

Message Eleven

The Manifestation of the Kingdom of the Heavens (2)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 24:32-25:30.

I. The prophecy of the Kingdom concerning the Church—Matt. 24:32-25:30:**A. Matt. 24:32-44 reveals that the church should be watching and being ready:**

1. When the branch of the fig tree becomes tender and it puts forth its leaves, we know that summer, the full restoration of the Messianic kingdom, is near—v. 32.
2. The Greek word for *coming* (parousia) means “presence”—v. 37, 3:
 - a. In ancient times this word was applied to the coming of a dignified person; in the New Testament this word refers to the coming of Christ, the most dignified One.
 - b. Christ’s coming will be His presence with His people; His parousia will begin with the rapture of the man-child (Rev. 12:5) and of the firstfruits (14:1-4) and will end with His appearing on the earth with the saints—Matt. 24:27; 2 Thes. 2:8; Jude 14.
3. The situation before the Lord’s coming will be like that in the days of Noah—Luke 17:26-27; Gen. 6:1-22.
4. The two men and the two women represent the living believers at the time of the Lord’s second coming; To be taken is to be raptured before the great tribulation—v. 21; Rev. 3:10.
5. Matthew 24:40-41 refers to the secret rapture, the rapture of the ready ones, the mature ones.
6. The Lord’s word in Matthew 24:40-41 shows us that as we wait for His coming and expect to be raptured, we must be faithful in our daily duties, living a properly balanced human life—cf. 2 Thes. 3:6-15.

B. Matt. 24:45-51 reveals that the church must be faithful and prudent:**II. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes”—Matt. 24:42:**

- A. The overcomers will be the watchful saints, who will be raptured before the coming of the great tribulation— v. 21.
- B. Whether or not we will be raptured before the great tribulation and taken away to meet Christ on the throne depends on our watchfulness and on our beseeching in a particular way—Luke 21:36.

III. “But know this, that if the householder had known in which watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into”—Matt. 24:43:

- A. *Householder* refers to the believer, and *house* to the conduct and work that a believer has built up in his Christian life.
- B. A thief comes only to steal what is precious; we need to be precious by being mature so that the Lord will come secretly and take us away as His treasure—Rev. 3:3; 16:15.

IV. “For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming”—Matt. 24:44:

- A. In the light of the truth concerning the rapture, we need to make ourselves ready for the Lord’s coming by praying that we may grow and mature in life.
- B. The rapture in which we will participate is Christ Himself—Col. 1:27; 3:3-4:

1. The rapture is a matter of being filled with Christ; thus, in order to be raptured, we need to be filled with Christ—Eph. 3:17a, 19b.
2. When we have Christ wrought into us to a sufficient degree, we will be raptured—Gal. 4:19; 2 Thes. 1:10.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 24:1-44. **1** And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away, and His disciples came to *Him* to show Him the buildings of the temple. **2** But He answered and said to them, Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, There shall by no means be left here a stone upon a stone, which shall not be thrown down. **3** And 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 consummation of the age? **4** And Jesus answered and said to them, See that no one leads you astray. **5** For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray. **6** And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for it must happen; but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these things are the beginning of birth pangs. **9** Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all the nations because of My name. **10** And at that time many will be stumbled and will deliver up one another and will hate one another. **11** And many false prophets will arise and will lead many astray. **12** And because lawlessness will be multiplied, the love of the many will grow cold. **13** But he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him who reads understand), **16** Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains; **17** Let him who is on the housetop not come down to take the things out of his house; **18** And let him who is in the field not turn back to take his garment. **19** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing *babies* in those days. **20** And pray that your flight may not be in winter, nor on a Sabbath, **21** For at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor shall by any means ever occur. **22** And unless those days had been cut short, no flesh would be saved; but on account of the chosen, those days will be cut short. **23** At that time if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ! or, Here! do not believe *it*. **24** For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen. **25** Behold, I have told you beforehand. **26** Therefore if they say to you, Behold, He is in the wilderness, do not go forth; Behold, *He is* in the inner rooms, do not believe *it*.

27 For just as the lightning comes forth from the east and shines to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. **28** Wherever the corpse is, there will the vultures be gathered together. **29** And 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. **30** And at that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His chosen together from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the *other* end.

32 But learn the parable from the fig tree: As soon as its branch has become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near. **33** So also you, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors. **34** Truly I say to you that this generation shall by no means pass away until all these things happen. **35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away. **36** But concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of the heavens nor the Son, but the Father only. **37** For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. **38** For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, **39** And they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **40** At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. **41** Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. **42** Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes. **43** But know this, that if the householder had known in which watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **44** For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect *it*, the Son of Man is coming.

45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time? **46** Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. **47** Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions. **48** But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays, **49** And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken, **50** 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, **51** And will cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

Ezek. 10:18 And the glory of Jehovah went forth from over the threshold of the house and stood over the cherubim.

Matt. 22:7 And the king became angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

Rev. 6:1-8. 1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, Come. **2** And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer. **3** And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come. **4** And I saw, and behold, another horse, a red one, went forth; and to him who sits on it, to him *authority* was given to take peace from the earth, and that *men* should slay one another; and to him a great sword was given. **5** And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, Come. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he who sits on it had a balance in his hand. **6** And I heard as it were a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying: A choenix of wheat for a denarius and three choenixes of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine. **7** And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, Come. **8** And I saw, and behold, a pale horse, and he who sits upon it, his name is Death; and Hades followed with him. And authority was given to them over the fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword and with famine and with death and by the beasts of the earth.

Dan. 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week; and in the middle of the week he will cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and will replace the sacrifice and the oblation with abominations of the desolator, even until the complete destruction that has been determined is poured out upon the desolator.

Dan. 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

Dan. 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the water of the river, as He lifted up His right hand and His left hand to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever that there would be a time and times and half a time; and when the shattering of the power of the holy people is completed, all these things will be completed.

Rev. 12:14 And to the woman there were given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time from the face of the serpent.

Rev. 13:14-15. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth on account of the signs which he was given *power* to do before the beast, commanding those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast, who had the stroke of the sword and revived. **15** And *power* was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast that the image of the beast might even speak and cause whoever would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

2Thes. 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, *saying* that he is God.

Rev. 12L:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place there prepared by God so that they might nourish her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Rev. 13:5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and authority was given to him to act for forty-two months.

Rev. 19:17-21. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God, **18** That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great. **19** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. **20** And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the ^flake of fire, which burns with brimstone. **21** And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Zech. 12:10-14. 10 And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplications; and they will look upon Me, whom they have pierced; and they will wail over Him

with wailing as for an only son and cry bitterly over Him with bitter crying as for a firstborn son. **11** In that day there will be great wailing in Jerusalem, like the wailing of Hadad-rimmon in the valley of Megiddon. **12** And the land will wail, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; **13** The family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; **14** All the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the land will mourn over Him. Yes, amen.

Deut. 30:3-6. 3 Then Jehovah your God will turn your captivity and be compassionate to you, and He will turn and gather you from all the peoples among whom Jehovah your God has scattered you. **4** If any of you have been driven out to the ends of heaven, from there will Jehovah your God gather you and from there will He take you. **5** And Jehovah your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you will possess it; and He will do good for you and will multiply you more than He did your fathers. **6** And Jehovah your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, so that you will love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.