

ADVENT SERIES: BEING
FAITHFUL UNTIL HE
RETURNS

WATCHFULNESS IN
UNCERTAIN TIMES

Matthew 24:36-44



WHO ARE THEY?



WHO ARE THEY?



Nostradamus
1503-1566



Baba Vanga
1911-1996



Harold Camping
1921-2013

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

(1) DON'T WASTE TIME GUESSING WHEN JESUS IS COMING AGAIN (V36, 44)

³⁶ But *concerning that day and hour no one knows*, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming *at an hour you do not expect*

- He does not intend to give a timeline
- It will be a surprise to all, including Christians



(1) DON'T WASTE TIME GUESSING WHEN JESUS IS COMING AGAIN (V36, 44)

➤ Why?

- So we will not be distracted or fixated!
- So we will not be too puffed up!
- So that we will have more excitement in waiting!

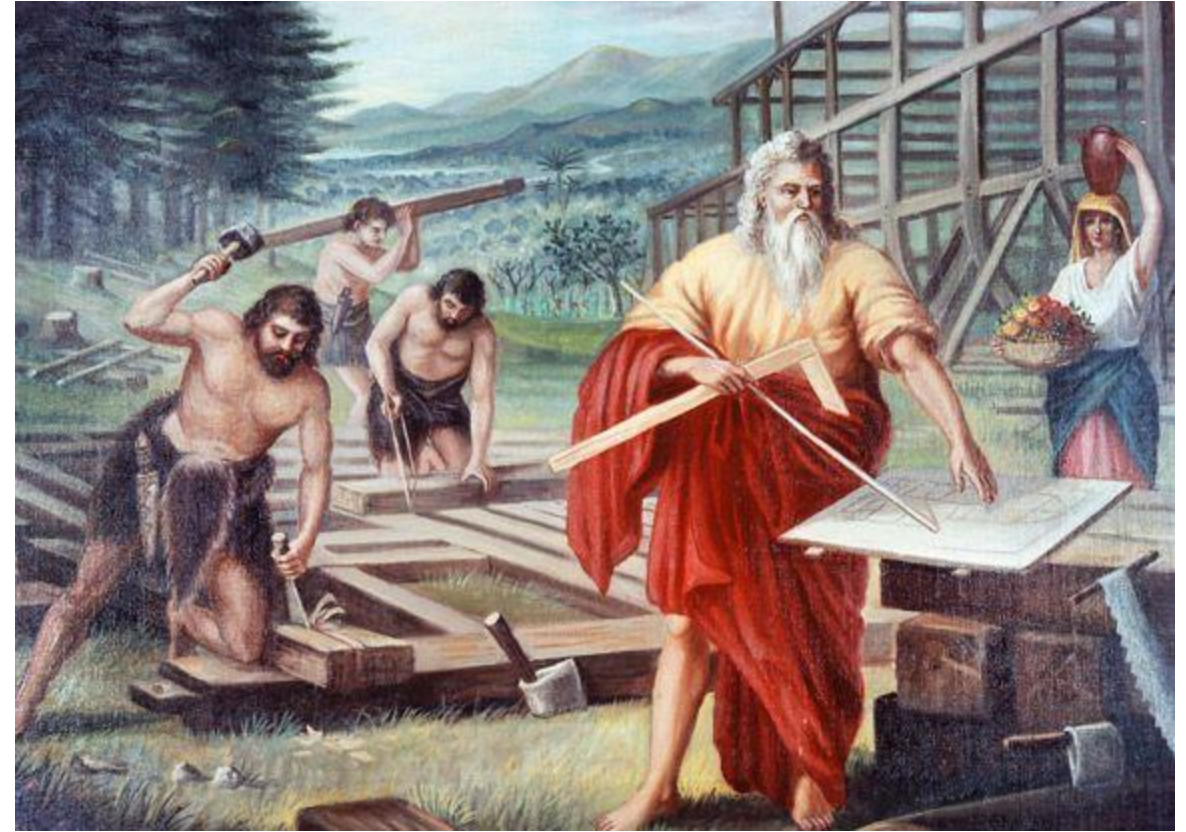
➤ He wants us to **live by faith!**



(2) AVOID COMPLACENCY AND CARELESSNESS WHILE WE WAIT (V37-41)

*³⁷ For as were **the days of Noah**, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

- Noah was told to prepare for a devastating flood (Gen 5:17)
- He built & completed the ark without knowing when it would be needed



(2) AVOID COMPLACENCY AND CARELESSNESS WHILE WE WAIT (V37-41)

*³⁸ For as in those days before the flood **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage**, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ...*

*⁴⁰ **Then two men will be in the field**; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ **Two women will be grinding at the mill**; one will be taken and one left.*

- The problem is not their activity but their attitude



(2) AVOID COMPLACENCY AND CARELESSNESS WHILE WE WAIT (V37-41)

³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away ...

- Total ignorance? Also a lack of care
- Need to **exercise duty of care** as trustees of His gospel!



(3) BE ALWAYS ON ALERT AND READY TO PLAY OUR ROLE (V42-43)

⁴² Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. [43] But know this, that **if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake** and would not have let his house be broken into.



