

# OUR LORD'S GREAT PROPHECY – PART 2

MATT. 24; MARK 13; LUKE 21:5-36

(Hymn 318 – Watching for the Day)

This discourse is a continuation of Part 1, given back in 2009. We are focusing primarily on Matthew 24, so have that chapter open or bookmarked for the next hour.

Let's begin with a recap of what was covered in Part 1.

## RECAP OF PART 1

### **Matthew 24:1-3**

Disciples ask three questions

- 1) When will the Jewish Temple be destroyed?
- 2) What is the sign of Jesus second presence?
- 3) and of the end of the age?

### **Matthew 24: 4-14**

In order to let His disciples know that it will be a long time before he returns, Jesus provides many signs covering a brief history of the Gospel Age.

These signs include:

- \* Many wars and rumors of wars
- \* A famine for the word of God
- \* Earthquakes or revolutions, beginning with the Jewish revolt all the way down to the French Revolution.
- \* Persecution of the true church, who were viewed as heretics by the apostate Papal church.
- \* False Prophets were the papal and other denominational church systems.

Verse 14 wraps up by telling us that after the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached to all nations, then the end will come.

Fulfillment came in the 1800s when the Bible Societies published and distributed the Bible worldwide in every language of earth. Then the end came in 1874. Matt 13 tells us the Harvest is the end of the Age.

### **Verses 15-19**

When the Abomination of Desolation is identified we are to flee.

Here is where a double application begins.

**Jewish Harvest:** (covered primarily in the Luke 21 account)

Fleshly Israel rejects Jesus, the true sacrifice for sins, and continues with their typical sacrifices.

The Jewish Christians heed Jesus' words and flee to the Judean Mountains, avoiding destruction by the Roman Armies.

**Gospel Harvest:** Denominational Christianity rejects the message of the Ransom for ALL. Instead, they continue to accept either masses, good works or penances.

The True Wheat in the Gospel Harvest flees Babylon, that they not partake of her sins, and they enter the barn of association together in Present Truth and ultimately the heavenly barn at their glorification.

### **Verse 20-22**

The Lord's people are to flee Babylon during the Summertime of Harvest, because by the Wintertime, the Church will already have been completed and the door shut.

The “Great Tribulation” described relates to the Daniel 12:1 “Great Time of Trouble,” perhaps though, referring more directly the climax of that Great Time of Trouble.

### **Verse 23-25**

During the Harvest, the same false Christ’s and false prophets of the Gospel Age continue to deceive many. These are the popes and denominational system church leaders. Their great signs and wonders are found at their Mega Churches, on TV and the radio and in politics and social reforms.

In verse 25, Jesus says, “See, I have told you beforehand.”

The repetition of these “false prophets” as a sign, confirms that verses 4-14 apply to the Gospel Age, otherwise why would the same sign be repeated again, except to show that these same “false prophets” will still be around during the Harvest?

## **PART 2**

Part 2 picks up with verse 26.

### **NOT IN THE DESERT OR WILDERNESS**

**Matt 24:26** (NKJV) “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.”

Finding Jesus at His second presence is not accomplished in the security of an “inner room” of a supposed pure religious organization, like a Denominational Church. Nor in an exclusive or wilderness religious organization that is separated from other denominations, while condemning those Christians. Jesus second presence is invisible and is to be embraced by the faithful watchers who recognize the signs found in scripture.

## LIGHTNING OR BRIGHTSHINING

**Matt 24:27** (NKJV) “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Lightning cannot be the meaning in verse 27, since it flashes in any direction, not just from east to west like the sun.

Translators confuse the meaning. The word “lightning” is from Strong’s 796 (astrape).

Vines Expository Dictionary provides two meanings

(a) "lightning"

(b) "bright shining," or "shining brightness,"

**Matt 24:27** (RVIC), “For as the breaking sunshine cometh forth from the east, and is seen even unto the west; so shall be the presence of the Son of man.”

Another point of confusion is the word “flashes.” It is Strong’s # 5316, which actually means “to lighten (shine)”

So the meaning is that the bright shining of the sun rises from the east, shining to the west, gradually providing more and more light as the millennial morning progresses. Each year, the evidence of Jesus’ Second Presence becomes more clear.

## EAGLES GATHERED TO CARCASS

**Matt 24:28** "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

This bright shining at Jesus second presence largely comes from the carcass of Present Truth which the Eagles or watchers associate together around.

