

PREPARING FOR THE RETURN OF THE LORD (Mk. 13:24-37)

May 4th, 2025

TEXT—Mark 13:24-37

MAIN IDEA—The Lord promised He would come again, and the only wise response of the faithful Christian is to live in the mindset of readiness.

MEMORY VERSE—1 Pet. 1:13

THE KING IS COMING AGAIN (Mark 13:24-27)— Jesus describes the cosmic events that will take place at His coming (*the Son of Man*-**V26**). Though Jesus spoke of various signs that would signal Christ's return to the earth, believers today are to look for the Savior and not for the Signs.

Ezek. 32:7-8

2 Pet. 3:10-12

V26-27--King Jesus will physically and visibly return in a glorious manner, 'coming in the clouds' escorted by a multitude of angels. These angelic beings will gather God's chosen ones in Christ from all over the world to be with the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Tim. 4:8; 2 Thess.1:10

Rev. 1:7

R.C. Sproul (1939-2017) --At the Second Coming of Christ Jesus will bring an end to history. He will raise the dead and judge the world (Jn. 5:28, 29) and impart to God's children their final glory (Rom. 8:17, 18; Col. 3:44) ...n heaven, the elect will honor the Lamb who opened the book of God's salvation (Rev. 5).

1 Thess. 4:14-18

THE LESSONS OF THE FIG TREE (Mark 13:28-31) --Jesus is making a simple and clear statement that just as there are signs in the natural realm of things to come (i.e. tender fig trees sprouting leaves near summertime), in the same way there are signs of what is to come in the spiritual realm(**V29**).

V30--Who is the LORD referring to when He says, this generation?' Those living in Judea before 70 AD? Those alive during the tribulation period?

Is. 40:8; Jas. 1:25

THE IMPORTANCE OF READINESS (Mark 13:32-37)—Watchfulness is the response of the faithful follower of Christ throughout the ages. Those who are ready will experience everlasting joy and tremendous reward, but failure to prepare may reveal a spiritually dead heart that doesn't know the LORD and will come under final judgment.

Heb. 9:27-28

V32-33—No one, except the Father, knows the appointed time of the LORD's return, so we are to be on our guard in order to be ready.

V34-36—We're to stay awake like a faithful servant doing his work for his master on leave, always ready for his return.

Lk. 21:34-36

Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019)—*Watchfulness has nothing to do with going to heaven. It is purely a matter of pleasing Him, hearing His loving commendation, and receiving His reward (Matt. 25:14-30). There is no suggestion here that, when He returns, Jesus will take only the faithful to heaven and leave the others on earth to suffer the tribulation. His family is one, and He is now preparing a home for all of them, even the least worthy (Jn. 14:1-6). We go to heaven because of His grace, not because of our faithfulness or good works (Eph. 2:8-10).*

V37—Stay awake!

*The return of the Lord is a chief motivation for our pursuit of holiness as Christians [1 Jn. 3:2-3].

Acts 1:6-11

Gal. 2:20