

## "The King Has Come" | An Advent & Christmas Series | Matthew 24:36-44 - Pt. 1

"Futuristic Hope" | December 7th, 2025

### **Review:**

This week, we launched a new series that will carry us through Christmas and right up to the new year. We started with a message that may have surprised some of you—we began our Christmas celebration by looking at Christ's return.

The sermon explored Matthew 24:36-44, reminding us that the season of Advent celebrates both Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and His promised second coming. While we often focus solely on the baby in the manger during this season, we cannot fully appreciate the hope of Christmas without understanding that Jesus is coming back.

The same King who arrived humbly as an infant will return triumphantly in glory. This reality should not frighten believers but rather encourage us to live faithfully and expectantly. God has given us these prophetic details not to scare us, but to prepare us and fill us with hope as we wait for that glorious day.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **The return of Christ should not frighten believers** - God gave us these details as a gift to prepare us, not to scare us.
2. **No one knows the day or hour** - Not even Jesus knew the timing; we must resist speculation and remain watchful.
3. **Genuine faith produces spiritual fruit** - The church community helps us examine and confirm the authenticity of our faith.
4. **God is radically God-centered** - Everything He does is for His glory and will be perfectly righteous and just.
5. **Hope sustains us through the fog** - Even when we can't see the shore, God's promises keep us moving forward.

### **Practical Applications:** What This Means For You (Choose At Least Two)

- **Daily Readiness Check:** Each morning this week, ask yourself: "If Jesus returned today, would I be ready? What needs to change?"
- **Examine Your Fruit:** List 3-5 pieces of evidence that demonstrate genuine faith in your life. Share this with an accountability partner.
- **Advent Reflection:** As you prepare for Christmas, spend time each day thanking God for both His first coming and His promised return.
- **Community Engagement:** Reach out to someone in your group or church this week and ask them to pray for you regarding an area where you need to "stay awake" spiritually.
- **Hope Reminder:** Write out one promise from Scripture about Christ's return and place it somewhere you'll see it daily (mirror, car dashboard, phone wallpaper).
- **Honest Conversation:** If you have doubts about your salvation, schedule time this week to talk with a pastor, elder, or mature believer.

### **Understanding the Text:**

**1.** Read Matthew 24:36-44. What stands out to you most from this passage? Why?

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**2.** Why do you think Jesus used the illustrations of "two men in the field" and "two women grinding" to describe His return?

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**3.** Do you ever doubt that Christ's second coming will actually happen? What are some factors that lead you to question whether this promise will actually be fulfilled?

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**4.** Go and read Genesis 6-9. Describe the parallel's between Christ's second coming and the account of the flood in the days of Noah.

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### **Questions for Reflection:** Consider Journaling the Answers to the Questions.

**1.** If you knew Jesus was returning exactly one year from today, what would you change about how you're living right now?

**2.** The sermon stated: "One of the biggest lies that Satan feeds our world is this: Life is short, but you have time." How have you seen this lie affect people's spiritual urgency? Have you believed this lie yourself?

**3.** How does the reality of Christ's return affect the way you make daily decisions? Should it affect you more than it currently does?

**4.** The Florence Chadwick story illustrated how we can give up when we can't see the shore through the fog. What "fog" in your life right now makes it hard to see God's promises clearly?

**5.** Jesus compared His return to the days of Noah, when people were unprepared despite warnings. What distractions or complacencies in your life might be preventing you from staying spiritually alert?

### **Prayer Time:**

**Praise:** Thank God that He keeps His promises and that Christ will return.

**Confession:** Confess areas where you've been spiritually asleep or unprepared.

### **Supplication:**

~ Pray for genuine assurance of salvation for everyone in your group

~ Ask God to help you live with urgency and readiness

~ Pray for those who don't know Christ, that they would come to saving faith before His return

~ Pray that this Advent season would deepen your hope in Christ's return and your joy in His first coming.