

Reading: **Matthew 24:42 - 51**

Introduction

- NB. There are 2 types of 'prophecy.' Those that have been fulfilled and those that still await fulfilment
- Both types are found in the 'Olivet Discourse' of [Matthew 24].
- Those re: the destruction of the temple and those re: the 'Second Coming of
 Christ.'
- The fulfilment of the first gives us assurance the others will also be fulfilled in God's perfect timing.
- The teaching of the 'Second Coming' is not a new teaching. It is an old truth attested to in the historic creeds of the church.

1 The Second Coming And Our Hymnology

- The church's belief in the Second coming is witnessed too in the hymns of the church over the years.
- It is not just a truth we believe; it's a truth we sing about.

2 Watching For His Coming

- The date of the 'Parousia' is the most closely guarded secret in the universe, known only to God.
- Notice [Vs 42] 'Watch' (Gk. gregoreuo) meaning 'to keep awake.'
- Because we don't know the hour of Christ's coming we must be 'watchful.'
- NB. No thief announces His 'coming' in advance.
- Surprise is his principle weapon.
- In [vs 44] Jesus encourages 'readiness.'
- · Are you watching and ready?

3 A Parable For 'Parousia' Living

- How does the servant conduct himself in his master's absence?
- If he applies himself to his master's business, it doesn't matter when his master returns. He will be fine.
- NB. [Vs 48] reveals an alternative side to this servant.
- He still believes in his master's return but he reasons, 'I can live how I please for now. My master delays his coming. I can amend things later.'
- The master returns without warning.
- The servant is careless, cruel and carousing.

4 What To Do During The Wait

- [Luke 19:13] "Occupy till I come." OR "Do business till I come."
- Be watchful.
- Guard against laziness.
- Pay attention to your duties.
- · Be faithful.