

<Introduction>

“The Lord will come as a thief” by Jeremiah

Today, I am going to talk about how “The Lord will come as a thief” from the scripture below.

**Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

As you can see, the Bible tells us that when the Lord comes back again, He will come like a thief. So, this is what I would like us to think about.

<Lord’s second coming will be obvious to everyone>

If you really think about it, the scripture doesn’t actually make sense. Because a thief will normally break into a house quietly so that no one would notice that he came in and stole things.

But according to the Bible, the Lord’s second coming doesn’t seem to be such a quiet event. Revelation describes how Lord will return to the earth as below.

**Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**

This scripture tells us that not only will it not be quiet but also every eye will see the Lord. He is actually going to grab everyone’s attention. It is just like the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Everyone will be watching TV as a torch is carried by a runner and the cauldron gets lit.

When the Lord returns, it grabs people’s attention even more than Olympics. This is a completely opposite situation to how a thief would like as he doesn’t want to be recognized by anyone. Why then, is the Lord’s second coming described as “coming as a thief”? It is a mystery indeed.

<What does “coming as a thief” mean?>

The Bible repeatedly explains that when the Lord returns He will be like a thief. I mean, there are many other ways to describe how someone comes without being noticed by others. For example, why not “coming like a cat trying to catch a mouse”? It still gives us an impression of someone coming so quietly I think... But, the Bible somehow mentions the phrase of “coming as a thief” over and over again when describing the day of the Lord. We can see it in the scripture reference below.

**1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.**

**2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

**Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**

As you can see, the Bible repeatedly describes the End Times as “the Lord coming as a thief”. There seems to be some reasons for this.

<Parable of “coming as a thief”>

The Bible is actually written by the wisdom of God and full of parables and mysteries. It is written as as we can see from the scripture reference below.

**Psalm 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

**78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:**

Therefore, I think there must be some reasons or mysteries why the Bible mentions “coming as a thief” over and over again.

In the Bible, “thief” is described as someone who steals the word of God as below.

**Jeremiah 23:30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that steal my words everyone from his neighbour.**

As you can see, when the Bible says “steal”, it actually is related to stealing the word of God. When you think about the End Times based on this understanding, you will be able to see something.

What would that be? To me, it is that the word of God, especially about the End Times, has been stolen, therefore the word of God will actually be referred as something different to what it originally means. I think the word “thief” implies and prophesizes that.

Let’s take a look at the doctrine of the End Times from this point of view. By doing so, we can see that many words about the End Times have been already stolen and twisted, and the false doctrines are preached at the moment. We are going to take a look at this.



Christ will come as a thief

### ✂Pre-tribulation Rapture

The most obvious reason why the word of God is stolen is the doctrine of Pre-tribulation Rapture. According to this doctrine, Christians will be raised to heaven before the tribulation of End Times so that they will avoid the tribulation. For those who don’t want tribulation, this doctrine sounds fantastic. But this kind of doctrine is completely contradictory to the word of God.

Because of this strange theory and doctrine, the warnings listed in the paragraphs below have been stolen, twisted, and turned into some meaningless ones.

**Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Lord used this scripture to tell us that you will go through the tribulation period however if you stay patient without worshiping an anti-Christ you will be saved. What he mentioned was a very important warning. Despite that, this warning has become meaningless at the current churches.

This warning of **“he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”** is seen as a ridiculous lie. Well, the word of God is indeed stolen.

### ※Dispensationalism

Dispensationalism was proposed by J.N. Derby from Plymouth Brethren and is used to steal the important warnings about End Times to make it meaningless. Dispensationalism preaches that the different people will take part to perform God's work in each era.

For example, it was the church and alien Christians which were the main part during the church era, but as we are coming into the End Time era, they say that the Jews will become the main part again.

It explains that End Times is the era of Jews, so tribulation period and disasters brought by anti-Christ are all for Jews to experience, not Christians. This story may be the music to the Christians' ears but if you consider deeply, this is such false doctrine which is full of contradictions. It makes me wonder if there are any people out there who would actually believe the theory like this but it seems that there are quite a few indeed.

