

WATCH THEREFORE!

October 4, 2020

Matthew 25:1-13

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 25:13; 24:44

Jesus Christ will return to earth. No one knows when. This fact is scorned by those who reject Christ and the Scriptures, but their scorning has no impact whatsoever upon the reality of this truth. Jesus Christ will return to earth.

The Old Testament prophets foretold this. Jesus Christ foretold His second coming. The angels who appeared at His ascension proclaimed it, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

The apostles wrote of it, and the whole New Testament proceeds upon the expectation of Christ’s return. The last promise of Christ in Scripture is, “Surely I come quickly. Amen.” And the last prayer of Scripture is, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20). Christ’s second coming to earth is prominent throughout the New Testament.

Consequently, it has remained prominent in the teaching of His people throughout the 2000 year history of Christianity. Its prominence in Church History has shaped civilization. The contrasts between the world’s most forward-looking, prosperous nations and its most underdeveloped and impoverished nations is traceable to the energetic, eager, forward-looking of cultures where Christ’s return is anticipated, and the lethargic, fearful, backward-looking of cultures that have no anticipation of Christ’s return.

Christ Jesus did not tell His disciples when He would return. More than once He made clear to them that no one knew that hour. This is known by God the Father alone: “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matthew 24:36).

For good reason, the timing is hidden from mankind. This provides great incentive unto holy living; living as you would desire to be found by Christ at His return. Christ admonished, “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 25:13; 24:44).

The apostles preached the same admonition: “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (I John 1:3). “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13).

Paul wrote, “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (II Timothy 4:8). Those who love His appearing anticipate Christ’s return. Thus, they live righteously, and will receive a “crown of righteousness.”