

Matthew 24:32-51 Like the Days of Noah (The King and His Kingdom)

³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

⁴⁵ “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? ⁴⁶ Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷ Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. ⁴⁸ But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ ⁴⁹ and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of, ⁵¹ and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Last week we began looking that this very important portion of scripture where Jesus is describing last days scenario

A) The whole sermon is an answer to the question found in V.3 The Disciples ask **when will these things happen and what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age.**

B) So that is the context: Talking 2nd coming – talking Tribulation period

C) Jesus begins by giving some signs in V.4-7 **False Christ – wars and rumors of wars famines pestilence and earthquakes –**

1) But He frames those signs with this response: **v.8 all these are the beginning of sorrows**

D) We notes that Sorrows can also be translated Birth pangs!

E) and it is a great analogy because **we know** that when a women is pregnant

1) the times leading up to her delivery **those birth pangs are going to become more frequent and more intense**

So when we see these things Happening in our world NOW –we know they are the beginning of birth pangs

A) Wars...rumors – Catastrophic earthquakes – Disease –

B) But Revelation 6 when the Tribulation starts – the world goes into full blown labor these

1) **VERY SIGNS HAPPENING with extreme intensity that affects the whole planet.**

C) So we are not in labor right now: But we see the contractions are growing in frequency and intensity.

1) We can look – at what it happening – just like with a pregnancy and know – we are getting closer and closer. – FOCUS LAST WKND

As the sermon continues, Jesus is going to begin to go into detail about the time period known as the tribulation.

A) In V.9-22 He will discuss the coming of the Antichrist – and an event known as the Abomination of desolation –

B) That will be the focus of our study this Wednesday evening

C) Then in V. 23-31 He will begin to give some insights concerning His 2nd coming

1) The following Wednesday night – hope you can join us online or live

D) Concerning the 2nd coming he describes it in this way:

➤ V.27 Like Lightning that flashes across the Horizon – visible

E) Concerning the 2nd coming he describes it in this way:

➤ V.29 There will be signs in the sky
➤ V.30 All are going to see

So V.3-31 comprise our Lord's answer to the question – **when what.....** and his teaching on the events leading up to his 2nd coming

A) In V.32 He begins to shift gears and give a series of **illustrations about READINESS** – that flows all the way through Chapter 25

B) We are going to look at the first of these today – and the rest in the coming weekends

³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

A) Now because Israel in Scripture is likened to the Fig tree – there have been those Bible teachers who – linked this statement to the rebirth of Israel in 1948

B) Which indeed was a Historic event- **a nation** that had not existed in 2000 yrs – suddenly and miraculously brought back to life.

C) But I don't believe that is what Jesus is alluding to here for two reasons
#1 In the parallel passage to this – in Luke 21:29
Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

D) Jesus is not talking about the fig tree Israel – he is talking about – **all the trees** – in other words – he is giving an illustration from nature

I think the interpretation of this is fairly simple. –

A) Jesus is saying – when you look at a tree beginning to blossom you know that summer is coming –

B) In the same way you can read the trees of nature and know what is coming

1) you should be able to read the prophetic signs and know that we are getting near.

C) It is really a pretty simple illustration

The 2nd reason I don't believe this is a reference to the rebirth of Israel - Is because of what he says next.

³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

A) Here is the problem: **If Israel becoming a nation in 1948 is the measuring stick** – that sets the time line. – There are issues- **THIS GENERATION**

B) Conflict over what a Biblical generation is – Some says 40 yrs – which would have put the end of the generation in 1988 –

1) Others says – 60 yrs – puts it in 2008 –

C) Finally others say 100 yrs which takes us to 2048

1) But no one is clear on what a Biblical generation is.

But if we combine Matthew 24 with its Parallel passage in Luke 21

A) We see that Jesus is making a simple illustration from nature –

B) That -when you look at a tree beginning to blossom you know that summer is coming –

C) In the same way you can read the trees of nature and know what is coming
1) you should be able to read the prophetic signs and know that we are getting near.

