

Chapter 4 **As a thief!** -Part 2

We all know the house thief's best kept secret - the date and time of his visit!

Jesus used this universal awareness to illustrate his return. He said, "Take note: I will come as unexpectedly as a thief!" Revelation 16.15 (Living Bible). He was talking about his second coming to Earth.

Notice, **first**, a thief targets property. When Jesus comes he will be looking, not for the property of others, but only for what is rightfully his, namely, those who love and serve God.

Second, a thief takes only that which is of value. So what will Jesus look for? He has put a high value on those who want what he now offers - things like his generous forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God, and the joy of spending eternity with him. Jesus won't take any unbelievers.

Third, a thief leaves clear evidence of his call - *valuable goods are missing!*

When all true Christians are "caught up . . . to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4.17), what a gap will be left by those who are now "*salt of the earth*" and "*light of the world*"! Matthew 5.13-14.

Will it really happen? Jesus' promise is certain. His words are true. ¹

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Jesus' coming has high priority - He said, "Surely I am coming quickly." Revelation 22.20. ¹ John 14.6