The eagles can see their prey afar off and come, with what seems like supernatural sight. They come, first in ones and twos, and then in greater numbers to the center of attraction, so must the followers of Christ, watching for the evidences with spiritual insight. Hence, the constant exhortation to watchfulness.

Some suggest that *vulture* is meant here, not *eagles*, arguing that eagles do not eat dead carcasses. However, that is not correct. Eagles will gather around a dead carcass as long as it is fresh kill. To suggest vultures, is to imply that we are feasting on spoiled or corrupted meat.

Jesus may be drawing from the illustration of eagles in the book of Job.

Job 39: 27-30 (NASV), "27 Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up And makes his nest on high?

28 "On the cliff he dwells and lodges, Upon the rocky crag, an inaccessible place.

29 "From there he spies out food; His eyes see it from afar.

30 "His young ones also suck up blood; And where the slain are, there is he."

Hence Jesus illustration of Eagles drawn to a dead carcass fits quite well.

## **AFTER THE TRIBULATION**

Matt 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

**Immediately after the tribulation <2347> of those days:**

What tribulation is being spoken of here? We find the same Greek word for "tribulation" in verse 9.

Matt 24:9 (NKJV) “9 "Then they will deliver you up to **tribulation** <2347>, and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.”

This **tribulation** is that terrible affliction of the true Saints, persecuted by the great Antichrist system throughout the dark ages for 1260 years up until the *time of the end* in 1799. At that point, with the “enlightenment” of the French Revolution began a loss of respect for religious authority.

So the signs of verse 29 follow 1799 C.E.

**Sun darkened:** This depicts a loss of regard for the Gospel light with the incursion of liberal thought in the mainstream churches in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Bible stories and the related miracles were viewed as fairy tales with good morals. Accepting the theory of evolution diminished the importance of Christ’s ransom sacrifice.

**Moon darkened:** As the sunlight of the ransom became obscured, so the moonlight of the Mosaic Law, which in its sacrifices foreshadowed the ransom, became obscured also. Public teachers referred to the bloody sacrifices of Israel, required by their Law, as barbaric, no longer appreciating that Israel's sacrifices were foreshadowing "better sacrifices" sin;

**Stars darkened:** The authority and teachings of the twelve Apostles and their writings ceased to be respected as inspired guides and lights. Respect for the counterfeit stars – the Priests and Pastors - diminished as well, during this time of a loss of faith in everything Christian.

**Powers of Heaven Shaken:** A shaking up of the creeds and dogmas of Christendom has been ongoing as their admixture of errors, produce confusion.

Not surprisingly, liberal or mainline churches in America experienced a decline in membership of 70% between 1930 and 2000. (Allen, Charlotte (July 9, 2006). "Liberal Christianity is paying for its sins". Los Angeles Times.)

## **SIGN IN HEAVEN**

**Matt 24:30** (NKJV) "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

The "**sign**" of the Son of Man in heaven is not in literal heaven, rather the Ecclesiastical heavens. What is the sign in heaven?

In Rev 14:14, we see Jesus disrupting the Ecclesiastical heavens on a white cloud of pure truth and with the Harvest sickle in his hand. Matt 13 speaks of other messengers joining Jesus in the work of binding the tares in bundles for burning.

Rev 1:20 tells us, "The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches." The seventh messenger or star is Brother Russell.

So Jesus brings these combined forces to spread the pure, yet destabilizing message of Harvest Truth throughout the Ecclesiastical heavens. This SIGN, this Harvest Message of Present Truth rang out worldwide from 1874 to 1916 and has continued even as the work decreases and the barn is being filled with wheat.

At the start of the Time of the End, since 1799, church and state ruled together in Europe. Yet, this worldwide Harvest Message destabilized the control of Church and State over Christians, who were losing confidence in the old confused teachings. Finally, WWI shattered the union of Church and State into pieces, while more millions of Christian continued to accept a faithless liberal Gospel or else they exited the denominational churches, having lost their faith altogether.

All this trouble has brought about a worldwide “mourning” spoken of in verse 30. There is confusion, anxiety and perplexity.

The Luke account describes it this way:

Luke 21:25-26 (NKJV) "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves (or restless masses) roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven (Denominational Church Systems along with civil governments) will be shaken."

We have had two world wars and many other wars. World Wars had never occurred up until 1914. We also had the great depression, the holocaust, terrorism, Billions in poverty and starvation and mass murders of over 100 million by Mao, Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot and others. There is the constant fear and dread of weapons of mass destruction. Every day that we turn on the news we hear of more trouble.