D) the statement **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place**

1) Really points to what he is going to say next

#2 An Illustration from the Days of Noah

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

The days of Noah were marked by:

A population explosion: Genesis 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, check –pop grows by 83million people every year

Increased Violence:

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth: Gen 6:5

A)We only need to look at the recent mass shooting in Vegas to reminded of that – reminded every day on the News

B)More and more Heinous crimes – Unimaginable Crimes –

C)Time Magazine January 2017 – violent crime is up in every major city in the USA

1)Rise of global Terrorism across the planet – Definitely a Check mark there

The days of Noah were also mark by **Evil thoughts and imaginations:** and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5

We live in the age that the Prophet Isaiah predicted –

A)A time when **Right is called wrong and wrong is called right**

B)This blurring color of gray marks the landscape – Bazaar behavior that is being excepted as Normal

C)And a lot of it is being propagated as “entertainment” everyday in TV/ movies/ music –

You would have to have your head in the sand to not see how the days that we are living in – are similar to the days of Noah.

A)But the main point of the illustration of the days of Noah that Jesus make is in this statement: **V.38** they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

B)In other words it was business as usual. – Life went on – there was no alarm – no concern in the world that something was coming

1)Having weddings – partying – carrying on like there was no danger.

C)They ignored the Warnings – they ignored the signs

See it took Noah 120 yrs to build the ark

A)During that time 2 Peter 2:5 tells us that Noah was a preaching of righteousness

B)Now I would guess that when Noah started building the Ark – he was a main attraction.

1)Once the structure started to take shape – people came from all over to see what was going on.

C)What are you doing Noah? Building Why? ----- Repent

D)Rain? – They had never experienced water coming out of the sky

Noah no doubt was the object of scorn – and ridicule

A)Kids what do you want to do today? – Lets go see crazy Noah –

B)Noah is just the crazy dude building the biggest boat they had every seen because he thinks water is going to come out of the sky.

1)Up to that point it had never rained – the earth more tropical – the dew replenished the vegetation

C)Over time – He is just the Nut job –

1)Boat is getting closer and closer to being done – God starts drawing all the animals

D)People just ignore it all -

So here is the point: The people ignored the warnings – they ignored the word

A) Hosea **my people are destroyed for**
Rejected Knowledge

B) So here is the application for us – He is not saying – life should be put on hold

1) Should NOT go to weddings or enjoy company with friends

C) But we cannot live with an outright ignorance to the days that we are living in.

There needs to be a sense of readiness that marks our lives as well as Purpose

A) We need to wake up each day – thinking – IT MIGHT BE TODAY

B) I want to live to glorify the Lord!

C) What does that look like: Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him

1 Corinthians 10:31 adds ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

D) We need to understand that there is a purpose to our existence

So we as believers need to learn a lesson from the unbelievers in Noah's day

A) They heard that something was coming – and they just ignored the signs and lessons until it was too late

⁴⁰ Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the **Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

One is taken and the other is left – what is this talking about?

A) Some have suggested Judgment when the Antichrist comes into power and turns against the Jews

B) But the context v.42 & 44 is the Coming of Jesus Christ – not the coming of the Antichrist

C) But here is what is interesting – Jesus uses this phrase in v.43 **that the Lord will come as a thief – an hour you don't expect.**

1) That statement doesn't make sense concerning the 2nd Coming of Christ and here is why:

D) On Wed night we are going to discuss this event known as the Abomination of Desolation – Explain

The Prophet Daniel tells us that the Abomination of Desolation takes place at the 3 1/2 year mark of the tribulation.

A) From that event you can mark your calendar and start counting the days to the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ

C) So the 2nd Coming will not **be like a thief in the night** – SO WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

THREE COMINGS OF JESUS

A) THE FIRST – A LAMB take away the sins of the world

B) The Last is 2nd COMING – A LION – sets up his kingdom

C) In between the two is an event known as the rapture of the Church

1) Jesus comes NOT TO THE EARTH but to the clouds – comes for His Church –

D) Rescue them from the Destruction that is coming in the Tribulation

Paul the apostle uses this same language that Jesus uses here when He talks about the Rapture in 1Th4-5

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ **Therefore comfort one another**

with these words. But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know **perfectly that the day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:2**

The Day of the Lord is more than a day – it is a time period that Begins at the rapture/ includes tribulation/ commences at the 2nd coming –

Learn some Greek – V.17 Caught up = Harpazo – Snatched away – taken out

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep,(die) but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day **should overtake you as a thief.** ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

¹¹Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. - **1 Thessalonians 5:3-11**

Note: Paul said Twice: Comfort one another with these words

A)Jesus said here in Matthew 24:6 Don't be troubled

B)And in Luke 21:28 the Parallel passage to this:

1)When you see these **things happening lift up your heads – your redemption draws near.**

C)These teachings are not to stress us out – but the encourage us?

