

Matthew 22-07-17b

We are in Matthew chapter 24 on the threshold of verse 36 and following where the Lord Jesus says Talking about the day of the Lord the day of the coming of the kingdom The day which in this context is a day primarily of judgment Jesus has not been speaking of the peaceable kingdom the blessings of the kingdom every man with his vine and his fig tree land flowing with milk and honey Swords into plowshares spears into pruning hooks. This is not the context the coming of the kingdom of God is Anticipated with a sense of Alarm a sense of foreboding a Sense of the need to be ready because in the latter days perilous times will come There's nothing in this context About the upside of the kingdom the coming of the kingdom in this word from the Lord is something to Be prepared for so as not to perish So as not to enter into the judgment that it represents the kingdom does not begin with blessing It begins and ends with judgment the parenthesis the brackets around the Millennial Kingdom are judgment at the beginning and judgment at the end The judgment that Jesus speaks of here You have ten centuries and then you have Gog Magog fire from the Lord Consuming and devouring those who have surrounded the camp of the Saints those who have rebelled those who have quietly seethed and chafed and Boiled internally under the rod of iron rule of the Lord Jesus and the other sons of David David himself They have complied But their heart is not in it and it is another demonstration of the fact that External conformity to a standard is not what pleases God it is obedience from the heart This Was demonstrated in the days of the law of Moses where the hypocritical superficial Legalistic keeping of the law was Condemned in the sevenfold woes on the Pharisees that Jesus pronounced a bit earlier in our Matthew study So verse 36 of that day and hour no one knows This Is as true for us in our individual lives as it was for the nation of Israel No one knows the day even the eventual Immediate destruction of Jerusalem that is going to come under the legions of Titus in the days of Aspasian They did not know the day or the hour there was no anticipation that there would be Close to 40 years and then everything they saw would be destroyed the words of Jesus about no stone Standing upon another in the area of the temple would be fulfilled there was no notion of the day or the hour of that much less of this day of the Lord that Jesus has been describing throughout our chapter of That day and hour no one knows Not even the angels of heaven and you have by attraction Nor the Sun this comes from one of the parallels Because these words are recorded in Mark 13 and in Luke 17 and in Luke 21 But the idea here is God could tell us the timing He has chosen not to for reasons of his own. I think it's Apparent upon reflection that you don't want to hand the enemy your timetable famously Dwight Eisenhower had a press conference the night before the D-day invasion the invasion of Normandy and he told the press what they were about to do the next day and No one leaked it Nobody published it.

Nobody put it on the radio. Nobody wanted to scoop everybody else We had people made of better cloth in those days and General Eisenhower trusted them to recognize the significance and the importance and how many lives were on the line if that

information were to get out but he told Them so that they could be deployed to cover it They needed to know to do their jobs effectively But nobody leaked it. Can you imagine today? Letting something like that.

I mean you can't even keep a draft Supreme Court decision quiet The moral fabric has rotted in the Sun of our prosperity Of that day and hour no one knows not even the angels of heaven This is so fascinating to me that he mentions the angels here because you would think well don't the angels need to prepare for the all of these seals cracking open and the Trumpets blow some of these angels are going to need to blow trumpets. Do they need to go do trumpet practice and you know some of them are standing in the sea and and they're withholding this and Unlocking that and then somebody need to be practicing their hand-to-hand so that they can wrestle Satan into the bottomless pit and the why would they not know? Why wouldn't God share and have some drills and and so on the angels don't know? And It's fascinating to dwell on that for a moment because the angels Experience human history in somewhat the way we do they are not omniscient They learn they observe there are things into which angels long to look Their longing because they can't look they're not looking yet, but there are things they would love to see God's higher order creation. They are the older son to us as the younger This constant theme of reversal the elder shall serve the younger Paul says to the Corinthians.

Do you not know that someday we will judge angels? What will angels get judged for? Processing information making decisions adopting attitudes Investing in behaviors and in paths of their own they are We are made lower than they at present but in Christ We will be elevated What is man that thou art mindful of him and so on? you've made him a little lower than the angels, but You have crowned him with glory and honor Someday, we will judge angels angels don't know everything angels are learning The even behavior in church You remember women and with their heads covered or uncovered with regard to prayer with regard to respecting the authority of their husbands is because of the angels Past behavior on the part of the angels current observation on the part of the angels So the angels do not know Jesus says only my father knows and There are things that are withheld from our knowledge for our own good There is knowledge that we would not be able to handle Jack Nicholson famously said in one film or another You want the truth you can't handle the truth what Has to be done sometimes in the interest of national defense was his subject But there are things that we do not need to know the knowledge would be Radioactive it would hurt us We would not know what to do with it There are things of which we are and should be blissfully ignorant if God does not choose to reveal Some aspect some part of his plan to us There's a good reason and we trust God not only for what he reveals to us, but we trust him for what he withholds from us It is to our benefit that we not know There were things that Jesus withheld from his own disciples He didn't tell James at least in the recorded Words of the Lord Jesus in Scripture, he didn't tell James the son of Zebedee And you remember what James is

