

The Signs of Christ's Coming, Part 8

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 24:36-42.
- B. This text deals with the suddenness of Jesus Christ's return.
- C. The disciples thought that Jesus would quickly return. (Luke 19:11)
- D. They asked about the signs and the timing of his return.

II. The "when" of Jesus' return is an unknown.

- A. The day and hour are not known.
- B. The events will be sudden.
- C. Daniel tells us that the Great Tribulation will be three and a half years. (Daniel 9, Revelation 11)
- D. If the world knew the final time then they would try to take advantage of it.

III. Even Christ does not know the "when."

- A. This can be explained through the incarnation.
- B. The Son's attributes were limited in order to demonstrate the unexpectedness of his coming until the resurrection. (John 15:15, Acts 1:7)

IV. The New Testament writers expected his coming and we should also because we should be prepared. (Philippians 3:20, James 5:8, 1 Peter 4:7, 1 John 2:18, Revelation 22:20)

V. Why Jesus is waiting...

- A. Jesus waits for the gathering of the Gentiles into the church. (Revelation 13:14)
- B. God does not see time the way we do. (2 Peter 3)

VI. Our response to the second coming.

- A. Alertness. (Matthew 16, 2 Thessalonians 2, 2 Peter 5, Luke 17:34, Matthew 25:10, 2 Peter 2:9)
- B. Readiness.
- C. Faithfulness.

Application Questions:

1. How can we reconcile Jesus' ignorance concerning his return and his deity?

2. Why is it important that the timing of Jesus' return remain hidden?

3. What does it practically look like for modern Christians to be alert in light of Jesus' immanent return? Explain.
