

# YOU DO NOT KNOW

Matthew 24:32-25:13

## I. IN MATTHEW 24:36-25:13 JESUS EMPHASIZES HIS DISCIPLES' IGNORANCE ABOUT THE TIME OF THE FINAL JUDGMENT

- A. “of that day and hour **no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36/Mark 13:32; cf. Luke 2:52).
1. The coming of Jesus will be like the days of Noah. People were eating, drinking, and marrying until the day Noah entered the ark. “they did not understand/know until the flood came” (Matthew 24:38-39).
  2. People will be about their daily and ordinary lives when Jesus comes. Men will be out in the field and women will be grinding grain (Matthew 24:40-41).

“Verse 36 is remarkable not only as the only admission of ignorance by Jesus, but also, paradoxically, because it at the same time places him above *the angels* and second only to *the Father*. This view of the status of *the Son* is equalled in this gospel only in 11:27 and 28:19.” (Richard T. France in Carson, D., & Guthrie, D. eds. *New Bible Commentary: 21st century edition*).

**NOTE:** The Greek word for know/understand/recognize (*ginōskō*) is used 6x in Matthew 24-25 (24:32,33,39,43,50; 25:24). Another Greek word for know (*oída*) also occurs 6x in Matthew 24-25 (24:36,42,43; 25:12,13,26).

- B. “you do not know which day your Lord is coming” (Matthew 24:42).
1. Thief in the night (Matthew 24:43-44; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4; 2 Peter 3:10)
  2. “the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know” (Matthew 24:50).
- C. One of the main points of the ten virgins is “**for you do not know the day nor the hour**” (Matthew 25:13).
- D. The Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah’s (False) Witnesses had their origins in failed end times predictions.

“Of that day and that hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven nor the Son, except the Father.’ By the saying ‘neither the angels’ he stopped their mouths, lest they seek to learn what even the angels did not know; and by the saying, ‘nor the Son’ he forbids them not only to learn but even to inquire. He refers this knowledge to the Father both to make the matter more awesome and to preclude their inquiring about it.” (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew 77:1 [A.D. 370]*).

## II. REASONS PEOPLE MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT JESUS’ RETURN DESPITE HIS CLEAR TEACHING, “YOU DO NOT KNOW.”

- A. “Male Answer Syndrome” – some people have a hard time saying, “I don’t know.”
- B. Some people use end times speculation as a kind of escapism.
- C. Thinking that I have inside knowledge about the European Union, the United Nations, the economy and increase in hurricanes on the Gulf Coast makes some people feel smarter and more spiritual.
- D. People love sensationalism.
  1. Sensationalism sells fictional works like the *Left Behind* series.

2. Sensationalism sells non-fiction like Hal Lindsey's *Late Great Planet Earth*. The *New York Times* called it the "no. 1 non-fiction bestseller of the decade [1970s; 35 million copies were sold]."
- a. Lindsey said 1988 was the latest possible date for the Second Coming based on the following:
- i. Israel became an independent state in 1948
  - ii. Jesus said "this generation will not pass away until all these things take place" (Matthew 24:34).
  - iii. A biblical generation = 40 years.
  - iv.  $1948 + 40 = 1988!$
- b. Lindsey was wrong, but he is much wealthier for it!

*Did you know?*

Augustine calculated that the end of human history would be about A.D. 650.

### **III. WAYS PEOPLE EVADE THE CLEAR TEACHING OF JESUS**

- A. Jesus said that we don't know the "day or the hour," but He never said anything about the month or the year!
- B. Some people fail to understand that Matthew 24:4-28 or Matthew 24:4-31(?) deals with the destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70 A.D.
- C. There aren't any events in the world today that give us any knowledge as to the timing of Jesus' return. Or to put it another way, the newspaper gives us absolutely no information that suggests Jesus is returning in our day, or in the next 100 years or in the next 1000 years. Predictions about the final return of Jesus have been and always will be 100% wrong.

"Christians know no more the exact time of Christ's return than little babies in their mothers' bodies know about their arrival" (Martin Luther).

## **QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:**

*Take what you have learned this morning and turn it into a prayer.*

*How did Jesus' disciples misunderstand the end and the destruction of the Temple?*

*What was the title of this morning's sermon and why?*

*Do you think Jesus will return in the next 100 years?*

*Is the return of Jesus imminent?*

*How was it that Jesus was ignorant about the time of the Final Judgment, "of that day and hour no one knows, but even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone"?*

*Why do people make predictions about Jesus' return when He says "you do not know which day your Lord is coming"?*

*Next week, we will continue looking at Jesus' teaching in Matthew 24-25 and at something more dangerous and foolish than trying to predict the time of Jesus' return. Can you guess what that might be?*

