

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for January 24, 1988**

**Ready or Not, Here I Come**  
**Part 2**  
**Matthew 24:36-51**  
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Introduction: The second coming of Christ.

1. Be alert (attitude) expectant, watchful.

The day and hour no one knows, but the time frame of the tribulation is clear, seven years. Throughout this passage the warning is clear, be on the alert. This is a mystery that will remain unclear.

2. Jesus is now in His glory. He now knows the day and hour of His return. During this time the preoccupation of the world will be on the things of the world. Those taken in this passage are probably taken into judgment. We are also commanded to be on the alert not that we will be here during the tribulation but that Jesus is coming.

We need to live expecting Jesus to come, focusing on Jesus, not the things of this world.

3. The disciples were in a tribulation. They thought they were in “the tribulation” (**Jeremiah 30:7**). Jesus prophesied “a desolation” (**Matthew 23:37**). The disciples thought it was “the desolation” (**Zechariah 14:1-8**). The disciples therefore believed that the Messianic kingdom was right at the door and was imminent. They were wrong. Jesus would be in a few days crucified. He would then be dead, three days later He would rise again. Following this He would ascend 40 days later to the right hand of the throne of God. Shortly after this He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell His followers and the church was therefore born. We are now in the church age and are waiting the rapture (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**). The disciples not understanding these things asked Jesus several questions in **Matthew 24:3**. The last question was, “When will these things be?” Most likely referring to the desolation prophesied in **Matthew 23:37** and the kingdom in **Matthew 24:4-28**. In essence, He tells His disciples “\_\_\_\_\_.” He describes “the tribulation,” a seven-year period of time following the rapture, which will be a time of great trouble. The first half is called, “\_\_\_\_\_” (**Matthew 24:8**). The second half called “Abomination of Desolation” (**Matthew 24:15**; cf. **Revelation 13:11-15**). The second question, “what will be the sign of your coming (parousia-presence) and the end of the age?” is answered in **Matthew 24:29-31**. The sign of His coming would be His appearing in the sky against a backdrop of darkness. Having answered both questions Jesus feels compelled to give His disciples assurance that all these things will happen and will

happen in the year of a single generation. He therefore gave them the “ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ” in Matthew **24:32-35**.

Be Alert (**Matthew 24:36-42**). It is not a question of if but when. Though the general time of the second coming will be known the specific time is uncertain.

Be ready: alertness should lead to being ready.

**Revelation 7:9-14**, those who are alert to the second coming of Christ and have made themselves ready by washing their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

Whether now by death or at the end of the tribulation, by His coming we are all on a collision course with Christ. We will all stand before Him as our Lord and our judge.

**1 Corinthians 3: 21-23**, all things belong to us. We belong to Christ; Christ belongs to God.

You cannot be alert and ready if you are not faithful. **Verse 48**, the slave is evil though he had gone through the motions of being alert and ready.