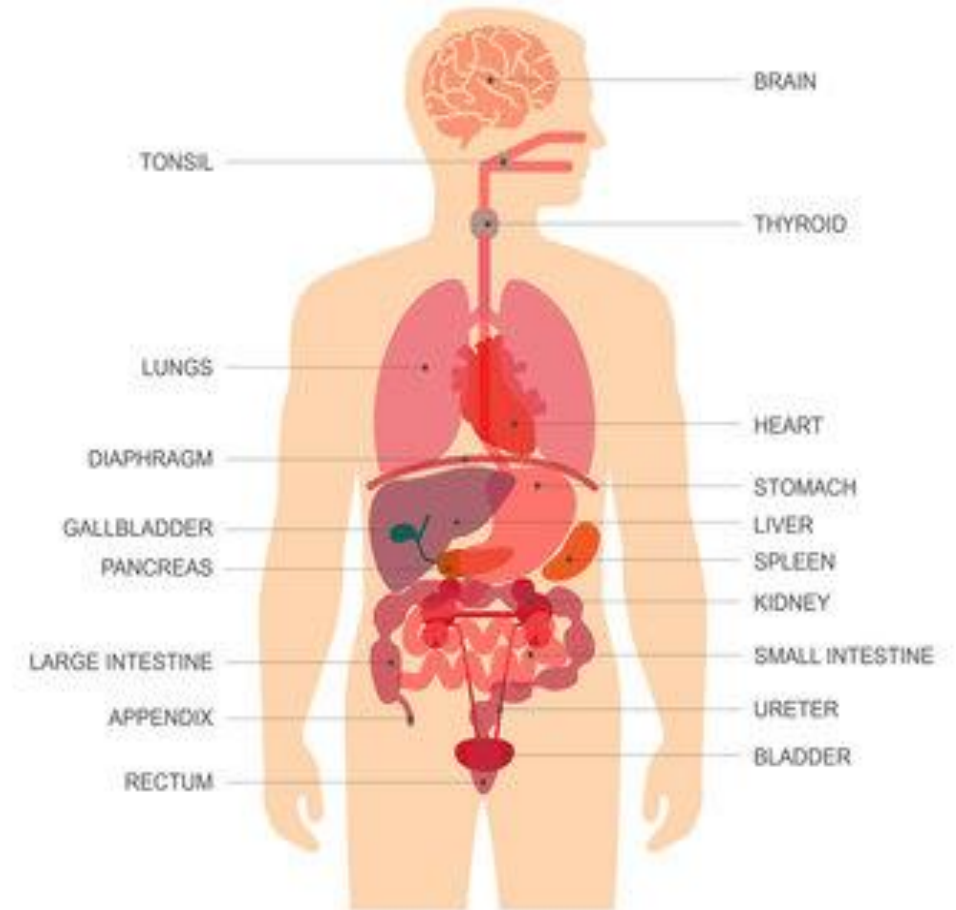
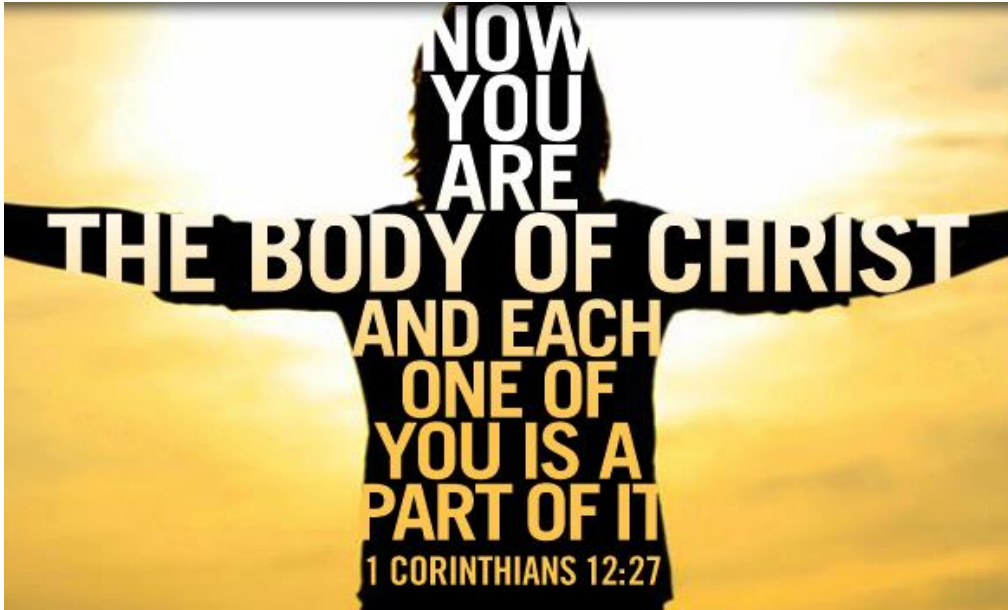
- Always be on alert!
- Faithful stewardship rather than frenzied activity!
- ❖ Parable of wise servant

(3) BE ALWAYS ON ALERT AND READY TO PLAY OUR ROLE (V42-43)

- **Damage Control Duties** for Shipborne Emergencies
- When activated, each crew member rushes to do their role!



(3) BE ALWAYS ON ALERT AND READY TO PLAY OUR ROLE (V42-43)



- Every part of the body has its function
- We must each **find our function** in the Body of Christ!

OUR SJSM VILLAGE

