

There are certain events of life that we know where, when and what will take place, as they are planned and organized ahead of time. However, does anyone know when their last day on this earth will be? That's why we are warned to be ready at all times for that day to meet the Lord.

1John 2:28: "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

Romans 13:11: "And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

1Cor. 9:24: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." Why?

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

How?

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Eph. 5:15-16: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Do I understand why I must be ready at all times to meet God?

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"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:3

What does the Word of God declare for true believers to expect the day we meet the Lord?

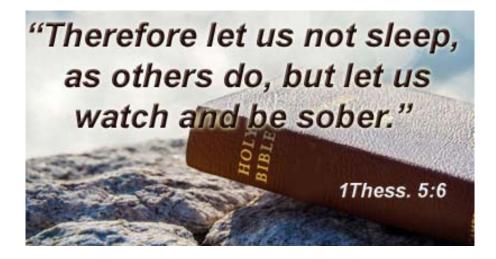
1Corinthians 2:9: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Revelation 14:13: "Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes", says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Revelation 1:3: "Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near."

Now, what about the Day of the Lord?

1Thessalonian 4:16-17: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." Luke 21:27-28: "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Do I understand that the Kingdom promise is reserved for those who are ready to meet the Lord? Are we?



What should our attitude be to always be ready to meet the Lord? Romans 13:12-14: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

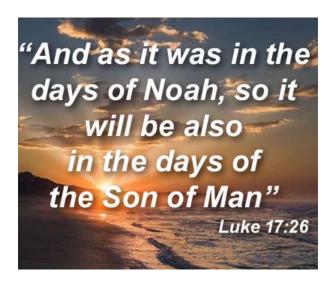
Matthew. 24:42-44: "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Titus 2:11-13: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

Why?

Heb. 3:14: "For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."

Am I steadfastly wearing the armor of light in Christ, always ready to meet the Lord?



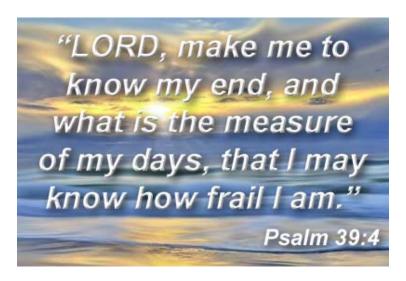
The Word of God gives us clear and strong examples of what happens when we ignore God's warnings.

First, Noah: Heb. 11:7: "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Jesus then declared what happened to those who ignored Noah's warning in Matthew 24:38-39: "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, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Then, in Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus gives us the parable of the 10 virgins, five of whom were wise and the other five foolish. Sort of five committed to God, the other five lukewarm. Verses 11 and 12, tells us what happened to the foolish ones, saying, "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you."

Then Jesus said to His disciples, verse 13: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." Are we watching and ready?



Where do we draw the encouragement and power to face the trials and challenges of this world?

Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

The reason Jesus said:

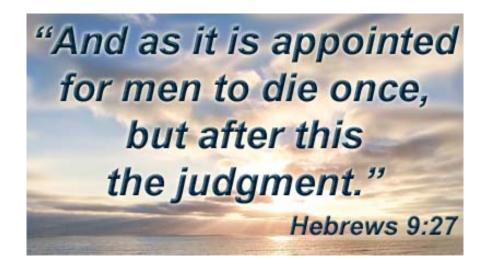
John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 16:33: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Matthew 7:24-25, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

Proverbs 16:25 warns us: "There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death."

Do I draw power to resist the world through following Christ, and stand ready to meet the Lord at anytime?



Here are serious reasons why we should always be ready to meet the Lord:

Luke 21:34: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."

Luke 21:36: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

1Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

2Peter 3:10: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."

1John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Revelation 3:3: "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

Rev. 3:15-16: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

Am I on guard and ready for the Day of the Lord that may come anytime?