

Luke 12:35-40: Ready for HIS Return?

- ↪ The Bible teaches clearly and frequently that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is coming back to earth at an unexpected moment. He will bring human history as we know it to a climactic end, by taking the righteous to be with Him and punishing those who refused to have Him as Savior. The predictions of the Bible were very clear about Jesus' first coming. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies literally. The predictions of His second coming and the details surrounding it are far more prolific in the Bible, for every single prophecy of His first coming there are eight of His second coming. Many feel that the doctrine of end things is some sort of optional doctrine with which we can dispense. All other doctrines and events of the Bible lead to this one. We can know that all of the details of this event that Scripture predicts will be fulfilled with absolute precision because the same was true for the predictions of Jesus' first coming. We also can know that God puts a very dire warning for those who might think that they can tamper with this doctrine. At the end of the book on Jesus' second coming, Revelation, God says: see Revelation 22:18-19. You sure don't want to twist this or obscure its meaning or abandon its truth. It is a perilous thing to tamper with this doctrine! This kind of thing was already happening in the early days of the Church: 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-3; 2nd Timothy 2:17-18.
- ↪ The Bible is God's book, He inspired it, He breathed it, He carried the prophets along as they wrote by His Spirit—He makes the points that He wants to make because they are the ones that matter. What is it that makes people think that they can write their own ending to God's book? It's interesting we agree on almost all other aspects of Scripture, but when it comes to how things end, we have as many opinions as there are preachers. The reason for this is very simply, it is because we do not take the Bible's teachings on this doctrine as literal. If it doesn't mean what it clearly says, then it can mean anything, any one of an infinite number of conclusions, verse 40, "A certain event at an uncertain time."
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1. The Son of Man is coming; it is an absolute certainty.

- ✓ This title that Jesus gives Himself is a very humble title, but it is the title of His Second Coming. Daniel sees a vision of the world ending regime of the Antichrist and how terrible those times will be, but in the midst of that vision he sees this: **Daniel 7:13-14**. Notice several things:
 - 1) Jesus validates what's coming by what God has already said. Jesus' entire life and ministry were predicted in the Old Testament. God calls the future accurately through His prophets.
 - 2) Jesus takes the prophecy of Daniel literally! Daniel is standing on earth to which the Son of Man is coming. The dominion He's receiving is an earthly dominion. Every nation, all languages, all peoples, all properties on earth will be His. If Jesus takes it literally, what makes us think we can rewrite that ending?
 - 3) Jesus repeats this theme on multiple occasions: Mark 14:61; Matthew 16:27; Luke 9:26; Luke 21:34, it is not an optional doctrine; He is telling us how it all ends.

2. A certain event at an uncertain time.

- ✓ Luke 12:40, did you wake up thinking that today could be the day? That's all the more reason why it could be! This and many verses like it is where we get the doctrine of immanence, it could happen at any time, Titus 2:12-13; James 5:7; 1st Peter 4:7; 1st John 2:8, Acts 1:6-7, & Matthew 24:36.

Amazing how many goofy people say that they know when, they are just as bad as those who say that it isn't going to happen!