1)**Why? – We are not going to be here – not going to be a part of the destruction that is coming**

D)If we were – Paul and Jesus would have said:

Gear up – prepare yourselves to go thru Hell

1)Go through the worst Trib in human History

So I believe strongly that Jesus in the Beginning of V.40 in the illustration is giving us the **first hint of the rapture in the New Testament**

A)the language of the text I believe makes it clear.

B)In V.39 Jesus describes how the flood came and took them all away.

1)The work took there in the original language is *airo* = means to be taken to judgment to kill –

C)But in V. 40, 41 **he uses an entirely different word** when he says – two men in the field and two women grinding – one taken the other left

D)More Greek: **The Word taken in the Greek is paralambano – sounds like an Italian restaurant - which means to take to one's self**

Now this word can be used negatively but 90% of the time it is used in the New Testament it is used in a positive way –

Listen to some of the ways it is used – Matthew 1:20

⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

B)**TAKING A BRIDE**

Luke 9:10 – **Jesus disciples come back after a time of mission work**

¹⁰ And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place.

TAKE TO REST

On the Mount of transfiguration: Now after six days Jesus took; {Paralambano} Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Taken by Jesus up on the MT to see Him in his glory

What happens at Rapture – taken to be with Jesus in Heaven – his bride – see him in his glory

One other place where this makes perfect sense to me is John 14

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive {Paralambano} you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Jesus says I am going to heaven – and I will come again – not to set up my kingdom but to take you to myself – **paralambano** – take you to heaven with me.

The Parallel is perfect – Jesus says I am coming one day to take you to myself –

A)But you don’t know when it is going to happen – be like a thief in the night – come at an unexpected time – so you need to be ready

⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

B)When my Kids were young and my wife was away at a retreat:

1)We would let the house go – kids didn’t clean their rooms

C)Dishes would pile up – Until about 2hrs before my wife got home – **MASS SCRAMBLE - CHAOS** –

D)**If she came home early – we would be BUSTED.**

It would have been so much better if we lived in anticipation of her arrival

A)Picked up as we went along -

B)Set a bad example: Kids teen yrs – Call – when are you coming home.

1)I would tell them 2hrs before the actual time – just to mess with them – Or 10 minutes –

C)Jesus is saying: We need to be ready – we need to be living with an anticipation

Life cannot be business as usual – **MIGHT BE TODAY**

A)Are you going to go to bed mad at your spouse – Jesus might come in the night

B)Not that you will not go – if there is sin in your life

1)But is that really how you want to enter into heaven?

C)Believing that it might be today – Changes the way that we live and the way we treat others

1)Which is the point of Illustration #3

#3 The illustration of the two servants

45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

So you have one servant – Who believes his master is coming

A)So he works with that mindset – **MIGHT BE TODAY** - so I am doing my work right

B)He is faithful to the task at hand – He lives to work and honor his master

C)When the Master comes and finds Him be faithful to what He was given **reward with more responsibility**

This is a reoccurring principle in the NT – see it again in Chapter 25 – parable of the talents

A)How we live here: Plays a part in what eternity is going to be like for us

B)Heaven is not the end all - Jesus comes back 2nd coming we come back with him

1)Sets up his kingdom – 1,000 year reign

C)We have a role to play – Responsibilities:

1)What we do now with the responsibilities he has given us – determines our roles in His kingdom

The 2nd Servant is the classified as an evil servant – and a Hypocrite

A)He is not a true Believer – even though he knows the truth –

B)Consequently he doesn't believe the master is coming anytime soon:

48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

C)Lesson: The wise servant lives in light of eternity, while the evil servant lives only for today.

D)Close with this story

Derrick Brodus was lying on the couch at his fraternity on Saturday night,

A)waiting for the Tennessee Volunteers college football game to start at 7 P.M

B)Call from the Head Coach – Please escort 10 min - Hope he is Sober –

1)Derrick tried out – cut – 1st string hurt – back up pulled a muscle in warm ups

C)Someone track down Brodus -

D)Derick made the most of the opportunity

1)Didn't botch a kick off – 3 extra points and an 21 yard field goal – Tennessee won 24-0

Great story- But a poor illustration: SEE Derrick Brodus got lucky – He wasn't DRUNK

A)BUT He hadn't been practicing – just in case – his name got called – need me one day!

B)He obviously was a gifted athlete

1)Luck or giftedness is not going to help a person if they are not ready when Jesus comes for his church

C)Are You ready: