

## We Shall Meet Him in The Air2

10/13/24

In Matthew 24, Jesus and His disciples gathered at the Temple of Jerusalem and began to tell them about the temple's destruction. Several approached Jesus with concerns about the temple's destruction in Jerusalem. They asked questions concerning when He would return and the end of the age. The temple in A.D. 70 was destroyed when the Roman army under Titus laid siege to Jerusalem, destroying the temple and leaving no stone upon another.

Jesus informed His disciples that after He returned to Heaven, many false Messiahs would appear and deceive many. Many places would have wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes. The love of many would grow cold toward the things of God and each other. Followers of Christ would be persecuted, and there would be a great falling away and betrayal of one another. He tells them there would be a great time of tribulation that the world has never known; the gospel would be spread worldwide.

We must be vigilant with the time given to us as Christ's witnesses. We are running out of time as the blanket of evil tries to subvert the truth and cover the entire world with darkness. We must remain faithful in holding up the Light of God's love in the shed blood of Jesus! We affirm by the word of the Lord that Jesus Christ's return is imminent so that we can meet Him in the Air!

**Scripture Text: Matthew 24:36-41 NIV 36** “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **41** Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

**VERSE 36:** *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

The disciples in Jesus's day wanted to know how long they had to wait for the Lord's return so that He could sit upon the throne of His earthly kingdom. They desired Him to rule with a rod of iron to destroy the oppressors of their generation. Without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, they lacked an eternal perspective of God's longsuffering! **1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV:** *“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”*

For those serious about knowing and following the Lord, God's longsuffering gives them time and opportunity to repent and receive eternal life.

Jesus declared that only the Father knew the exact day and moment of His return. While men calculate and predict, the secret remains with Father, who waits for the fullness of time, not willing that any parish.

Father God may delay Jesus' return until our families, friends, and neighbors, whom we have been assigned to share Jesus Christ, have a valid opportunity to accept or reject Him. We have neighbors to love as ourselves! If you haven't been praying for them, start now!

From this day forward, we must pray more fervently, focusing on those who will be forever lost if they neglect God's grace in having an eternal relationship with Him.

**VERSE 37:** *As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*

Jesus refers to a historical event that drastically shifted God's righteous judgment against the people's wickedness. It was a time when God regretted that the people were living to please their fleshly nature without regard to being accountable to Him. The time of the coming of the Son of Man would be the return of Jesus Christ. Jesus called himself "the Son of Man" to emphasize his humanity and fulfill the messianic prophecy in **Daniel 7:13-14 NIV: 13** *"In my vision, at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

**VERSE 38:** *For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark.*

Our times mirror the days of Noah, when people were driven to satisfy their human desires while neglecting their souls, with no thought of living with eternity in view. Life would be business as usual! People lived without accountability to anyone and were controlled by the thoughts of their lives. **Genesis 6:5-8 NIV 5** *The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*

**VERSE 39:** *and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*

Mankind was given 120 years of warning to repent to God and be saved from the flood, while Noah labored to build an ark for the people. God spared Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives, and the animal kingdom. The people did not take it seriously because it may have never rained with any significant capacity. THEY took their lives for granted and believed Noah was out of touch with their reality. Eventually, God's judgment came to those who had ignored the warnings; it came suddenly and unexpectedly.

**VERSE 40 -41** *Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.*

**Applications:**

We are called to Live life with an eternal perspective because we were created for eternity.

We are given time and opportunity to choose our eternal destiny.