Sadly, the churches are deceived by the teaching of a thief and the word of God gets stolen to make the warning of the Lord meaningless.

Lord mentioned that Christians have got nothing to do with these false teachings as below and it was almost like He was prophesying the day when the doctrine of the thief will be wide spread.

**Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

Dispensationalism teaches that “tribulation in End Times is only for Jews to experience” but the rise of such false doctrine was already pointed out in the word of God which mentioned that the warning about End Times is for all Christians, saying “**what I say unto you I say unto all**”. This tells us that the disaster of End Times is related to all Christians.

So, it is correct to understand that what is written in Mark 13 about the tribulation period is related to all Christians.

**Mark 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.**

**20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.**

This means the Lord talked about how Christians will go through what “**was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be**”, therefore we need to prepare for it. But sadly, these generous words of God have been stolen and become unrelated meaningless warnings.

#### **✖Destruction of the third temple**

The other strange doctrine than meaningless stolen word of God about End Times is the doctrine which tells us that the third temple will be built and destroyed in End Times. This doctrine is also the one which steals the warning of God and based on Dispensationalism.

Let's take a look at how this doctrine also steals the important word of God and makes the warning meaningless.

Before the Lord started to mention about the warning of God for End Times, He mentioned about the day when the temple gets destroyed as below.

**Matthew 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.**

**24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

This prophecy about destruction of the temple has two phases. The first one is about A.D 70 when Jerusalem was surrounded by Roman soldiers and its residents all got killed. Also, the temple of God was destroyed by Rome. The reason for this is the apostasy performed by the Jews in the Old Testament era. God's punishment therefore came upon their city. They killed Christ who was sent by God on the cross so they received the punishment.

We can see that the destruction of the temple which once happened at the end of the history of the people in Old Testament will happen again at the end of the church era to mark the end of the history of the people in New Testament as the Lord returns.

By the way, to understand the destruction of the temple at the end of the church era, we need to know a few things. First of all, there is no physical temple in present day Jerusalem. Let's make sure that we know the old temple has already been destroyed and nothing is left, so there is no way that the temple can be destroyed again.

I mean, you can't knock down the power pole which is already fallen to the ground. Some may say you can make it stand up again before destroying it, but if the pole has been taken away and doesn't exist, it is impossible to knock it down.

The same goes with the temple in Jerusalem. Not only has it been knocked down, but also it doesn't exist at the moment. It is impossible to destroy the temple which doesn't exist.

Plus, we need to know one more thing. It is the location of the temple. You can't just build the temple anywhere but the Bible clearly states where to build the temple. The place God decided to build the temple is on top of the mount Moriah. It has to be this location where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac.

The other thing is that this very place is already occupied by the Muslim temple and there is no room for a new temple to be built. Furthermore, the Muslim temple is one of the three major Muslim Sanctuaries, so many Muslims visit here. Therefore, there is definitely no chance that this place will become available to rebuild the temple of

Solomon. As you can see, it is not realistic for the destruction of the temple to happen physically. But I feel that God is allowing this. It must be His will.

Through the situation like this, God seems to be giving us a message. What would that be? I think the Lord is trying to teach us that we shouldn't focus on the physical temple. Rather, I believe He is telling us to look at what the destruction of the temple would suggest as a parable. What would you think? The temple, in New Testament, means God's church instead of a physical building as shown in the scripture below.

**Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**

**2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

**2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

In these scriptures, it is described that the temple is God's church, the foundation of the temple is apostles and prophets, and Christ is cornerstone. Therefore what the Lord means by the destruction of the temple is the prophecy of the destruction of the church as the body of Christ. And when you say there is not a stone left, it means the basic doctrine, teachings of apostles and prophets, and even teachings of Christ will be taken away from the churches. This prophecy is about the day when the churches will be completely destroyed. It is not ideal of course, but it sounds like that is what will happen. As we already looked at this previously, this matches with the other scriptures about End Times.

