

THE PROPHET OF CHRISTMAS [PART 1]

The Day of the Lord
Matthew 24:36-44

Introduction

The advent readings look forward to the "End Times" and the coming of the "Day of the Lord" when Jesus will bring lasting peace – External and Internal – extrinsic and intrinsic peace.

*The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together.*
Isaiah 11:6

The nation of Israel in Isaiah is a broken nation because of SIN.

Ours is a broken world – who can deny it?

A world where it is easier to sell fear than it is to sell hope – a world on the brink of disaster.

The Day of the Lord – the end of the age can be a very fearful thing if you are not ready for it.

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be

in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Matthew 24:36-44

We are all curious like the disciples – who asked Jesus in Matthew 24:3 – tell us when?

No one knows when it will happen – a divinely kept secret - v36

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

This is a divine secret.

- + The angels don't know it

- + Jesus doesn't know it.

Jesus warns us: *Don't let anyone lead you astray.*

We can all see the signs leading to His Second Coming

The question *when* – has two parts

- + Referring to the catastrophe of the holy place – v15 spoken by prophet Daniel – the desecration of the temple in AD 70 by the Romans

- + Secondly referring to the Coming Judgement of God – end of the age – the time this will happen – no one knows – but there are signs you can see

1. *Deception* – vv4,5
2. *Wars and rumours of wars* – vv6,7
3. *Famines and earthquakes* – v7
4. *Persecution* – v9
5. *Desertion* – vv10-13

Jesus in Matthew 24:4-14 exhorts us:

1. Don't be *deceived* - v4
2. Don't be *alarmed* - v6
3. Don't be *shaken* - v13
4. Do *preach* the Gospel to all nations - v14

We will all be taken by surprise when He comes again – vv37-42

It will be Public, Visible and Universal

Everything with Jesus is a surprise

- + Birth
- + Death
- + Resurrection
- + Jesus' second coming

No one will know – keep watch and be ready – vv42,44

We Need to Be Ready Now – v42-44

Come to believe and know Jesus – I am the way, the Truth and the Life.

- Jesus came in human form to die for our sin
- We need to personalise that Jesus died for my sin

Intimate and vital relationship