



**WELCOME  
TO  
BIBLE HOUSE  
OF  
GRACE**

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

# **I am Coming Like a Thief**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# I Am Coming Like a Thief.

---

## Topics.

- The day of the Lord will come like a thief. (2 Peter 3:10).
  - I will come like a thief, and you will not know. (Revelation 3:3).
  - Blessed is the one who stays awake. (Revelation 16:15).
- 

## THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME LIKE A THIEF

---

- **2 Peter 3:10:** The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

**Here Peter states:** The day of the Lord will come like a thief.

**Paul wrote:** The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2).

**Luke says:** They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all (Luke 17:27).

Putting these together we see that the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, and suddenly upon a certain group of people (i.e., those not expecting it, and not watching for it). The words "In the night" shows that the householders were sleeping when the thief came which carries the idea, when the day of the Lord does come the world will be in a state of spiritual darkness as it was in the days of Noah, when there was little faith in the earth. It is certain it will be a time when the foolish virgins are slumbering and sleeping, and a time when unbelievers who scoff and mock the Lord's return are greatly multiplying amongst the populations of the world, saying, "it is a clever myth, and fable invented by the mind of men."

**Children of light and children of darkness:** the following comforting words, that Paul wrote to the Thessalonian brothers and sisters show that the day of the Lord should not overtake those in Christ as a thief in the night.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:2-5:** You yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape, but you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

Just as Noah and his family, and Lot and his family were delivered from certain destruction, these verses show that the faithful who are watching and waiting with heartfelt excitement for the Lord's return will not be taken by surprise when the glorious and majestic day of the Lord's return comes.

**Christ's treasures in this world:** there is a majestic and glorious wonder contained in the words, "The day of the Lord will come like a thief (v10), that is sometimes overlooked. Consider for a moment, what does a thief come to steal? But the most valuable treasure hidden in the house

he has entered to plunder. If Christ is coming as a thief, what are the treasures of the world that he is coming to plunder, but all those who by faith and God's grace belong to his eternal Kingdom. All the redeemed in Christ are God's treasure in this world.

---

## I WILL COME LIKE A THIEF, AND YOU WILL NOT KNOW

---

- **Revelation 3:3:** Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Some reading this verse feel it contradicts the following verse, because this verse states, "the Lord will come as a thief in the night," whereas the following verse says, "every eye will see him."

- **Revelation 1:7:** Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

However, these can easily be harmonised in the following way, the verses that speak about Christ coming as a thief in the night, refer to those:

- Who are not expecting his return.
- Who are not watching and not ready for him to return.
- Who have no conscious thought of his return, but live their life as though his return is years away.

In contrast to this those who are ready live their life as though Christ could return at any time, and continually look forward to when he does return. They have an excitement and joy in their heart when they think of being gathered-together to be with him.

2

---

**Every eye will see him:** this embraces both those who are watching and ready, and those who are not watching and not ready. Christ return will be so spectacular that everyone will see it, those who are not ready will be stunned with shock and awe, while those who are ready will be filled with overwhelming excitement and joy.

---

## BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO STAYS AWAKE

---

- **Revelation 16:15:** ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")

The words, 'Behold I come as a thief,' are the words of Christ, they are inserted here as an interruption to the main account of the story, before it is completely told, to acquaint the reader with his sudden return and to show believers that during great times of difficulty he will return to gather them to himself. Behold I come as a thief, carry the idea, when Jesus does return, it will be sudden, quick, and unexpected. The statement, highlights the reality some will be totally unaware of his return. It is said as a warning for believers to watch, and be in readiness for the his coming, because whenever it does occur, it will be sudden and at a time when many are not expecting him. Jesus said:

- Know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matt. 24:43-44).

If a homeowner knew when a burglar was going to enter their house and steal their goods, they would stay awake and not leave their home, likewise, in regards to the Lord Jesus Christ the expression, "stay awake," carries the idea of remaining faithful and enduring to the end until he comes.

The principal is to always to be prepared for the return of the Lord at any time.

**NOTICE:** both servants have the same master and are in the same household, meaning both are in the Kingdom of God, but:

- One is faithful, wise, living a godly life and watching with excitement and joy as they patiently wait for the Lord to Return.
- The other is unwise and hypocritical, using their followers for their own gain, and living a lifestyle that is no different to those of the world.

**You must be ready:** the following verses show that the statement, "I am coming as a thief," is often repeated as a warning:

- **Luke 12:39-40:** Know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Here the disciples of Jesus are to be like those waiting for their master to return. Though they do not know when he will return, they are always ready for his return, meaning they are continually living a lifestyle that brings a good testimony to God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Christian faith.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3:** You yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

When a thief comes in the night those being robbed are in darkness and totally unaware that the thief is coming. Once they are alerted that the thief has robbed them, they are struck with sudden fear and shock when they find that all the things they treasured and valued have been taken therefore the words, "The Lord will come like a thief in the night" implies the following three things:

1. The Lord will come unexpectedly.
2. His return will take people by surprise and come upon them suddenly and with fear and shock.
3. The Lord will return as the King of kings and Lord of lords and take total control of the world's governments, leaders and rulers, the economies, the banking systems, trade, and the way money is distributed amongst the rich and the poor.

The words, "in the night," could literally mean in the night, or carry the idea the people of the world are spiritually blind (i.e., in spiritual darkness).

**NOTICE:** it does not say when there is peace, but when people are saying (i.e., calling), for peace and security (v3) which could imply that the Middle East or the entire world has suffered so many wars and acts of terrorism that the collective voice of the world's population is crying for 'peace and security.' It is when people are calling for, 'peace and security' that Paul says, "there will be sudden destruction."

Paul's use of the words, 'labour pains' (v3) here, is brilliant because it immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following words that Paul wrote to the Roman brothers and sisters in Christ.

- **Romans 8:19-24:** We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God (

The labour pains of a pregnant woman not only continue to increase, but they become more rapid until they are almost unbearable, the poor Mum to be is at this point, some screaming in pain to be delivered of her child, but; and this is the glory, once she is holding that new born child in her arms all the pain is overtaken by overwhelming love and joy.

Just as a pregnant woman's labour pains increase in strength and become more rapid until the child is born, so too will the labour pains of the earth. There will be an increase in natural disasters and the world's suffering as this world approaches the Day of the Lord. When this destruction comes there will be no escape for the world's governments, man's heroes, weapons of war, and the world banks will collapse. Mega trillions of dollars will not be able to save the world from this coming destruction.

**NOTE:** this is not about the end of the world, but the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a total change of the world's governments, authorities, leaders and complete change in global trade, economies, and banking systems as we know them today.

The Bible personifies the earth as a pregnant woman who is struggling to give birth to the sons and daughters of God. This breath-taking and awe-inspiring world changing event will take place when Jesus returns in spectacular and awesome power and glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16), to rule and reign from God's Holy city Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered-together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will firstly bring peace to the Middle East, and then establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf, and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's name, proclaiming, the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- **Revelation 1:5-7:** Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth.

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- **Revelation 5:9-10:** Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth.

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne, the sea, death, and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

---

#### FOOTNOTE

---

The Lord will only come like a thief in the night to those who have no inward excitement and joy at the thought of his return in glory. An owner of a house who gives no thought to their home being robbed is taken by total surprise and shock when they find their house emptied of what they treasured. In contrast to this those who are fully aware that they could be robbed, take precautions (i.e., locks on doors and windows, security alarms etc.), and are not taken by the same surprise. Likewise, those who are not prepared and give no thought to Christ return will be taken by surprise when he does return, while those who are prepared and look forward to his return with excitement and joy will not.

---

*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

---