Christian man go into worldly assemblies and amusements? Would he not be ashamed should his Lord come and find him among the enemies of the cross? I dare not go where I would be ashamed to be found should my Lord come all of a sudden. Should a Christian ever be in a passion? Suppose his Lord should then and there come? Would he not be ashamed at His coming?

One here says of an offender, "I will never forgive her. She shall never darken my doors again." Would you not be ashamed if the Lord Jesus came and found you unforgiving? Oh, that we may abide in Him and never be in such a state that His coming would be unwelcome to us! Beloved, so live from day to day in duty and in devotion that your Lord's coming would be timely. Go about your daily business and abide in Him, and then His coming will be a glorious delight to you.

**Charles Hadden Spurgeon**

The fact that the glorified, holy Son of God could step through the door of heaven at any moment is intended by God to be the most pressing, incessant motivation for holy living and aggressive ministry (Including missions, evangelism and Bible teaching) and the greatest cure for lethargy and apathy. It should make a difference in every Christian's values, actions, priorities and goals.

**Renald Showers** (Maranatha: Our Lord, Come!)

The imminent return of our Lord is the great Bible argument for a pure, unselfish, devoted, unworldly, active life of service.

**R.A. Torrey**

## 2 Peter 3:1-4

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1. This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,
2. that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles,
3. knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.
4. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

When stunning events take place such as the moving of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, the aligning of the nations in the Mideast that could be a part of the Gog-Magog War, and the convergence of dozens of end-time signs, there is a collective sigh. Some will say it's déjà vu all over again. We heard that 40 years ago. Nothing happened.

The fact that things are all coming together excites only a tiny remnant who will never grow weary of keeping their eyes on the sky! If you are among them, hang in there. He is coming soon and Israel remains the apple of God's eye!

**Jan Markell**

The background features a white dove with its wings spread, flying towards the right. The dove is set against a light blue background with several large, stylized stars in shades of blue and white. The overall aesthetic is clean and spiritual.

**Revelation 16:15** (Complete Jewish Bible)

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Look! I am coming like a thief! How blessed are those who stay alert and keep their clothes clean, so that they won't be walking naked and be publicly put to shame!