

Chapter 3 **As a thief ! -Part 1**

Concerning his second coming, Jesus said, “I am coming as a thief” Revelation 16.15.

First, *people resent a thief's intrusion.* Therefore, because unbelievers think this world is theirs, they will resent Christ's return - “all the tribes of the earth will mourn.” Matthew 24.30.

Suddenly, though, they will learn what they should have known - “the earth is the Lord's” Psalm 24.1. He has every right to be here.

Second, *the thief is always expected.* So we lock our homes, secure our vehicles, and don't leave valuables lying around.

A remarkable twist here is that Jesus' return is *not* expected by many people, even though he took the world by surprise at his first coming, warned of his second coming, and predicted the exact world conditions which will precede his return.

Third, *a thief gives clear evidence of his visit.* However some people have thought that Jesus' coming refers to a spiritual presence only. But see Matthew 24.29-30 -

“The powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven . . . and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Nothing like that has happened. Not yet.

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Jesus said - “Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.” - Matthew 24.44