

Jesus is Coming - Matthew 24:29-44, Revelation 19:11-21
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

If you are like me and grew up in late 20th Century Evangelicalism, you probably grew up in a church culture that had a deep fascination with the idea of Jesus' return and the events surrounding the end of the story. Of course, those churches had taken a deep dive into one of the theories about how all this had happened, and as a result were continually writing books, making movies, and holding prophecy conferences complete with graphs and charts explaining the precise moment Jesus would return. And we sang a litany of songs about when we would "fly away, ole glory," and we would "All get to heaven." I remember seeing a movie in my church that told the story of people who missed the rapture (the moment all the Christians were supposed to disappear leaving the heathen people on earth for seven years of misery). As a kid, it scared me deeply, and the last thing I wanted to happen was to be left behind. Of course, a generation another version of this story showed up a decade or so later with that name, and Kirk Cameron became a cult hero in Christian circles (sorry for those of you who have no idea what I am talking about, but Google "Left Behind" and you will figure it out.). Truth is, there are many differing approaches to understanding the events and seasons predicted in the Bible because, well, we just don't know everything yet. Hasn't happened. Yet, while there might have been an unhealthy obsession with these events when I was younger, the pendulum may have swung the other way, with us having little or no emphasis on the Biblical message of Christ's Second Coming.

But the truth is that the return of Jesus in glory is one of the most emphasized doctrines in the Bible. The New Testament has at least 318 references and one out of approximately every 13 verses in the New Testament either allude to or address clearly this doctrine and promise. The whole of the Bible is about Jesus, and for every prophecy that pictures and promises His first coming, there are approximately eight prophecies pointing to the time of His Second Coming. So while the topic may seem bizarre and we do have some crazies in the larger faith family because of this doctrine, the Scriptures do not allow us to ignore it. In fact, it is the primary source of hope for those who believe in Jesus. And what we can all agree on is that there will be a day where the same Jesus who came the first time to live the perfect life, die on the cross for our sin, rise again on the third day, and then ascend to heaven will return in the same way. But this time He will not come as a suffering servant, He will return in power and glory. At His return He will vindicate the glory of God, gather the elect to Himself, judge the living and dead, and establish His Kingdom for eternity. As a result those who have died in Christ will rise again just like He did, those who remain will receive resurrection bodies too, and Christ will restore all things removing the stain of sin and the all the effects of the curse. Heaven and earth will merge, and Jesus will reign forever more. This is great news!

In Matthew 24 Jesus is hanging out with His disciples during the last week of His life. They just visited the Temple, and as they are walking toward the Mount of Olives (sitting across a valley from the Temple which is visible) as they marvel at the glory of the place. Jesus then makes a crazy prophecy predicting the destruction of the Temple and the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans. They are shocked, so the disciples ask two questions. First, when will this happen? Second, what are the signs of the end of the age? As the Prophet, Jesus weaves together a masterful answer to both of these questions, predicting God's judgment on Jerusalem, the result of their rejecting the Messiah and also giving signs of His Second Coming. But the two events are mashed together, much like many other prophecies of the Day of the Lord (that final day where Jesus returns). Historical climactic moments of justice where God judges His people and the nations are small pictures of that final day. But the promise here in our portion of the text is clear, there is a day where Jesus will visibly return, coming in the clouds in power and glory, and the kingdoms of this world will shutter because their end has arrives. The Apostle John's vision in Revelation 19 shows us this day from an apocalyptic prophetic point of view, seeing this event in a vision. But these passages, and all other agree on the main point. Jesus will return. These

texts are clear about the who, it is the same Jesus who came and established His Kingdom through the cross and the victory over sin, death, hell, and the grave. He will visibly come again and all people will see Him. The texts also give hints about the how. Yet, it is this part of His return that leads to speculation and the different views of the end times. Therefore, we should do all we can to study and understand these views while holding our position with an open hand and generous heart. Finally, and this part is clear in the words of Jesus, these texts do not tell us when. There might be signs that point to that day, but every generation has believed Jesus would return in their lifetime. And believe it or not, they should have. So should we. We are to live with eager expectation for that day and live this day in the shadow of the Day of the Lord. He could come today! He may not. The central message then, is not when but who, and it comes with a simple application. This application is given by Jesus directly in Matthew 24:44. *Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.* Jesus is coming again! Are you ready?

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Numbers 34	Numbers 35	Numbers 36	1 Timothy 1	1 Timothy 2	1 Timothy 3	1 Timothy 4

Reading from this past week: Matthew 24:29-44, Revelation 19:11-21

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: John 14:1-7, Philippians 2:5-11

Family Worship

Song - *Psalm 34 (Taste and See)*

<https://youtu.be/yOzf0VrDNGU>

Gospel Project

Unit: Early Responses to Jesus

Story: We are saved by faith in Jesus

Big Picture Question: How can we be saved?

Answer: We are only saved through faith in Jesus?

Scripture: Hebrews 11

New City Catechism

Question #22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

Answer: That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin.

Verse: Hebrews 2:17

Scripture

Matthew 24:29-44, Revelation 19:11-21

- What about the doctrine of the Second Coming scares you? What about it gives you hope?
- What are some things Matthew 24:29-31 tell us about Jesus' return? How about Revelation 19:11-21? If we put these passages together what do we learn about that day?
- Jesus uses the people in the day of Noah as an illustration of being prepared. What can we learn from the people left outside of the ark?
- What are some ways the promise of the Second Coming should shape the lives of those who love and follow Jesus?

Prayer

*Pray that we would live boldly in the hope of the promise of Jesus' Second Coming.

*Spend time praying the Lord's Prayer with your family from Matthew 6:9-13, focusing in on the final two lines.