

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries

A Ministry of the Watchman on the Walls, preparing God's People for the End Times

P. O. Box 117, Clemmons, NC 27012 USA

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jackmichael@att.net

www.jackmichaeloutreachministries.com

Word from the Watchman - No Shadow of Turning

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is **NO VARIATION**, or **SHADOW OF TURNING**." (James 1:17 NKJV).*

First, let's talk about **GOOD GIFTS**, and **PERFECT GIFTS**. God has at least two perfect gifts: the first being revealed by John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV).

And, there is a second, equally perfect gift:

*"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 (or, **WELCOME** the Lord) in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NKJV).*

God also has many good gifts for his children, as revealed by, and based upon the promises of his Word:

"If you then, being evil (or, sinful), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11 NKJV).

However, my main concentration in this teaching is to focus upon the phrase: "...no **VARIATION**, or **SHADOW OF TURNING**."

First, let's talk about **VARIATION**. That word simply means: **"change."** With God, there is **NO CHANGING**. He is the same from the beginning, to the end, and forever, as stated by Hebrews 13:8:

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (NKJV)."

Also, listen to this interesting verse of Scripture from Malachi 3:6 (see Scripture on the reverse ↗):

*"I, the Lord, **DO NOT CHANGE**. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." (NIV).*

Teacher's Notes:

The above Scripture makes a strong case for the End Times Restoration of Israel. The Lord made an Old Covenant with Israel, based upon the Law of Moses (and, animal sacrifices). Then, he made a New Covenant with Israel, based upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (see Hebrews 8:7-12). And, that New Covenant - which was originally made with Israel, and is now extended to Gentiles - is still valid, because God does not change! Therefore, Israel has not been destroyed, and thrown into a spiritual trash can (see Jeremiah 31:35-36).

Now, let's focus on the phrase: **SHADOW OF TURNING**. With God, there is *"...no variation, or **SHADOW OF TURNING**."*

God is not shifty, like a shadow, which early in the day appears over here, and later in the day appears over there. When we pray, we do not have to chase God, like a shifting shadow. His promises are fixed, and available, and unchangeable. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says:

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are **"YES"** in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." (NIV).*

I especially like this definition, which comes from Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament words: *"God is **INCAPABLE OF CHANGE**, and **INCAPABLE OF BEING CHANGED** by the actions of others."*

Many times, I have listened to Christians make great explanations as to why God did not answer their prayers. With their explanations, they seem to be trying to change both God, and his Word.

I have heard Christians talk about unanswered prayers as: **"Blessings in Disguise."** Well, I am sorry your prayers did not get answered, but I do not believe God disguises his blessings!

Some day, when Jesus returns - when we all know, as we are known (see 1 Corinthians 13:12) - I believe we will humbly have to admit: *"It was my **LACK OF FAITH**, which hindered my prayers; not God's **LACK OF FAITHFULNESS**."*

In the meantime, keep on praying to the God with whom there is: *"...no **VARIATION**, or **SHADOW OF TURNING**,"* and keep on developing your trust in God, and keep on expecting your prayers to be answered.

Like a Thief in the Night

For the past 12 months, I have taught about: Signs of the End Times. I believe the Lord has directed me to teach this month on the above subject, which is not a Sign of the End Times, but a description of events that will happen when Jesus Christ returns.

*“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as **A THIEF IN THE NIGHT**. For when they say: Peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 NKJV).*

I grew up in a church, which believed in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. The above Scriptures were some of our favorites. We were taught that Jesus would snatch the church out of the world in a Pre-Trib. Rapture, just like a thief in the night. Millions and millions of Christians would instantly disappear from the earth.

Of course, when you take a second look at those Scriptures, and the Scriptures that follow, there is no mention of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. That interpretation was added by man to hopefully validate such an event.

So, what do the Scriptures mean when they say the Lord Jesus will return like a thief in the night? Listen first to Revelation 1:7:

*“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and **EVERY EYE WILL SEE HIM**, even those who pierced him; and **ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH WILL MOURN** because of him. So shall it be! Amen.” (NIV).*

Initially, the return of Jesus will be a big surprise; the world will be unprepared. Then, **EVERY EYE** will **SEE** him coming with the clouds. So, how does this relate to the Lord coming like a thief? Listen carefully...

Notice from Revelation 1:7 (above ↑) that all the peoples of the earth will be **MOURNING** when they **SEE** the return of the Lord? Why will they be mourning? Jesus has provided us with the answer:

“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.” (Luke 12:2-3 NKJV).

Please turn the page over ➡

Now, consider the following, as it pertains to Jesus Christ coming as a thief in the night...

Those who have put their faith, or hope in false religions, or false gods, will be MOURNING when they SEE the Savior they have rejected.

So-called holy men, who have exalted themselves as god, will be MOURNING when they SEE the true God, and will be on their knees, bowing down before the Lord of lords.

Those who are financially rich, who have amassed fortunes in this world, will be MOURNING when they SEE Jesus Christ, and realize that their money will not save them, nor buy them out of trouble.

Politicians, to include Presidents, Prime Ministers, Dictators, Governors, and even Judges will be MOURNING when they SEE the returning Christ, and realize they no longer have any authority.

Royals - Kings, Queens, Princes, and Princesses - will be MOURNING when they SEE Jesus coming in the clouds, because they will no longer be exalted by man, and live in isolated palaces behind gated walls. They will have to bow on their knees to the King of kings.

Powerful people, who have gained notoriety through corruption and extortion, will be MOURNING when they SEE the Son of God, because they will be exposed, and no longer able to intimidate people.

Criminals, who have escaped justice by hiding, or running, or with the help of unscrupulous lawyers, will be MOURNING when they SEE the Judge of all the earth, because they will be held accountable for their crimes.

I am sure you get the picture. **EVERYTHING** in which people put their faith, or their hope, other than Jesus Christ, will be snatched away from them like **A THIEF IN THE NIGHT**. All the false security, and all the false props, which people have set up for themselves - whether legally, or illegally - will be suddenly snatched away from them like **A THIEF IN THE NIGHT**.

But, the coming of the Lord will not affect believers like a thief in the night, because our faith, our hope, and our security will be in Christ:

"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 NKJV).