

Is Jesus Coming Back Soon?

Is Jesus' second coming imminent? That is what a lot of preachers today keep saying. And they have been teaching such now for almost 2000 years. You would think with so many prognosticators getting it wrong so many times for all those centuries, that they would have learned their lesson by now and quit making the same mistake. The truth is the Bible does not tell us when the second coming is going to be. It doesn't even give us any clues ...

Twice the Bible compares Jesus' second coming to a "thief in the night." The point is there are going to be no warnings about when Christ is coming. A thief doesn't warn you about when he is coming, does he?

- I Thess 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a **thief in the night**.
- II Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a **thief in the night**; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

And notice how Matt 24:22-24 compares Jesus' second coming to a thief – "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 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. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." The very point is that nobody knows when Christ is coming. It is impossible to predict.

A lot of believers think the language of Matt 24:6 ("ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars") is a sign of the second coming of Christ. And they reason since we hear about a number of wars going on in the world today, then Jesus must be coming back soon.

But the truth is that in this section, Jesus is giving signs about an event that was to occur in the lifetime of his live audience, the destruction of Jerusalem. Notice verse 34 nails that timing down for us when Jesus says there "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." And Jesus got it right. The destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies occurred within a generation, in about 70 AD according to secular history.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 36 "But of that day and hour (referring to the second coming of Christ) knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." If you read verses 36-44 together you will see the point is that nobody knows when the second coming of Christ is, there will be no signs for that; instead it will come like a "thief in the night" (I Thess 5:2), that is, with no warning.

Many are confused thinking that when Jesus comes back, He will set up His kingdom, but Mark 9:1 ("And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.") proves Jesus' kingdom would come while some then listening live to Jesus were still alive. Read that

verse and see for yourself! II Pet 3:10 uses that same phrase ("thief in the night") to refer to the timing of the second coming of Christ, and says when He comes, it is not to set up His kingdom, but to destroy the earth (the end the world). Here is how that passage reads – "II Pet 3:3-4,10 ... there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? ... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**"

Besides, it doesn't make sense to say the signs of Matt 24:5-33 are referring to the second coming of Christ - how could fleeing to the mountains quickly (16-20) help us escape the end of the world?

The fact is we don't have any idea when Jesus is coming back. Mark 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.") says nobody knows, that even Jesus didn't know. Do we think we know more than Jesus knew?

The kingdom exists now ...

Matt 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Acts 2:30b-31a ... he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ ...

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ ...

Instead of setting up the kingdom when He comes again, at that time Christ shall deliver up the kingdom to God ...

I Cor 15:23-24 ... they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.