

# Is This The Generation That Will Experience Jesus Christ's Second Coming?

**Matthew 24:34** [New King James] *“Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.”*

Jesus Christ had just given a list of events that would herald His return, given to His disciples in reply to their question, [**Matthew 24:3**], we must **not** overlook the place where this question was asked and answered by Jesus Christ, the Mount of Olives.

**Zechariah 14:4** [New King James] *“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”*

**This is the very spot on earth to which Jesus Christ will return to at His Second Coming.**

This article is **not** going to speculate as to when Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be.

**Matthew 24:36** [New King James] *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*

**This verse informs me that such speculation would be nothing less than blasphemy, for any person who speculates in this way is seeking to wrest from God secrets which belong to God alone.**

What this article is seeking to do is to warn all who study it, that we must never become so immersed in this present life that we forget eternity.

Never to let our concern with worldly affairs, however necessary they may seem, to completely distract us from remembering there is a Creator God, and that the issues of life and death are in His hands.

**Remember that when His call for our judgement comes we must be found ready, [2 Corinthians 5:10] for this is something we cannot avoid.**

One of Satan's most powerful tools to destroy our future, the most dangerous of all his delusions is that we have plenty of time to prepare for life after our physical death or the return of Jesus Christ, this time as our Judge.

The most dangerous day in a person's life is when they learn that there is such a word as *“tomorrow.”*

**Ecclesiastes 8:8** [New King James] *“No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, and no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, and wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it.”*

**There are certain things that cannot be put off by any person because we do not know if tomorrow will ever come for us.**

The disciples asked for *“a sign”* of His Second Coming.

How did Jesus Christ answer this part of the question?

**Matthew 24:4** [New King James] *“And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’”*

Jesus Christ's first response was a warning not to be deceived.

**The fact is when we look for specific “signs” we become very susceptible to being deceived.**

**Matthew 24:5** [New King James] *“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”*

Note Jesus tells us that many will be false prophets who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ or messengers of Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 24:11, 24** [New King James] *“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” ... “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”*

The only sure way to keep from being deceived by these many false prophets is to focus on the eternal words of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, [**Matthew 24:35**].

**Do not look for special signs, performed by leaders of religious groups or any other lay person, look only to Jesus Christ.**

**Matthew 24:6-7** [New King James] *“And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”*

The news media is reporting such activities in this generation, but human history shows that this happened in all generations where there was **no** fear of God.

**Matthew 24:8** [New King James] *“All these are the beginning of sorrows.”*

All such events have been behind great sorrow in every generation of human rule that has been motivated by Satan who at this time rules this world, [**1 John 5:19**].

**Matthew 24:9-10** [New King James] *“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”*

**This is one of the passages of scripture recording the words of Jesus Christ which show the uncompromising honesty of Jesus Christ. Never did He promise His disciples that following Him would be an easy way of life, He promised them death, suffering and persecution.**

There is a sense in which the true Christian Church will always be a persecuted Church, so long as it exists in a world which is **not** a Christian world and has **no** fear of the true Creator God.

Where does this persecution come from?

**1) Jesus Christ demanded of His disciples a new loyalty to Him -**

**Matthew 10:34-35** [New King James] *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’;”*

Again and again Jesus Christ declared that loyalty to Him must surpass all earthly ties. **“Taking up our cross” means that we have to crucify our own will to fulfil the will of God, [Romans 6:3-13; Romans 12:1; Luke 14:26-27].**

A true Christian is a person who has pledged to give Jesus Christ the first place in their life. The result of this many human clashes that result in persecution.

## **2) Jesus Christ offers a new standard by which we live our life -**

For many people the difficulty about Christianity is that Christianity is a judgement upon themselves, upon their way of life in their business or their personal relationships.

The awkward thing about Christianity is that anyone who does not wish to be changed is bound to hate and resent Christianity.

## **3) A true Christian introduces to the non-Christian world an example of a different way of life -**

Which makes the life of others as one of darkness, **not** understanding the reason we have been given life by the Creator God and the good news that Jesus brought from God the Father, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

All of the above will prompt persecution from within or without of the family unit.

**Matthew 24:37-39** [New King James] *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”*

**In spite of the many years of Noah’s witness to His generation as he built the ark, the flood came as a shattering sudden experience on all who were immersed in material things.**

**Matthew 24:42-44** [New King James] *“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

We are now given practical outcome of all that has been mentioned before.

**If the day and hour of the Second Coming is known only to God, then all of our life must be a constant preparation for that event.**

To live without watchfulness is to invite disaster.

**What is to be the major part of this watching is not world events but our own life to ensure we are not deceived by Satan and his prophets and “signs.”**

**Matthew 24:45-51** [New King James] *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Rejection is based on failure in our duty towards our Creator God and Saviour.

**Reward is based on our faithfulness in our duty towards our Master Jesus Christ in fulfilling His will for us as part of His work on earth now, in preparation for our future work with Him.**

**Matthew 25:1-13** [New King James] *“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your*

*oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*

We are still on the same subject with this parable [verse 13], with a significant immediate meaning for Jews of His day.

The universal significance has at least two warnings.

### **1) There are certain things which cannot be received at the last moment of our lives -**

Oil is symbolic of joy [Isaiah 61:3] or the Holy Spirit for it is an accompaniment of miraculous power, [Mark 6:13; James 5:14].

The Holy Spirit is the source of all the characteristics of God in our lives [Galatians 5:22-25] and has to lead us into all truth, [John 16:13] will raise us from the dead [Romans 8:11] has to be renewed daily [2 Corinthians 4:16] only given to those who obey [Acts 5:32], not grieved, [Ephesians 4:30] nor quenched [1 Thessalonians 5:19].

All of this involves a lifetime of fellowship, not something we can purchase [Luke 11:13] we have to ask God for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### **2) It warns that there are certain things that cannot be borrowed -**

The Holy Spirit in us is how the very character of God is formed in us.

Character is the result of time spent in an intimate relationship with the One whose character we wish to reflect.

### **You cannot borrow the character of another person.**

**Matthew 25:14-30** [New King James] *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”*

**We are still referring to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

This parable tells us that God gives people differing gifts.

**It is not the person's talent which matters, what matters is how we use that talent.**

God never demands from a person abilities which they have **not** received from Him.

But God does expect that a person should use to the full the abilities that they have been given.

People are **not** equal in talents but people can be equal in the effort they make to use those talents.

**This parable also tells us that the reward for work well done is still greater work to do.**

This parable also tells us that the person who will at Jesus Christ's return receive punishment will be the person who did **not** try.

[Please download and study our article '*The One Or No Talent Christian*' listed under '*Christian Living*'.]

**Matthew 25:31-46** [New King James] *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

**This parable is also linked directly to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

**The lesson is crystal clear, that God will judge us in accordance with our reaction to human need, both physical and spiritual.**

God's judgement does not depend on the knowledge we have amassed, or the fame we have acquired, nor the fortune we have gained but on the help we have given to those in need.

It must be help in simple things that help people meet every day needs.

It must be help which is quite uncalculating.

Those who were helping Jesus Christ by helping other human beings, was because their love for human beings reflected the love that Jesus has for all human beings, [John 3:16].

The final conclusion is that every generation [Matthew 24:34] is included in the statement that Jesus Christ made in response to the disciples' question about the sign of His Second Coming.

**The important lesson brought out is every person must seek to be prepared for that event whenever, and in whatever generation it will happen.**