The tribes of earth see the clouds of trouble and confusion. They see the shaking of the "heavens," and also the "earth." (See Heb. 12:26,27.) Eventually all mankind at the close of the storm shall discern, recognize the new King with the eyes of their understanding and shall have a deeper mourning for sin, and mourn that they ever in blindness rejected him--the Jew first. See Zech. 12:10-12.

## SEE THE SON OF MAN

Remember that –

Matt 24:30 (NKJV) says, "... **they** will see the Son of Man **coming** on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Has the world seen the Son of Man coming or does this have a future application?



The word “see” is Strongs 3700 “optanomai.” Vine’s conveys the thought that “optanomai” can be either literal sight or mental perception. In this case, we think “mental perception.”

The word “coming” is Strong’s 2064 ercomai. It is not Parousia.

Notice that verse 30 does NOT say that they will see the Son of Man PRESENT, rather it says that they will see Him COMING. Isn’t that true brethren? The Christian world sees the same signs as we do, however they view this as evidence that He is coming in glory soon; not that He is already present.

**Q:** At Jesus first advent, were all of Israel aware of the signs and miracles that Jesus was performing? **Yes.**

**Q:** Did most of the Jews believe that the Messiah was present? **No.** They rejected Jesus as the Messiah.

The same is true at Jesus second presence. They see the signs, yet reject His presence. They view the signs of evidence that Jesus will return soon.

We find the same Greek expression for the word “coming” in Mark. Mark 6:31 (AV) “... there were many coming <2064> (5740) and going...” Here in the Greek, the Mood-Participle (Strong’s 5796) is being used like an action verb, “COMING,” not PRESENT.

Hence Matt 24:30 (NKJV) correctly says, “... they will see the Son of Man coming...”

Notice further support found in the Luke account.

Here we will see that some of the Church is still on this side of the veil when the Christian world sees Jesus coming.

Luke 21:27-28 (Rotherham) “And, then, will they see the Son of Man—coming in a cloud, with great power and glory. And, when these things are beginning to come to pass, unbend and lift up your heads, because that, your redemption, is drawing near.”

When the Christian world sees Jesus COMING, we who realize he is actually PRESENT know that our redemption is near. The feet members of the Church are still here on earth knowing that the body of Christ will soon be complete.

Hence the Christian World sees Jesus coming soon in great power and glory, however, we see Him already present.

## **FIG TREE**

Matt 24:32-33 (NKJV) "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!"

When a tree puts forth leaves, it is showing signs of life. Since that first Jewish settlement in 1878, until Israel became a nation in 1948, it has shown increasing signs of life, however, not yet the life of faith they are to receive in the kingdom, when God’s holy spirit is poured upon them.

So the branch putting forth leaves is evidence that the Summer Time of the kingdom is near.

We are now in the Summer Time of Harvest.

There is yet a Winter Time of Great Tribulation on the horizon.

After that, will be this Summer Time of the Kingdom.

As we already read, verse 33 says, "... when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!"

What is the "it" that is at the door. Some translations indicate that "He" or Jesus "is near."

The Luke account removes any doubt.

Luke 21:31 (NKJV) "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."

So the blossoming of the nation of Israel is evidence that the earthly kingdom is near.

The Luke account adds the expression, "all the trees."

Luke 21:29-30 (NKJV) "Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and **all the trees**. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near."

Not only has Israel budded into a nation, but with the collapse of the great European empires in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we have dozens of their colonies bud into new and independent nations. In 1900 there were less than 60 independent nations in the world. Today there are nearly 200 countries.

## **THIS GENERATION**

Matt 24:34 (AV) "34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Compare this with Jesus' statement in Matt 23 where he has lamented over Jerusalem and speaks of their coming punishment.

Matt 23:36 (NKJ) "Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."

From Jesus' statement here, how long was it till the nation's destruction? Just 37 years later in 70 C.E. So we get a sense of a generation being this short period of time.

We have a problem. How can we possibly explain Matt 24:24? Let's read it again.

Matt 24:34 (AV) "34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Presuming a generation is 37 years...

More than 37 years have passed since 1874.

More than 37 years have passed since 1914.

More than 37 years have passed since 1948.

If you want to make a "generation" 120 years, that certainly does not agree with the way Jesus was using the word "generation" earlier that day when he lamented over Jerusalem.

What is the solution? How do we explain that "This "generation" shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

The answer is that the word "fulfilled" is not what Jesus meant here. The best translation we could find to capture the meaning is the Concordant translation.

