

## Christ's Coming as a Thief in the Night

“But know this, that if the goodman [i.e., master] of the house had known in what watch the *thief* would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up [i.e., into]. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matt. 24:43-44).

“And this know, that if the goodman [i.e., master] of the house had known what hour the *thief* would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through [i.e., into]. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:39-40).

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a *thief* in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a *thief*” (I Thess. 5:1-4).

“But the day of the Lord will come as a *thief* in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Pet. 3:10).

“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a *thief*, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee” (Rev. 3:3).

“Behold, I come as a *thief*. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (Rev. 16:15).

---

*W. J. Grier*: “Speaking about the word ‘apocalypse,’ or ‘revelation,’ of the Lord, used in the New Testament for His second coming, Dr. Vos says that the ‘very idea of suddenness and unexpectedness seems to be intimately associated with the word.’ It is as if a curtain were suddenly flung aside and the Lord of glory revealed. His coming will be ‘as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them’ (1 Thess. 5:2, 3). The Saviour Himself said that His coming would be ‘as the lightning’ (Matt. 24:27)—as sudden, and as universally visible. None will foresee it and all will see it at once. What a warning this should be to careless sinners and to slack, easy-going professors of religion!” (*The Momentous Event* [Belfast: Evangelical Book Shop, 1951], p. 10).