

THE MOMENTOUS EVENT (Mk. 13:33-37)

Mk. 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. ³⁴ For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. ³⁵ Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: ³⁶ Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

This chapter, - along with Mt. 24, (Lk. 17) and Lk. 21, referred to as the Olivet Discourse, - we are given much information about the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the closing message we can summarise under five headings ...

- *The Sureness of His Coming*, Mk. 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. Mt. 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Lk. 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. ³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.
- *The Summons concerning His Coming*, Mk. 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Mt. 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. ⁴⁵ Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
- *The Signs of His Coming*, Mt. 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Lk. 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. ²⁷ They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.
- *The Separation at His Coming*, Lk. 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. ³⁵ Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ³⁶ Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Mt. 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the

house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

- *The Suddenness of His Coming*, Mk. 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Something the Gospels don't tell us though, and that is exactly *when* Jesus will return. He gave strong indications as to the condition of the world into which He will enter but He specifically withheld the exact date and time, and He did that for two reasons. Firstly, in His earthly ministry, He genuinely did not know, Mk.13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. At His first coming, He voluntarily took upon Himself the mantle of *servanthood*, and the servant does not have the mind of the master but is there to obey the master's will. ... Similarly, each Christian knows Christ will return, but we don't know when ... and it is not our place to know.

We know it will be a momentous event for those living at that time. It will be at the conclusion of horrific experiences, and for that reason Jesus instructed, Mk. 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. ... And it's silly to think you *can* know. ... For example, the Mormons calculated Jesus would return in 1832, or 1890, or 1891. The Seventh Day Adventists said it would be in 1850, then changed it to 1856. The Jehovah Witnesses have given many dates, and all of them wrong ... 1914, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975, 1990. Even some evangelicals dabble with putting a date on it ... but we are told *not* to because only God knows!

Instead, we are instructed to keep alert for what's certain is He *will* come back. And so, Jesus uses another illustration, Mk. 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

When you know you have visitors coming, you tidy up. Your house is always tidy, but you make *double* sure. And that is what is behind this illustration ... a constant prepared readiness for the appearing of the Lord Jesus, *especially* as the signs increasingly indicate its approach. ... One of the biggest factors in Biblical prophecy is how God promised He would return the Jews to their own land, and He *did* in May 1948 ... and to their own city in June 1967. Those are *major* signs God is working out His plan. We also see how the nations are grouping and positioning themselves against Israel. We hear the rumblings from the European

Union, the United Nations, Russia, Turkey, Iran, and throughout the Middle East ... We see how their focus for a 'two-state' settlement is something God hasn't catered for ... and how there is the potential for all 'the heat' being generated spilling over into a war like none other ... The signs are 'hotting up'.

The Son of Man, - the Lord Jesus, - is still away on His long journey ... but He is preparing to return. Presently, He is at the right hand of His Father in Glory, and His servants are in charge of the house until He comes back to reclaim it. ... There are enough signs indicating it will be soon, so, we should be extra-vigilant, **Mk. 13:33** Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. ... And you take heed because you want to be found faithful in your service for the Master and you also excited about His impending return, as you watch for the signs.

And Luke gives a further incentive, **Lk. 21:34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged [*overburdened*] with surfeiting [*giddiness, lightness*], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. **35** For as a snare [*trap*] shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth [*it is going to be 'the way of the world'*]. ... There's the warning, - be careful you are not drawn away! ... With everything that's going on ... **Lk. 21:36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. ... Praying as we watch ... praying for Christ to return for it is His will, and we are to *pray* in His will, **Mt. 6:10** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ...

Also, we are called to **Ps. 122:6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem ... and God promises a blessing on those who do for they shall prosper that love thee, ... the same as God previously promised through Abram, **Gen. 12:3** I will bless them that bless thee ... How does the 'peace of Jerusalem' come about? As we have seen, there will be a false 'peace' lasting 3½ years, under the Antichrist ... but the *lasting* peace will begin when Jesus comes out of the clouds to the Mount of Olives, and proceeds across the Valley of Kidron and up into the city of Jerusalem, where once the temple of Solomon stood. There He will reign for one thousand years. Following the one thousand years the old heavens and the old earth will pass away, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth ... and a new Jerusalem, as John wrote, **Rev. 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And on the day when He returns to Jerusalem the eyes of the Jewish people will be opened, and they shall look upon the One their forefathers despised and rejected. They will weep and wail when they recognise Him, and they will repent, and *then* the fountain of salvation will be opened to the house of David (Zech.

13:1), and all Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:26). They will receive Jesus as their Messiah when He returns to Mount Zion ... *What a day that will be!* ... That day when the Son glorifies the Father, when **Mal. 4:2** the Sun of righteousness arise[s] with healing in his wings.

He is not only coming back for the Jews of that time, He is also coming back for every born-again Gentile. God knew the Jews would reject Christ, and He had already planned for the salvation of the Gentiles whom He would 'graft in' through grace (Rom. 11) ... so that in Christ **Eph. 2:14** the middle wall of partition separating Jews from Gentiles would be broken down ... **Eph. 2:6** that he might reconcile both [together] unto God in one body by the cross, so that **Eph. 2:13** now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ... That is how He loved the world by giving His only-begotten Son for Jews and Gentiles, that whosoever [Jew or Gentile] believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

So, pray for the salvation of your loved ones for without Christ, they are heading out into a lost eternity in Hell ... but He can save them!

We are also to pray for the Church across the world, an increasing number of whom are facing persecution, even unto death ... Again, praying in His will, knowing that the gates of Hell will not prevail against God's people. ... Keep watching and keep praying in preparation for His glorious appearance ...

We have His promises for He has put a mark on you which identifies you as belonging to Him. When He saved you, you were **Eph. 1:13** sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, **14** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. ... Jesus died for you. He gave His life a ransom for your salvation, and one day we shall experience by the look on His face and hear by the tone in His voice "How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure" ...

The whole way along the Author is directing His story for His glory. Someday, out of the clouds, - King Jesus is coming. He will defeat His enemies, He will imprison Satan for one thousand years, He will establish His earthly Kingdom and He will reign from Jerusalem, **Is. 11:4** with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity [decide fairly] for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. **5** And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins [the belts around His waist]. **6** The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. **7** And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** And the sucking child shall

play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ... That is how God's Word says it will be. ... Are you looking forward to it? If you are a believer, I trust you are for there is no better hope than **Titus 2:13** the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

If you are not saved when Jesus returns and you didn't receive Him as your Saviour, you will try to run ... but there will be nowhere to hide. It will be the most frightening day in this world's history for all who rejected Jesus. It is only now, when we are still in the day of God's grace you can call out to Him to be saved from that wrath to come.

Ultimately, says the prophet Habakkuk, in those days **Hab. 2:14** the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD. ... It is coming, for it is in God's plan and He works all things out to His own praise ... And for His Redeemed, what a delight that day will be when He appears in the clouds with the great numbers from out of Heaven ... and the saved on earth will rise to meet Him ... **1 Thess. 4:17** and so shall we ever be with the Lord.!

There's going to be a meeting in the air
In the sweet, sweet by and by;
I'm going to meet you over there
In that home beyond the sky ...
And God's own Son will be the leading One
At that meeting in the air.

The Momentous Event! Make sure you will be there for that is the meeting you will not want to miss!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nkmqu98xk8>