

The Gospel of the King

Preparing Ourselves for the End

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

Mark 13:28-37

What we *can* know about the last days ...

Jesus' words are _____ (even if we don't always understand what they mean).

His return will be _____ and _____. We should not be caught "off guard" regarding the _____ we live or the _____ of His return.

What we *cannot* know ...

We cannot know the _____ of His return.

The function of prophecy ...

However, our ignorance of the specific timing is _____ for being _____.

What we don't know should not _____ us, but should instead _____ us.

How to "stay awake" in anticipation of the end:

3 challenges from **2 servants**, **10 virgins**, and **8 talents** (Matthew 24:45-25:30):

1) Am I _____?

The Olivet Discourse should suppress our _____ and return us to a commitment of regular, sustained _____ as _____ of the King.

It's our fidelity to King Jesus that marks us as _____ or _____.

2) Am I _____?

Like the "oil" in the parable, I will not be able to "borrow" my salvation from anyone else when He returns.

3) Am I _____ of what God has entrusted to me?

Our response to what we know should be _____, not mere _____.

"He who loves the coming of the Lord is not he who affirms that it is far off, nor is it he who says it is near, but rather he who, whether it be far off or near, awaits it with sincere faith, steadfast hope, and fervent love."

- Augustine