Matt 24:34 (Concordant) "Verily, I am saying to you that by no means may this generation be passing by till all these things should be occurring."

The thought is NOT "until all these things have been fulfilled" – past tense.

The thought is "until all these things are occurring" – present tense.

It's not that all these signs are completed and in the past, but rather that all these signs will have begun and be in process within one generation.

(Now we have more documentation on this translation, however it would be tedious to cover this with you, so we can email you this information upon your request if you are interested.)

To sum up - one generation will witness all these signs in process. We are now generations beyond the start of these signs. However, there is no contradiction, since the passage is NOT talking about the completion of the signs in the past tense.

When does the generation start? We suggest that the generation starts in 1878 C.E. when the Fig Tree first began to blossom.

## WHAT SIGNS?

Consequently, the generation that saw Israel begin to blossom in 1878 did not pass away until all of these signs had fully commenced by 1914. So the generation existing from 1878 to 1914 saw all of these signs in process - that is 36 years. This is before the 37 year generation described by Jesus had expired.

So this 37 year generation of brethren in the early Truth days witnessed the start of all of these signs. Now exactly what were the signs which that "generation" saw?

Notice again:

Matt 24:34 (AV) "34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all **these things** be fulfilled."

The same expression, "these things" (from Strong's 5023) is found in

Luke 21: 28 (NKJV) "Now when **these things** (Strong's 5023) begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

What things? What are the "these things" Jesus is talking about in the previous verses.

Luke 21:25-26 (NKJV) "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken."

So again, the generation that saw Israel begin to blossom in 1878, saw all these signs before they passed away.

## **EPIPHANYIA & APOKALYPSE APPLICATIONS**

Now we have described Matt 24:29-34 from an Epiphanyia application. That is from the perspective of the Epiphanyia bright shining applicable to the true wheat during the Gospel Harvest.

We wonder if there is a secondary Apocalypse application to these verses as well? We also wonder if the earlier Gospel Age verses have a secondary application to the Harvest period. These are areas of speculation of which we are not certain. So we leave them for a future study and now move on.

## **HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY**

Matt 24:35 (NKJV) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

The Apostle Peter elaborates on this in...

2 Pet 3:10 (NASV) “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

2 Pet 3:7-8 (NKJV) “But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

Our thought is that this passage shows that the 1,000 year Day of Judgment began in 1874 with Jesus Second Presence. First the Ecclesiastical Systems were arraigned in the people’s court of judgment. Then in 1914 Church / State union was broken. The kings lost their thrones and their empires began losing their colonies.

So the heavens began shaking and are still in process of passing away during this 1,000 year Day of Judgment.

## **NO ONE KNOWS**

Matt 24:36 (NKJV) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

Many Christians insist that Jesus cannot possibly have returned yet since the verse says no one knows the day or the hour.

Notice the Mark account:

Mark 13:32 (NKJV) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but only the Father."

So Jesus did not know the day and hour of His return. Does mean that when Jesus returns, He will not be aware that He has returned?

Of course not. Neither should we think that the watchers would not know that He is present.

## DAYS OF NOAH

Matt 24:37 (NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

The question is whether Christ's presence is being compared to the "days of Noah" before the flood or whether Christ's presence is being compared to the flood itself.

Is Christ's presence sudden and catastrophic like the flood, or is Christ's presence quiet and unobserved, just like the "days of Noah" before the flood?

Let's closely look at the scriptures.

Matt 24:37 (NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming (parousia - presence) of the Son of Man be."

This statement is simple and clear. The "days of Noah" are being compared to Christ's presence

It's important to note that Christ's presence is being compared to the days of Noah before the flood. Notice the next verse.

Matt 24:38 (NKJV) "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark"

It was during the "days before the flood" that the world was going about their daily life routine, unaware of the coming judgment, just as it now is during the



presence of Christ. Mankind goes about their daily life routine, unaware of Christ's presence.

Matt 24:39 (NKJV) "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming (presence) of the Son of Man be. (NKJ)

If is not until the Armageddon flood comes, that the world finally sees that Christ is present.

Hence a related verse in Luke 17:30 (NKJV) says, "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed (apocalypse)."

## **TWO IN THE FIELD**

Matt 24:40-41 (NJKV), "40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left."

Matt 13:38 tells us that "The field is the world," ... a condition outside the nominal "house"--outside of Babylon. Thus we are taught that the "jewels" will be sought wherever they may be.