right? It's not James. I Think they did that because of King James. His name is Yakov Jacob it is Yakov and Yohannes James and John Jacob and John John puts the signature conclusion to the New Testament as a New Testament Apostle and His brother James apparently the elder brother James, they're always mentioned James and John not the other way around Jacob dies at the beginning symbolically, so He's executed in the 11th or 12th chapter of Acts Right James after all of that training after being one of the three in the upper room When Jesus heals the the little girl who is not dead, but sleeping one of three that observes the transfiguration and the appearance of Moses and Elijah All of that preparation all of that training being in the inner circle of the chosen three To whom the Lord reveals more than anything else They lose him Shortly after Pentecost, he doesn't get to be the Apostle Yet I Think he is going to get the chance to proclaim He is going to drink the cup the Lord drank He's going to be baptized with the baptism.

The Lord Jesus was baptized with Jesus told him so Lord we are able Jesus said you will indeed and You know my thoughts on that so of the day in the hour no one knows not even the angels of heaven God has reasons for not telling us everything and Sometimes it's good to not know. I don't know the hour of my death. It could be this afternoon It's good for me not to know because the test is am I redeeming the time Would I do anything differently if I did know We could have some kind of a clock I saw a movie one time where they had to manage population because there were too many people not enough resources and so there was a digital clock that ran on people's arms and You could look at it and see exactly how much time you had left and when it went down to zero You were you were taken out and there were ways you could you could get time added or whatever We don't have a clock To tell us the span of our days and what that Encourages us to do is redeem the time Give us this day our daily bread sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof Sufficient unto the day are the opportunities thereof and however many days we are given there are good reasons God doesn't tell us some things But Verse 37 as the days of Noah as The days of Noah, so what were the days of Noah like? The Best place to look for this is back in Genesis chapter 6 to which please turn as The days of Noah We have a general idea You have the episode of the disobedient angels and then in verse 5 The Lord saw the wickedness of man great in the earth and every intent of the thoughts of his heart only evil continually Much as the days preceding the Coming of the kingdom of God That's how it was in the days of Noah The Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth and he was grieved in his heart So the Lord said I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth both man and beast Creeping thing and birds of the air for I am sorry that I made them But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord why Noah is different Noah stands out in contrast to the huge overwhelming majority of man whose Intentions of the thoughts of his heart are only evil continually Verse 9 tells us that Noah was a just man perfect in his generations Remember when Jesus said this generation will not pass away Perfect in his generations Noah walked with God If I were to give you a Bible trivia quiz and say who does the book of Genesis say walked with God? What would your first answer be? Enoch

Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him Enoch Noah walked with God and he was not around for the Destruction of the flood he floated above it was delivered through it Those who walk with God are spared from judgment That's a pretty Clear point here No, we got his sons verse 11 The earth also was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence So God looked upon the earth and indeed it was corrupt for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth All flesh had corrupted their way So God said to Noah The end of all flesh has come before me for the earth is filled with violence through them and behold I will destroy them with the earth so in verse 13 God tells Noah Judgment is coming and why? Right God tells his people who walk with him what's coming What does God not tell Noah in verse 13 or? In very many of the upcoming verses, what does God not tell Noah when Doesn't tell him the day doesn't tell him the hour he says judgment is coming and this is why There are bendy branches and leaves but there is no fruit the axe is at the root of the tree they've Filled the earth with violence.

I will destroy them with the earth What comes next in verse 14 I Am going to give you a command Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. It has always fascinated me that the angels didn't build the ark and parachute the thing down that God didn't just speak a word let there be an ark and There was an ark and God saw that it was good and the Ark's door opened and Noah walked inside Didn't happen that way Build yourself an ark out of a specific kind of wood This is a command For preparation Doing for oneself make yourself this ark There are specific ways this ark is to be made do not deviate from these instructions to the right hand or to the left There's a reason it's gopher wood and not some other There is a reason you need to make rooms inside which I haven't told you yet But it has rooms plural. It has partitions.

