

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT!

- Matthew 24:4** Jesus tells us to be careful not to be deceived.
- John 14:1-3** The promise of the second coming of Jesus.
- Matthew 24:24** Jesus warned that there will be a lot of deception regarding His return.
- Matthew 24:25, 26** Beware of anyone proclaiming that Christ is already come or that His coming will be in a secret manner.

FIVE BIBLE FACTS OF HOW JESUS WILL COME:

- Acts 1:9-11**
1. **LITERAL.** As He left, so He will return.
 2. **PERSONAL.** Jesus Himself returns.
- Revelation 1:7**
3. **VISIBLE.** Every eye will see Him—even the wicked (see also Matt. 24:30).
- Matthew 24:31**
4. **AUDIBLE.** He will come with His angels and the trumpet sound. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17 says there will be shouting, and the *voice* of the archangel, with the trumpet blowing.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16**
5. **A RESURRECTING EVENT!** The dead in Christ shall rise first.
- Psalms 50:3**
6. **GLORIOUS** The Lord will come in a fiery glory (2 Thess. 2:8) with all of His angels (Matt. 25:31). Revelation 5:11 tells us there are over 100 million holy angels.
- Matthew 24:27**
7. **CLIMACTIC.** Christ's coming will be like lightning that shines from the east to the west.

THE BIBLE USES THE "THIEF IN THE NIGHT" ILLUSTRATION 5 TIMES:

Matt. 24:42,44; 1 Thess. 5:2,4; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3; Rev. 16:15

In every above text there is NO evidence of a secret, silent, invisible coming of Jesus. The context of the usage of the expression "thief in the night" is always referring to the *time, the suddenness, or unexpectedness* of His coming—but not to secrecy.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:1** The coming of the Lord "as a thief" is to those who are *not* ready.
- Matthew 24:40-51** The "one shall be taken, and one shall be left" passage simply shows us that at Jesus' coming one group will be ready and saved, with the other group lost and destroyed. (See also Luke 17:34-37; Luke 17:26-30)

- John 17:15** It was not the prayer of Jesus that His church be “raptured” away before the tribulation time but rather that through God’s power they be kept (guarded) from succumbing to the evil of the world.
- 1 Peter 1:13** Peter also exhorted his readers to hope for the “revelation” or revealing of the Savior from heaven—not a secret, invisible rapture.
- Titus 2:13** The hope of the Christian Church is in the glorious return of Christ—not a previous secret rapture.
- Luke 21:26-28** At a time when people’s hearts are afraid, the Lord will come with power and great glory—no mention again of any prior “taking up” of the church before the glorious coming of the Lord. This is the redemption of the church.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:8** The antichrist power does not reign after the “parousia” because the Bible teaches that it will be destroyed *by the* “parousia” or the coming of the Lord.
- Revelation 22:11,12** The Lord’s coming is a **DECISIVE** event in that all will have had their case decided for eternity. (2 Cor. 6:2)

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