

## “Alert” - Matthew 24:36–51

Ask - What are some different types of alerts that you see on a regular basis?

Background - Jesus openly called out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and exposed their true nature and motivation. He then pronounced several woes upon them. As He was leaving the temple, Jesus began speaking with the disciples about the end times and His return.

“An Unknown Hour” - Matthew 24:36-41

(v36) When Jesus made this statement, who alone knew the time of His second coming? Having returned to heaven, does Jesus know it now?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-know-return.html>

(v37-39) How will Jesus’ return be like the flood that occurred during the days of Moses? Discuss.

(v40-41) At Jesus’ return to the earth (not the Rapture), would you rather be taken away or left behind? (*answer: The righteous will be left behind to dwell with Christ, while the unrighteous will be swept away to face final judgment.*)

WHILE INCARNATE ON THE EARTH DURING HIS FIRST COMING, JESUS DID NOT KNOW THE HOUR OF HIS RETURN. HE SAID IT WOULD BE SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED, AND WOULD SEPARATE BELIEVERS FROM NONBELIEVERS.

“Be Alert” - Matthew 24:42-44

(v42) What directive does Jesus give in this verse? What is the reason for it?

(v43) What comparison does Jesus make to illustrate the importance of always being alert?

(v44) Though we do not know the exact hour, what does Jesus say about the time of His return?

BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW THE TIME OF HIS RETURN, JESUS WARNS BELIEVERS TO CONSTANTLY BE ON ALERT AND READY FOR HIS SECOND COMING.

“Be Faithful” - Matthew 24:45-51

(v45) How does Jesus describe the type of slave whom the master puts in charge of his house?

(v46-47) What will the faithful slave be doing when the master comes? How will he be rewarded?

(v48-51) What will the evil slave be doing when the master comes? What will happen to him?

WE AS BELIEVERS SHOULD BE FOUND FAITHFUL WHEN THE LORD RETURNS, DOING THE WORK THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

Application - During His first coming, Jesus came to secure salvation for all who would believe in Him. When He comes again the second time, He will come as a conquering king to set up His kingdom and reign on the earth. This second coming will take place at an unknown hour, so we must always be ready, alert, and looking expectantly for His return. We don't want to be caught doing something we shouldn't be doing! Generally speaking, what is the level of your "alertness" for Christ's return?