



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday 07-20-22

Scripture: Matthew 24:44, Mark 13:32-33

TITLE: When Will Jesus Return?

This week is going to be fun because we will be engaging in some of the most debated and even argued interpretations in all of the Bible. We will be talking about the signs and the timing of Christ's return. When will he return? What are the signs? Is there a literal millennium? Are we in it today? Is there a rapture? As I said, these are some of the most debated topics in all of Christianity.

So today, let's see if we can pinpoint when Jesus returns.

As we studied last week, Jesus Christ will return as he departed. He will come back to earth in a sudden, personal, visible, and bodily form. We find this in Matthew 24:44, John 14:3, and Acts 1:11.

We also don't know exactly when he will return. Matthew 24:44 says, ["This is why you are also to be ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."](#) Jesus said something similar in Matthew 25:13.

Jesus was very explicit in Mark 13:32-33: ["Now concerning that day or hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son—but only the Father. Watch! Be alert! For you don't know when the time is coming."](#)

Now, this seems odd to me. Jesus is God, but He doesn't know when He'll return. Why?

Well, if you remember our study of Philippians, Jesus emptied himself and took the form of a slave. In other words, when he became the God-man, he never ceased being God. He simply took on humanity and, while here, suppressed certain qualities and power. One such power was aspects of His omniscience. So Christ returned to heaven and to the right hand of God. And now we await His return.

So what's the point of this? Well, two things: First, if someone claims they know when Jesus is coming back, run away. They're not enlightened. They're not more connected to God. Their vision isn't real. No one knows the time that Christ is returning except God the Father.

Are there signs leading up to His return? Yes. What are those signs? Come back tomorrow for the answer.

But what do we do while we wait? That's the second point. Jesus said, Be ready! He said in Mark 13 to "Watch! Be alert!" In other words, don't coast in life. Don't waste your time on earth. Make the most of it each and every day.

So here's my challenge for you today: Be ready. Live intentionally. If Jesus were coming back this afternoon or tomorrow, or next week, what would you be doing to prepare? Do those things? If Jesus were to come back tonight, what should you be doing? Then do it!

His return is imminent; therefore let's live it.