It has compartments Cover it inside and outside with pitch This is how you shall make it the length the width and the height Make a window Finish it to a cubit from above and set the door of the ark in its side make it with three decks Lower middle and upper three decks Verse 17 So we had the notice of coming judgment and the reason for it in verse 13 We have the specific instructions for preparation in verses 14 through 16 now in verse 17 God gets specific. He gave a general declaration of coming judgment and The reason for it now, he's going to be specific behold I myself am bringing a specific kind of judgment floodwaters on The earth to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life Everything that is on the earth shall die But Now we have promise notice that the instruction the command Requiring obedience precedes the promise in the same way that Jesus sent the man to the pool of Siloam He didn't promise him you'll see He just said go to the pool and wash you'll find out what happens if you are obedient and You'll find out what doesn't happen if you're disobedient here God says I'm bringing floodwaters Everything is on the that is on the earth shall die. But verse 18.

I will establish my covenant with you and You shall go into the ark you your sons your wife and your sons wives with you Here are the specific people who qualify for

deliverance from judgment it is you and Those most closely associated with you. It does not say anything about Ham Shem or Japheth or Mrs. Noah or Noah's daughters-in-law regarding the perfection of their generations regarding their Just Nature or lack thereof nothing is said about them Only Noah But Noah and his immediate family in the same way that Lot gets delivered from Sodom His wife and daughters are dragged out of the city But you remember Mrs. Lawton in the Pillar of Salt Nothing is said about the faithfulness dedication rectitude Justification or anything else of Mrs. Lot or of the two daughters and in fact the two daughters turn out to be ne'er-do-wells and you end up with the nations of Moab and Ammon as a result, but they are delivered for Lot's sake These seven others in the ark are delivered for Noah's sake You your sons your wife and your sons wives with you and of every living thing of all flesh You shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you notice the with you Doesn't say just to keep them alive to keep them alive with you It is being with Noah that is going to keep them alive They shall be male and female Notice it at the end of verse 18 sons wife sons wives with you They are delivered for Noah's sake The animals are delivered because they are with you with Noah Birds after their kind animals after their kind every creeping thing Verse 21 you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten and you shall gather it to yourself It shall be food for you and for them Then the clothes in verse 22 thus Noah did according to all that God Commanded him so he did it is emphasized twice Noah obeyed the Lord He was obedient he was faithful to the command he still didn't know when it was going to happen But he knew it was coming he didn't know when so he worked on preparation in accordance with the Purposes of God as it was in the days of Noah so back to Matthew 24 They were eating and drinking marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark They probably came out and watched the construction from time to time But their preoccupation was twofold Jesus gives two examples of what occupied their time this is Eating and drinking This is Possessions this is sustenance. This is what have you got? It is a consumer Society they are consumers.

They're eating and drinking Consuming the Products available in life and Marrying and giving in marriage their view of relationship is horizontal What's important to me isn't vertical it's horizontal I'm marrying and giving in marriage this is what happened at the beginning of chapter 6 remember they took wives from all whom they chose the sons of God and Lost sight of that vertical Responsibility The presence the power and the standards of a righteous God they forgot They got enamored with what is in the horizontal world? And They did not know until the flood came and took them all away Second time we have the idea of knowing Up in verse 36 of the day in the hour. No one knows Verse 39 these who are eating and drinking marrying and giving in marriage do not know until the flood came and took them all away What is it that they don't know it's what Noah does know That ultimate judgment from God is coming they did not know if they heard it they didn't believe it The Operative knowledge of the coming judgment of God is not present with them Their imagination is only evil all the day the intents of their heart are completely invested in this life consumerism self-interest relationships So also

will the coming of the Son of Man be now We've talked about this before but it's worth reviewing how big is the coming of the Son of Man What is its? What is what? Composes what comprises the coming of the Son of Man? Is it just his appearance like lightning in the sky His coming begins with Judgment his coming begins with his opening of the seals in heaven So his coming is not just the simple event it is the season of his coming and it begins with the command to Find someone worthy to open the seals The lamb is found worthy and he begins to open those seals That is when judgment from God begins to descend upon the earth and he has not appeared in the sky He hasn't descended to the Mount of Olives. It hasn't parted.

