

Come Like A Thief

Rev. 3:3; Matt. 24:42-51; 1 Thess. 5:2

'Remember, then, what you received and heard.
Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, **I will**
come like a thief, and you will not know at what
hour I will come against you.'

Revelation 3:3

'Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 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. Therefore you also must be ready, **for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**' Matthew 24:42-44

What is this “coming”? Parousía !!!

- ◆ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your **coming** and of the end of the age?” Matthew 24:3
- ◆ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the **coming** of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:27
- ◆ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the **coming** of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:15

' "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, **when you see all these things**, you know that he is near, at the very gates.'

Matthew 24:32-33

'But concerning **that day and hour** no one knows,
not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but
the Father only.'

Matthew 24:36

'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, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.'

Matthew 24:38-41

Matthew 24 Timeline

- ◆ False Christs, false teachers, deception, betrayal and apostasy
- ◆ Wars, earthquakes, nation against nation, first 4 seals, beginning of birth pangs
- ◆ Abomination of desolation in the middle of the 70th week
- ◆ Great tribulation, persecution such as never before (5th seal)
- ◆ Cosmic signs of sun, moon and stars (6th seal)
- ◆ Jesus Christ appears so everyone sees. Clouds, trumpet, angels
- ◆ Angels gather the elect. Not just from Israel, but from the four winds.

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will **gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ' Matthew 24:31

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ ' "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ' Matthew 24:15
- ◆ 'And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.'" Daniel 9:27
- ◆ Abomination of desolation is the mid-point of the 70th Week.

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ After the beginning of birth pains (first 4 seals)
- ◆ After abomination of desolation (middle of week)
- ◆ After 'the great tribulation' (5th seal)
- ◆ After cosmic signs of the sun, moon & stars (6th seal)

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ 'For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.' Matthew 24:21-22
- ◆ The "great tribulation" starts at the mid-point and is cut short.
- ◆ The martyrdoms of the 5th seal and elsewhere in Revelation

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ 'For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the **coming** [parousía] of the Son of Man.'
- ◆ This is **THE PAROUSIA**. There is no secret rapture or parousía several years earlier.

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ ' "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ' Matthew 24:29-30
- ◆ Corresponds to the 6th Seal, announces the Wrath and Day of the LORD.

When you see all these things

- ◆ After the beginning of birth pains (first 4 seals)
- ◆ After abomination of desolation (middle of week)
- ◆ After 'the great tribulation' (5th seal)
- ◆ After cosmic signs of the sun, moon & stars (6th seal)

' 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? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.'

Matthew 24:45-47

“But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 24:48-51

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'Now concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers, you have no need to have anything
written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware
that the day of the Lord will **come like a thief** in
the night.'

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

'While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.'

1 Thessalonians 5:3-5

'So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.'

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8

'But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.'

2 Peter 3:10

'When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.'

Revelation 6:12-14

'Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" '

Revelation 6:14-17

What does "like a thief" signify?

- ◆ Not imminence where the rapture could happen any day now with no prior signs
- ◆ Within the progression of "all these things" in Matt 24
- ◆ Believers watching will know it is coming and have great reward
- ◆ Those not watching will be taken in by the deception of the antichrist or just lulled into worldliness

'("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")'

Revelation 16:15