

The Time of His Coming

Matthew 24:32-39

Now redemption, long expected, comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear:

-Charles Wesley

I. A Picture of Clarity

II. A Picture of Callousness

Into the Bible:

1. The kenosis of Christ– “self-emptying”- in Philippians 2 points to His taking on more than just the appearance of a man. In His true humanity, He experienced all that we do–growth from birth through childhood (Luke 2:52); hunger and thirst and physical exhaustion (John 4:6-7). Given that He did display the supernatural abilities that he was capable of at times, what seem to be the criteria for when and where? (John 5:30 & 6:38, John 2:11 and 11:41-42)

2. Verse 36 of the current passage indicates that neither the angels nor Christ in His humanity know the exact timing of His 2nd coming. But Jesus raises the issue of Noah’s neighbors as a warning about being caught unawares. Was the issue for them one of ignorance or willful disregard of the warning signs? (Matthew 24:38-39) How does the parable of the fig tree back up this distinction?

Application:

3. Given the fact that we are not to be the recipients of God's judgment during this time of great tribulation, why then are we to be vigilant in watching for the signs of His return? (Matthew 25:1-13, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9)

For Families:

4. Talk with your children about why Jesus was willing to become a human—even growing up as a child.