Second Coming of Jesus

Are you ready?

> "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:44)

There was a time when the disciples of Jesus had asked Him about the sign of His coming and of the end of the world. This is what Jesus had said:

Matthew 24:3-44
3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.
5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.
9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.
10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.
11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.
15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
16 Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains:
17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:
18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.
19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!
20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not.
24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
25 Behold, I have told you before.
26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not.
27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.
29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh:
33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.
34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.
35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
36 But of that day and hour knoweth no *man,* no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
37 But as the days of Noah *were,* so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,
39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
41 Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.
44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

* *Key points:*
- It will start with deception.

- Wars and rumors of wars, it will come to pass but the end is not yet
- Nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in diverse places (it is the beginning of sorrows)
- Many will be offended, betray one another
- More deception (false prophets)
- Iniquity (synonyms: wickedness, sin, injustice, crime) shall abound (translation: be plentiful, flourish) >> the love of many shall wax cold (chill)
- The gospel (good news) of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world; then shall the end come
- There will be an abomination of desolation (the Temple in Jerusalem will have to be in place for it to happen; as of year 2010 – it is not yet in place)
- Great tribulation (translation: pressure, affliction, burden, persecution) such as was not from the beginning of the world
- More deception by false Christs and false prophets who will show great signs and wonders insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect
- Immediately after the tribulation of those days the powers of heaven shall be shaken and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, coming in clouds of heaven with power and great glory (verses 29 -30)
- Gathering together the elect of the Lord
- Even though the signs of the Lord's coming will be evident by the evens of the time yet the exact time of his coming shall be as the lightning coming out of the east. We do not know the exact day or hour. But it will surely come as He said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthews 24:35)
- Just like in the time of Noah when the flood was about to come and take the people away they were careless and were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. Warnings given to them did not profit them (Noah was called "a preacher of righteousness" in 2 Peter 2:5). They were careful and busy about daily life more than about the salvation of their souls.
- We are to watch and be ready.

2 Peter 3:3-14
3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.
5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.
7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
9 The <u>Lord is not slack concerning his promise</u>, as some men count slackness; but <u>is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance</u>.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,
12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Key points:
- There will be some that will bring doubt about the coming of the Lord
- The Lord will surely come but still tarries because He is not willing that any should perish (the last number of the Gentiles to be saved is not yet full)
- The earth will eventually be dissolved (the first was the flood of Noah but this time it will melt away by fire)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3
1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

* *Key points*: there will be a cry for peace and safety; The coming of the Lord will be sudden to the rest of the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,
2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come,* except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

* *Key points:*
- The day of the Lord's coming draws near
- Before His coming there will be falling away (from the truth)

- Satan (man of sin, the son of perdition) will be revealed (he will be sitting the temple of God, showing himself that he is God) >> temple has to be rebuilt first for this to happen.

The second coming of Jesus (as spoken in Matthew 24:31) will be accompanied by a great sound of a trumpet and his elect will be gathered together. It is also confirmed by the following verses in the Letters of Paul to Thessalonians and Corinthians.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 50-54
22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.
...
50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.
54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

* *Key points:*
- There will be the last trump
- There will be a change from corruptible to incorruptible since flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (v. 50)

So how do we make sure that we are ready to meet Jesus at His coming? Matthew 24:30-31 says clearly that: "30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
It does not say all… it says elect (chosen, those that answered the call of God).
Jesus said it so well in His conversation to Nicodemus in John chapter 3:
John 3:3-6

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Be born… meaning regenerate… meaning leaving one state and coming into another. Paul admonished in I Corinthians 15:50 that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. And as in Adam all died so in Christ we shall be made alive.

And in Mark 16:16 Jesus when sending forth his disciples to preach the Gospel to every one said that:
16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

This is the birth of the water… Being baptized meaning to submerge, immerse, dip. From the root Greek verb word: baptizo to *whelm*, that is, cover wholly with a fluid

As Paul said in Romans 6:
Romans 6:4-7
4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:
6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

But you cannot bury any one when he is still alive. So we cannot be buried by baptism until we go through repentance (dying out to sin by turning our back on it) as Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:38-39
38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.
1. Repent (die to your sins)
2. Be baptized (be buried by submersion in the water)
3. Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (resurrection)

Jesus Died

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"** (I Corinthians 15:1-3)

DEATH

1

REPENTANCE

We Must "Die"

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?"

Romans 7:18, Romans 6:1-2

Jesus Was Buried

" And that **he was buried**, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: "

I Corinthians 15:4

BURIAL

2

BAPTISM

We Must Be "Buried"

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized** into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:3-4

Jesus Rose Again

"And that he was buried, and that **he rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:"

I Corinthians 15:4

RESURRECTION

3

HOLY GHOST

We Must "Rise Again"

"But if **the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:11, Romans 8:2

And Jesus said:
Luke 24:46-47
46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

* Repentance means:
1) recognizing by the convicting power of God that you are a sinner as Paul said:
"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Romans 3:10
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23
and
"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12
2) feeling sorry for your sins (because Bible says that "... godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..." II Corinthians 7:10);
3) confessing your sins to God and asking Him to forgive you;
4) die out to sin by turning your back on it.

* Remission means pardon, forgiveness

Revelation 22:12-14
12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

May the Lord Jesus help us to be ready at His coming by obeying the scriptures that are able to make us wise unto salvation (II Timothy 3:15)
"…behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation." (II Corinthians 6:2)