



WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN?

"The Uncertain Certainty of Christ's Return" Matthew 24:29-44

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When Jesus laid aside His glory at the first Advent, He relinquished omniscience. So He could not tell the disciples *when* He would return – He didn't know! But He knew He *would* return. He knew the "*Would*" not the "*When*." We are in an identical situation.

I. Jesus Gives Details Adding to Certainty. vv. 29-31

- A. "The distress of those days" shortened for the sake of the elect.
- B. "Immediately" after this come apocalyptic (natural or political) events...
- C. ...together with the "sign of the Son of Man" appearing.
 - 1. "Sign" possibly means "ensign" – the flag of the triumphant victor...
 - 2. ...the "Son of Man" (Daniel 7:13-14) establishes "everlasting dominion."
- D. "All the nations will mourn" – contrition and regret as they see the Lord.
- E. The "trumpet" will summon and the angels will gather the elect.

II. Jesus Reiterates His Chief Point. vv. 32-35

- A. Fig trees give a clear message about the arrival of summer.
- B. Jesus has given a clear message about the arrival of the Son of Man.
 - 1. Evidence of the "beginning of birth pangs" obvious to that generation.
 - 2. That means all the events presaging His return have happened.
 - 3. The next item on the agenda is the Return – the Return is the sign!
- C. This is the Word of the Lord that will never pass away!

III. Jesus Begins to Make Application of These Truths. vv. 36-44

- A. As "God only knows" when the "*Parousia*" will happen we are in the dark.
- B. So we "get on with life" (carelessly?) even during distress times – e.g. Noah.
- C. But living an ordinary life (field, mill) can blind one to the unexpectedness.
- D. But He will come when you least expect Him!
- E. You have been alerted to this – "*forewarned is forearmed*."
- F. Don't be paranoid – just be focused.

Point to Ponder: "Life goes on" but does it factor in the uncertain certain Return?