

The Time of the Lord's Return

Mathew 24: 32–41

(Mk 13:28-34; Lk 21:29-35)

1. *The time can be generally discerned*

a. Its events are compared to a fig tree

b. Its events will be witnessed and experienced by only one generation

c. Its events are certain

2. *The actual day and hour are known only by God*

3. *The day will come suddenly, unexpectedly, shattering to the world of unbelievers*

a. Its counterpart is Noah's day:
A day of worldliness, of sensuality, and of refusing to heed the message of coming judgment

b. Its shock:
"Knew nothing"
- were unbelieving, closed-minded, ignorant

c. Its certainty: "How it will be"

4. *The day will be a time of separation and judgement*

32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree:

As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

34 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

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

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 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;

39 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.

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.