

The Olivet Discourse 5: The Imminent Second Coming
Matthew 24:32-44

I. Introduction: Contrasts between the first and second Advents of Christ

The doctrine of the Second Coming in the Creeds and in Scripture point to a literal, physical, and near-future return of Jesus Christ.

II. Jesus illustrates imminence from the fig tree (vss. 32-35)

“*Soon*” does not mean today or this month or year, but it does mean “any time.”

vs. 34 - Different ideas about the words “*this generation*”

Really bad ideas: Preterism, Jesus was wrong, “one divine event”

Not so good ideas: generation means race, links to Israel in 1948 or 1967

Intriguing ideas: the fig tree refers to the destruction of Jerusalem, dual fulfillment

Is too much being made of these words? Could it simply mean, “this generation?”

vs. 35 - The words of Jesus will never pass away

III. The end of date-setting (vs. 36)

IV. Three pictures of in the incalculability of Jesus’ return (vss. 37-44)

1. vss 37-39 – The flood of Noah’s time

2. vss 40-42 – The “Rapture”

3. vs 43 – The thief in the night

V. Be Ready (vs. 44)

Unbelievers will be left when Christ gathers the saints

How can believers be ready for Christ’s coming?