

Coming, Ready or Not!

Rob was playing hide and seek with his children. He could hear them giggling and, unbeknown to them, knew exactly where they were hiding. They went silent for a while and then started whispering “What’s he doing now?” Rob waited a little longer and then called out “Coming, ready or not!” The children shrieked with excitement.

God’s Warnings

Throughout history God has warned people about important events, often involving judgement, for which they should prepare. Notable examples are the Flood in the days of Noah, and the captivities of the nation of Israel.

Although He gave the people plenty of notice, He seldom said exactly when the particular event would happen. It is a tragic reflection of human nature that only a small minority of people ever took notice of these prophetic warnings. Consequently, the results were catastrophic for the many people who ignored them.

The Return of Jesus

Jesus has promised to come back to the earth, this time as righteous judge:

[God] has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31).

An event like this is completely outside of our natural experience and may be difficult to imagine. But so

were other cataclysmic events in history. Jesus compared his coming to the Flood of Noah’s day:

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 (Matthew 24:37–39).

The apostle Peter warned that sceptics would mock this promise:

Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming?” (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Even Jesus himself did not then know the time of his return (see Matthew 24:36) and he warned that he would come when least expected (Matthew 25:1–13) even to those who believed him and were waiting for him.

Are We Ready?

Our world is most certainly not ready for this event, though it may happen very soon. God has warned us to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Whatever we or others may think, Jesus is coming back – whether we are ready or not. If we are ready, then we, like the children in our story, will shout with unimaginable joy.

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