

“ I Will Come Like A Thief”

Sardis Pt 2

(Rev 3:3)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Exposit 3:3



3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

- ❧ “remember” is what it means in the Greek, call to mind, bear in mind, exercise your memory
- ❧ In order for their deeds not to go unfinished and die, they were exhorted to remember, bear in mind, exercise their memory on what they “have received and heard”
- ❧ What was it that they received and heard?

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- ✧ What was it that they received and heard? I’ll allow Paul and John to answer this...

“received” and “heard”



Phi 4:9	1Th 2:13	1Jn 1:1-3
<p>9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.</p> <p>What did the Philippians receive and hear?</p>	<p>13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.</p> <p>What did the Thessalonians receive and heard?</p>	<p>1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life – 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us – 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.</p>

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- ❧ So in the beginning of v. 3, Jesus is commanding them to repent and remember the gospel they received and in the Word of God by which they stand proclaimed to them by God's holy apostles!
- ❧ TRUTH: Part of repentance is bringing to remembrance what we have been taught and learned concerning the gospel
- ❧ APPLICATION:
 - ❧ Are you in a spiritual sleep or slumber?
 - ❧ Are you in a spiritual rut?
 - ❧ Are you not feeling to great of a Christian?
 - ❧ Then remember what you know and learned about God, the gospel and the Word of God, and act on that memory in repentance and devotion to our Lord! Whatever unfinished deeds is before us will be taken to completion!
- ❧ Last half of v.3...

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- ❧ “if you do not wake up” is a WARNING
- ❧ “I will come like a thief” is prophecy - how do I know that?
- ❧ Jesus will come like a thief later in this book!
- ❧ He will not only come like a thief, but at an hour they will not know!
- ❧ Where is that in Revelation? But before we go there, I'd like to look at other Scripture references “like a thief” which has caused a lot of confusion when it comes to the study of end times

“like a thief”



1Th 5:1-3	1Th 5:4-6	2Pe 3:10
<p>1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.</p>	<p>4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day [of the Lord] would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.</p>	<p>10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.</p>

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- ⌘ So using Scripture w/Scripture (ROE # 1) when "like a thief" is used, what is it associated with? A: The day of the Lord!
- ⌘ So in v.3 when Jesus was warning Sardis, what was He warning them of?

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- ❧ So using Scripture w/Scripture (ROE # 1) when "like a thief" is used, what is it associated with? A: The day of the Lord!
- ❧ So in v.3 when Jesus was warning Sardis, what was He warning them of? A: the day of the Lord!
- ❧ So with that, let's look at this warning and prophecy further in the only other mention in Revelation...

Exposit 3:3



Revelation 16:13-16 (Battle of Armageddon)

13 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, **I am coming like a thief**. Blessed is the one who **stays awake and keeps his clothes**, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

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- ❧ TRUTH: The warning in v.3 is prophecy of the upcoming battle of Armageddon!
- ❧ So an aspect of the day of the Lord is the battle of Armageddon!
- ❧ Armageddon will happen at a time in history when no one knows the hour!
- ❧ By this time, the 7th Trumpet was already blown and the great resurrection of all mankind has already occurred
- ❧ For those who were raised to a resurrection of judgment, Jesus will come upon them like a thief and at a hour that no one knows! The unredeemed will be in darkness! Whereas we are not children of darkness, but children of the day!

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CONJECTURE

- ❧ "thief in the night"; "at hour that no one knows" has caused so much speculation leading to doctrines and views that are not supported by Scripture
- ❧ For example, because Jesus can come at any time "like a thief" and "at an hour that no one knows" has led to views of some sort of "secret Rapture", but that is NOT what the Scripture was proclaiming
- ❧ We just looked at every example where "like a thief" is used verbatim, and every time it was associated with the day of the Lord and that day would include the Great Battle of Armageddon when Jesus feasts on His enemies in triumph and judgment!