

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES & THE SEASONS
Part 1: Why Did Jesus Compare His Coming to the Days of Noah?



Knowing Like Noah

- What to See: Noah knew the timing of the Flood

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man. Luke 17:26



When we take a text of Scripture out of context, we are left with a con.

- I. What can we know from God's prophetic Week about Christ's coming?
- A. Jesus returns on the 7th Day, the Day of the Lord
 - B. Why then do we think we cannot know when He is coming again if we know God's timetable of seven 1,000-year great Days? (2 Peter 3:8)
 - C. Seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7)
 - D. The set timetable of the great Week seems to contradict what we believe about not knowing the timing of Christ's return, yet we know God doesn't contradict Himself
 - 1. Did Jesus teach that He would come for His Bride in the middle of the night to steal her away?
 - 2. That's not Jesus' way because gentleness is one of the traits of the fruit of the Spirit
 - 3. It also contradicts Jewish wedding customs where the bridegroom went to prepare a place for the bride after the proposal was accepted; when the place was ready, he sent people ahead to announce his coming so she could prepare herself for his return
 - 4. In John 14:1-4 Jesus promised He would come again to take us to this prepared place
 - E. Knowing the timing isn't about setting a date; but it is about having an approximate understanding of how close we are
 - 1. Parable of the Fig Tree: Jesus taught us that we should watch for the signs and thereby know that His coming is near, even at the door
 - 2. Scripture clearly teaches that His coming is linked to the Day of the Lord, the 7th Day, which has plenty of signs to watch for
 - 3. Because of this linkage, the rapture cannot be a signless event, nor can it be at any moment
 - 4. When He comes at the rapture, the Antichrist has been on the earth, but he hasn't done anything that would cause great alarm to us as believes; that happens *after* the rapture
 - 5. After the rapture the Antichrist has 3¹/₂ years left to come against Israel, impose the mark of the beast, and impose the worship of the image of the beast by the False Prophet
 - 6. This happen during the Wrath of the Day (God's vengeance against evil); we are already raptured because we escape that wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10)
- II. Where does the supposed prohibition about not knowing the timing come from?
- A. Jesus taught about the signs of the end of this age and His coming in what is called the Olivet Discourse because He taught it while on the Mt. of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17)

- B. The most misunderstood part of this teaching is the unknown day and hour known only to God the Father
1. Not even the Son knew while He was on the earth because He had laid aside His glory
 2. We have to read the sentence in context, remembering that the headers and the chapter numbers and verses were added after the fact in our modern translations (Matthew 24:34-43)
 3. Heaven and earth will not pass away but His words will by no means pass away, but that day and hour no one knows
 4. What day and hour is Jesus talking about here—His return in the rapture or when heaven and earth pass away?
 5. The context points back to when heaven and earth pass away because verse 36 has the conjunction “but” that connects the sentences
 6. Jesus connects the unknown day and hour to the passing away of heaven and earth—when God makes the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 21:1)
 7. This future forever time in Scripture is called the Day of Eternity or the Day of Perpetuity; it is a Day that never ends = Unknown Day
 8. Jesus was speaking about eternity and forever in terms of a day that would not end
 - a. This is why it’s the unknown day and hour
 - b. When we come to the end of the great Week of seven Days, then what?
 - c. Do we start over or do we add an eighth Day?
 - d. If we take the number 8 and turn it on its side, we get the mathematical symbol for infinity or eternity (∞).
 - e. No human can fathom the glory of such an eternal Day like no other; not even Jesus while He was on the earth, limited by setting aside His glory (which was restored when He ascended)
 9. This reference to the Eternal Day was a setup because verse 37 connects it to the days of Noah and the coming of the Son of Man (Jesus)
 - a. His coming is going to be like the days of Noah, when the coming of the Flood was known in advance in specific time frames
 - b. The Flood victims were surprised but Noah and his family were not
 - c. Genesis 6:3 says that God’s Spirit will not strive with man forever; but that man’s days would be 120 years
 - d. This doesn’t refer to setting a limit for a person’s life, but to a reset when God would intervene with the Flood to curtail the great evil
 - e. This gave Noah 120 years to build the ark and gather the provisions
 - f. Noah’s grandfather was Methuselah, which means “when I am gone the end will come”—he died one month before the Flood came
 - g. In Genesis 7:4 God alerts Noah that after 7 more days He will cause it to rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights—as the time drew nearer, the time frame got more specific
 - h. As in Noah’s days, the earth will be filled with violence and evil
 - i. Believers—those who enter the Ark of Jesus our Deliverer—will know the timing
 - j. If you do not watch, these things will come upon you unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:10)

III. Why did Jesus teach about signs and parables concerning His return?

- A. The Jews and even His disciples were thinking of the Messiah being the person who would deliver them from the Roman oppressors and reestablish a Jewish kingdom

- B. The fact that the Messiah came to deliver mankind from our sin and make a way to reconnect us to the Father was a major paradigm shift for the disciples
- C. They were having a hard enough time accepting what He was saying about having to die on the cross, let alone understanding His resurrection, ascension, and second coming
- D. He had to plant the seeds through scriptural references for the time being, knowing that the Holy Spirit would lead them into all the truth

The Spirit is calling all modern-day Noahs to understand what Jesus taught about the signs of the end of this age, His return, and to be watchful.
We're not to be surprised; we're to be in the know like Noah because the Bridegroom wants His bride ready to be gathered to Him, to go back with Him to our prepared place in Heaven.