It hasn't made a way the coming of the Son of Man will be like the flood and The first phase of his coming is not his appearance his visibility The first phase of his coming is the purging of evil The judgment on evil and those who practice it So Two will be in the field one taken the other left to grinding at the mill one taken the other left and notice this is not the latter days of what we call the Great Tribulation the tribulation period where The Sun is darkened and the moon has turned to blood and the earth is scorched and the sea is dried up and boiled away And people have died from plagues and scorpions are flying around with stings in their tails People are doing their normal business. They're grinding One of the parallel passages said two two are sleeping in a bed Some of them at night some of them in the day. They're doing their common work.

They're in the field. They're at the mill Feminine pronoun at the mill masculine pronoun in the field. They're doing normal things.

There is no precursor in The same way that unless you were watching Noah You would not know until the day the flood came that judgment is upon you You had to have been watching Noah to have any inkling and you had to been watching Noah a week before the floodwaters started to Arrive because God shut him in and nothing happened for a week The current people of God are going to disappear at the rapture and nothing important is going to happen To signal the beginning of the seals trumpets thunders and bowls judgments that will soon follow So verse 42 Greg oreo watch therefore watch What is the application of this truth that we have not been told the time If we knew the time We would be like the master of the house in verse 43 if the master of the house had known the hour Look at the emphasis on knowledge here verse 36 of that day and hour No one knows verse 39 the people carried away and destroyed in the flood did not know until it was too late Watch therefore verse 42 for you do not know What day your Lord is coming and there's a reason we don't know It is a test of faith and obedience to prepare every day as though it were our last Every day as though or the final opportunity to redeem the time and so on therefore watch We've covered this in our watch and pray study some years ago Watch therefore you do not know what hour your Lord is coming Seems like we could solve that by Lord. Why don't you tell us the hour of your coming? Tell us the day then we'll be sure to be ready He says no, there's a point in you not knowing But verse 43 no this you can have a fun study just circling the word no and its

relatives in this passage Of the day in the hour. No one knows People in the flood did not know Watch therefore you do not know but here's something you should know verse 43 If the master of the house had known 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 You do not expect Well The kingdom is near even at the door quickly turn to James chapter 5 verses 8 and 9 Verse 7 be patient brethren until the coming of the Lord be durable Have the quality of the fruit of the spirit of patience Be patient Until the coming of the Lord see how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth Waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

You also be patient Establish your hearts for the coming of the Lord is at hand The coming of the Lord is at hand. You don't know the day or the hour Therefore watch be patient wait And it goes on to give some specifics about not getting preoccupied with squabbling with one another Do not grumble against one another brethren lest you be condemned behold the judge is where Standing at the door This was 20 centuries ago But the judge is at the door because the return of the Lord is as near as our last heartbeat Brethren take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering and patience Indeed, we count them blessed who endure you've heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end From the Lord that the Lord is compassionate and merciful so The kingdom is near at the door Hebrews chapter 10 a few pages previous to this Hebrews chapter 10 Can start at verse 32 Recall the former days in which after you were illuminated you endured a great struggle with sufferings Can skip down to verse 36 You have need of endurance so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise wait endure be patient in view of The judge the kingdom the judgment being at the door Yet a little while and he who is coming will come and will not tarry The just shall live by faith, but if anyone draws back my soul has no pleasure in him This harks back to a Old Testament exhortation Reiterated and Re-emphasized in the new Philippians chapter 4 we're working our way backwards Philippians chapter 4 verses 1 through 9 therefore my beloved Longed for brethren my joy and crown Stand fast in the Lord beloved My joy and crown when is Paul going to see this joy fulfilled? When is this crown going to be bestowed? Paul looks at the Philippians and says The kingdom is coming. The king is coming.

The judge is at the door. You are my crown You are my joy. You have responded to the word of truth communicated so stand fast I implore You odia and Sentaiki to be of the same mind in the Lord I urge you also true companion help these women who labored with me in the gospel the rest of my fellow workers Names in the book of life.

When is that book of life going to be open at? The return at the judgment when the king comes to implement his kingdom Rejoice in the Lord always again. I will say rejoice Let your gentleness be known to all men verse 5 why the Lord is at hand the motivating quality of the Summer being near is to be ready To endure until it comes and to be sure

that we are heavily laden with fruit on that day Be Anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving Let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all Understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus Finally brethren whatsoever things are true. What sort of things are noble just pure lovely of good report any virtue anything praiseworthy Meditate on these things as we wait as we anticipate as We hammer the gopher wood together So that our ark is ready on the day of judgment The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me do and The God of peace will be with you the one who has my words and keeps them loves me I and my father will come to him and dwell with him So Second Thessalonians chapter 2 go back forward a little ways Brethren concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus and our gathering together to him We ask you not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled by spirit by word by letter as if from us as though the day of Christ had come It's very interesting here because The word had come there is Histamine Histami plus a prefix which is n e n n histamine Had come had arrived and it's in the perfect.