A mill is a place where food is prepared: the ministers and theological schools do the grinding of the spiritual food for "Babylon," ..the food supplied is largely husks and chaff, which will not sustain spiritual life and strength: ... "present truth" gathers some of the grinders and leaves others--one is taken and another left.

Matt 24:42 (NJKV), "42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

We suggest that what this verse is really saying is that we do not know what hour your Lord will have arrived. Therefore, we should watch so that we can see the signs indicating Jesus is PRESENT.

This word “COMING” (Strong’s 2064. ercomai) is the same used in verse 30 where Jesus is “coming in the clouds.”

However, the difference is that in verse 42, has a Strong’s 5736 “Indicative Mood” word meaning is attached. It has the meaning that the action described has occurred or will occur. It can go either way.

Let’s look at a couple of examples where this word in the “Indicative Mood” does have the thought of having already arrived.

Mt 3:14 “But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You COME <2064> (5736) to me?”

Here John is speaking to Jesus who has already arrived, as described by John’s words, “do You come <2064> (5736) to me?”

Matt 26:36 (NKJV) “Then Jesus CAME <2064> (5736) with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there.”

In this example, Jesus had arrived as Gethsemane.

Consequently, we think that in Matt 24:42, Jesus is telling us to watch so that we can see the signs indicating that Jesus has arrived; that He is PRESENT.

Just a side point. If the disciples asked in verse 3, “What will be the sign (singular) of your presence,” why then do we speak of signs (plural).

In verse 30, Jesus did give them the “sign (singular) in heaven” of his presence. However, Jesus added many other signs to help them discern his presence. Notice that in Luke 21:25, Jesus says, “And there shall be signs (plural) in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars...” So from Matt 24:15 to the end of the chapter, we have many signs or evidences to indicate His presence.

## THIEF BREAKS IN

**Matt 24: 43-44** (NKJV) "43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The "...householder" is our Adversary, the devil--"... blinding the minds of all that believe not--whose eyes of understanding have not been anointed with the Lord's eye-salve of a clear understanding of God's Word. (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Rev. 3:18)

Satan, although he has long known the Bible, has understood but little of it...because written in parables, symbols and figures of speech. Satan is not guided by the holy Spirit, and consequently much of the divine Word is foolishness unto him (see D612)

Daniel 12:10-11 shows us that at the end of 1290 years, starting in 1829 C.E., that the wise would begin to understand these prophecies, but not the wicked.

Although this new enlightenment on the prophecies of Daniel might have prepared Satan to resist Jesus at His return, Satan's arrogance and disdain for the Lord's people and God's Word, blinded Him to these new revelations. Hence He was taken off guard and unprepared to defend His empire of darkness against the bright enlightenment of Jesus Second Presence.

The word "come" in these verses is the same as we discussed from verse 42. Hence, paraphrasing, verse 44 is telling us that since Jesus will have arrived at an hour you do not expect, keep watching the signs that that you will be able to recognize that He is PRESENT.

## FAITHFUL SERVANT

**Matt 24:45-47** (NKJV) "45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?  
46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.  
47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."

When looking at prophecy, sometimes it is difficult to see exactly how events will play out in the future. However, when a prophecy has been fulfilled already, we are aided by seeing historically how events played out and fit into the prophecy.

In Luke 12, Jesus is interpreting / explaining the 1335 days prophecy of Daniel 12. Three key words connect the two passages together. Luke 12:36-37 is the only New Testament passage containing these three key words ("Blessed," "wait" and "coming"), linking to Daniel 12:12. As a matter of fact, it is also the only NT passage containing two key words ("Blessed" and "wait"). Statistically, what are the odds of a coincidence?

**Dan 12:12** (NKJV) "**Blessed** is he who **waits**, and **comes** to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

**Luke 12:** (NKJV) 35 "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; 36 "and you yourselves be like men who **wait** for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he **comes** and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 "**Blessed** are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.

So Jesus was explaining that at the end of 1335 days, he would return, and feed the servants "meat in due season."

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Let's look at another connection. Two expressions link Luke 12 to Rev 3.

**Rev 3:20** "Behold, I stand at the door and **knock**. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and **dine with him**, and he with Me. (note 7th Messenger to Laodicean Church relates to this message.)

**Luke 12:** (NKJV) 35 "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; 36 "and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and **knocks** they may open to him immediately. 37 "Blessed are

those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

The explanation is that at the end of the 1335 days (1874), the manner in which the Servants will be fed meat in due season, this through the Faithful Steward (Luke 12:42) who is identified in Rev 3 via this connection as the "Seventh Messenger." Who else, other than Charles Taze Russell?