

Confronting The Cloudiness

According to Matthew

Chapter 24

(36) 'But of the day and hour no one knows, no, neither the angels of heaven, nor the son, but the Father only.'

This again brings me to ⁷Matthew chapter 16 where Jesus responds to Peter's declaration, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." God is sovereign and He reserves the right to reveal Himself to whomever he wills. In Matthew 11(25), Jesus says, "I acknowledge, Father, lord of heaven and earth, that you have concealed these things from the wise and intellectual and have revealed them to children (open-minded)."

(37) 'For even as in the days of Noah, so will be the advent of the son of man. For as in the days preceding 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 be the advent of the son of man.'

Jesus is comparing two important things. Firstly, he is speaking of the suddenness of the appearance of the son of man. It catches us completely unaware. We don't expect it. But when God reveals Himself and His intent for man, it is most sudden. We experience a life-shaking event, a "paradigm shift" as they say. And then we can proceed with the walk of reconciliation.

Secondly, Jesus is referring to man's preoccupation with earthly, flesh matters, including man's obsession with woman and reproduction. Suddenly, we realize how vain it all was.

And the understated third aspect is just how real God and the son of man are. The presence of the son of man is as real as being swept away by a literal flood like the Boxing Day tsunami of 2005.

(40) 'At that time, two will be in the field: one will be taken along, and the other left. Two will be grinding at the mill, one will be taken along, and the other left.'

There is more than one level of interpretation for this picture. The obvious level is the literal one. Two individuals will be together somewhere in this world, but one will be granted the revelation of God and the other one won't, thus causing one to be taken along and the other one to stay behind to continue in the "earthly grind".

Another way of looking at this picture is the concept of the two gospels. Just like in the parable of the Wheat and the Tares, two will be allowed to co-exist and function side by side. But suddenly, one day, one of those gospels will be "taken along" or adopted by an individual, and the other one is left behind, forsaken and abandoned. The false gospel is the one that withholds us from going to the Father. But once the awareness of the real gospel is established within a man, he is subsequently "taken along". Suddenly, the son of man is made real within that man causing him to actually take action and do what the son of man is intended to do: "go to the Father".

Chapter 24 footnotes:

⁷ Matthew 16(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, *Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for **flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.***

(18) *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Had enough, Adam?

To be continued next week...

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