Don't be troubled Because if the day has arrived What why would it be wouldn't it be a cause for celebration? Brethren I don't get excited. Don't be rejoicing and celebrating and Feasting and all the rest of it as though the day of the Lord had come Why wouldn't they be rejoicing if somebody told them that it's already here its kingdom now that the kingdom is in your midst Why would they be shaken and troubled if the day of the Lord had already come But the word is in histamine has arrived The opposite of e n to to stand in is to stand away The opposite of n is APA APA means from or away. So the word for arrive is From n is to me the word for depart is APA Istami or off is to me the P becomes a pH and you have office to me That's the word given in Verse Three let no one deceive you by any means That day will not come unless the op is to me comes first Don't let anyone shake you as though the day has arrived that day will not come until the departure Comes first arrival departure, it's the rapture.

Don't let anybody tell you different that it's some sort of theological This is the he doesn't say the great apostasy or an apostasy unlike any that's ever been seen. He just says the apostasy of why Because there's only one it's unique. You don't have to describe it.

You're not to put adjectives on it It is the rapture the arrival of the day of the Lord will not take place until the departure of the Church Age Saints That day can't come until there's a vacancy You can't arrive in that room until somebody else departs Then the man of sin will be revealed and so on So when we think about the coming of the Lord Don't let somebody tell you it's already come and If it had come it would be something to be shaken and stirred up in mind about not Celebrating there are people who say kingdom now the kingdom is here Let's do kingdom living and and kingdom celebration The king is here. The kingdom is now. No, it's not because when that day comes the kingdom is preceded by judgment if you haven't seen unprecedented flood type

judgment The kingdom is not here Sorry, read your Bible that day will not come until the standing away The man of sin is revealed now, you know what inhibits Until it is taken out of the way The day can't come until what inhibits it which is our presence on this earth with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within the body of Christ the body of Christ leaves the body of sin appears the man of righteousness Departs the man of sin arrives.

It's in the verbs verse 2 verse 3. It's simple simple Greek Why people get wrapped around this axle? I have no idea, but it's something we should think about because no man knows the day or the hour of the coming of the day Therefore no man knows the day or hour of the rapture and our rapture again is as soon as the close of our physical life Well that brings us now to this generation Verse 34 Jesus said this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away This generation has not yet passed away. We have time and opportunity to prepare to build the ark to ensure that we are qualified for God's promise That we are willing to make the journey blind to the Pool of Siloam Would have been a whole lot easier to get to the pool if the man could see Right Seems sort of unmerciful of Jesus to smear mud on his eyes leave him blind and say okay cross town to the pool Why couldn't he just get a nearby jug of water? No, you got to go down the block. You got to go through the crowd You got to feel your way tap your way to the Pool of Siloam wash there And he doesn't even tell him why Well Lord, isn't this water good enough? I hear water sloshing right behind me.

Somebody's carrying a vase Jesus said you got to go to the Pool of Siloam And you've got to tap your way there blind Wash now you can see So interesting Didn't drop the ark out of the sky. Noah's got to build it There is an element of obedience that demonstrates faith that demonstrates Belief that demonstrates that you are upright in your generation That you are separate and apart from that which God is about to judge and it is our Opportunity in the challenges that face us in the difficulties the decisions the priorities we have to establish and follow that we are not told The day or the hour and it's a good thing This is how we have each day to demonstrate who we are and The understanding of why we're here. Well much more to say about this closing section of Matthew 24 next time But we'll close here in a word of prayer Father we thank you both for the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ His words and his works his example The wealth of information we have in the Old Testament and in the new we're so blessed to have the treasury of truth that your Holy Spirit ministers to our hearts and we're thankful for what we do not know and what we Experience by way of faith by way of hope and the motivation and encouragement and equipping that we have to Manifest love for you and love for one another we pray that as we reflect on these things that the Holy Spirit will help us to see their immediate pertinence and Effective application in the circumstances we now face and that we will Experience in the days ahead that in all things the Lord Jesus will be glorified that we can represent him fully as his body on This earth in whatever time that

remains to us and that when he appears to take us to himself It will be a day of rejoicing and an opportunity to enjoy The blessings and the fullness that have been promised to those who walk by faith.

We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen