

THE RAPTURE! Get Ready, and Stay Ready

New Series "The Rapture and Beyond".

New JLAL Theme "Living with an Eternal Perspective"!

Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Text Scripture: **Matt 24:36-44 (NLT)** "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³⁷ "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. ³⁹ People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. ⁴⁰ "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴² "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

The Rapture is when Christ comes all believers who have made themselves ready for His return. 1 Thess 4:16-18

It will be a sudden removal of God's people from the earth. 1 Cor 15: 52

The Rapture can happen at any moment!

I believe that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ could come at any moment and take us to be with Him (John 14:1-3).

We have come to call this any-moment hope of the rapture an "imminent event".

*No one knows when the imminent event will occur! **Matt 24:36-44 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.***

This is the season I believe when the Lord will appear. ³⁷ "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat.

People were seeking and enjoying pleasure for themselves instead of listening to what the Word of God had to say.

³⁹ **People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. Because they didn't listen to what was being preached and or taught, they were left behind and swept away by the wrath of God.**

⁴⁰ **"Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.**

⁴² **"So you too, (This was a private meeting Jesus was having with His disciples) must keep watch! (the responsibility of the believer).**

For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

How do we get and stay Ready!

1. Be excited - We must be excited about His glorious appearing:

II Tim 4:8 (NLT) And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

2. Be Eagerly Waiting For Him:

Jesus Guarantees He will only appear to those who are eagerly waiting for Him. (Doing His Business)

Hebrews 9:28 ... He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

3. Watch and Pray:

Luke 21:36 ... Watch, therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Watch: NT:1127 *This involves the duty of vigilance combined with prayer in regard either to a certain day or hour when the Son of man shall arrive or to some actual crisis or trial or as a preparation for some impending temptation.*

In these last days, we see that there are crises, trials and temptations like never before, make sure you don't get into fear and lose heart.

Counted Worthy: NT: 2661 *Being fit, Having lived life in a way to qualify for the rapture.*

Luke 21:34-36 (NLT) "Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, ³⁵ like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. ³⁶ Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man."

4. Walk in the light and not in darkness –

1 Thess 5:4-6 (Amplified Bible) But you are not in [given up to the power of] darkness, brethren, for that day to overtake you by surprise like a thief.

The appearance of Jesus Christ should not come like a thief to us and catch us by surprise.

⁵ For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong either to the night or to darkness.

⁶ Accordingly then, let us not sleep, as the rest do, but let us keep wide awake (alert, watchful, cautious, and on our guard) and let us be sober (calm, collected, and circumspect).