The Lord Prophesized like this to warn about the day when the temple (church) gets destroyed, but unfortunately this warning was stolen and became meaningless. Many Christians are carried away with things like building the third temple in Jerusalem and other tangible stuffs, and not wanting to listen to the Lord's warning. Yes, the word of the lord is also stolen in this manner.

Now, Lord once said as below as if He was prophesying the day when a thief comes in and steals precious word of God and doctrine.

**Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.**

Currently this word has become fulfilled and a thief is sneaking into the churches and it seems that all the important words of God about End Times have been stolen. However, we need to return to the word of God and those will experience what God's will really is.



The temple built on the mount Moriah and believers

<There are many religious books> by Daiki

Have you ever been to a Christian book shop? They sell the Bible as well as many religious books. Our life is based on the Bible but there are also “annotated books” which explain the Bible. However, those books are written by humans, so if you really believe in Jesus Christ and decide to follow Him, I recommend to stick to the Bible. Because the Bible is the only book which has been influenced by the Holy Spirit. This means that God is the author of the book. At the moment, the Bible is mostly used at the churches unless they are crazy.

For those who are about to become a believer. Let me warn you not to be confused by crazy churches. They do exist! Don't ever go to churches where a pastor uses other books than the Bible or a person as the foundation of his faith. If you do right now, just get out there and look for a new church. It is a difficult era now.

There was a time when I was confused about my faith and went to a Christian book shop and bought various religious books. Some were supposed to help our faith life, teach how to pray, or how to deal with Satan and demons. But Satan and demons are far



smarter and stronger Spiritual beings than humans. Therefore it is impossible to rely on a book written by some humans to deal with them anyway.

Also, I found some books about heaven or hell as well as doctrines. There were other books which guided us to read the Bible, but there were only a few. Most of them were based on how the author understood the Bible. There were many different patterns for those understandings, so each author made their own points which made me even more confused about my faith.

I started to think that something wasn't quite right, so I ended up throwing away almost all books I had other than the Bible and a few other books. Looking back now, I think I was guided by the Holy Spirit.

As I was researching faith online, I came across the website of "Horn" and "The room of Jeremiah", and they taught me a horrible truth. Right now, false prophets and teachers are everywhere and they are having Holy gatherings or publishing various religious books to deceive and confuse a lot of Christians. Some of them even behave like Satanist. If you believe their doctrines, you will absolutely be heading to the destruction.



Even magic-themed Harry Potter was sold at a Christian book shop.

Their teachings are very well put together and evil. They seem to be so legitimate that even some Christian pastors have been tricked by them. Japanese churches are no exception either.

The Bible tells us even Satan disguises as a Holy angel and that is so true. I have been able to get out of this confusion by the grace of God and learned that the Bible is the only book that I can put my trust in from this experience.

You really need to read the Bible with a humble heart because what is written is God

and Christ himself. Also you have to read with prayer otherwise you could potentially misread it. After all, God in the Bible is the God of Holy words and only living God who created the universe.

Frankly speaking, I feel that the authors of those religious books are trying to be too smart. Also, we have to be careful that they may have teaching of the devil mixed in. This is the era when the healthy teaching is hard to be accepted and imaginative stories are more wide spread. After all, some Christian shops sell the books or DVD of Harry Potter and Narnia.

We are headed to the tribulation period for the righteous Christians. Please be careful when visiting Christian book shops.

Especially, there are books which claim that Christians will not go through tribulation because they are going to be raised beforehand, and once tribulation is over they are coming back to the earth. This is such a false teaching. This book is called “Left Behind”, and Satanist and the Unification Church are also involved.

Many Christians have already believed in this doctrine.

The gate to heaven really is narrow. Because only the Bible teaches the truth and if you read it correctly you can go to heaven. Patience is the most important. You will definitely have to practice your patience during the tribulation in End Times.

I encourage you to pray so that you will be guided of the Holy Spirit into knowing what the truth is.



The book of Narnia is sold at Christian book shop. The story is related to magics.