

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 66

ARE WE AWAKE?

The Bible describes the conditions that will exist just prior to the return of Jesus Christ to gather up His Fathers' children (1st Corinthians 15:20-25). One of the most informative descriptions is found in the book of Matthew.

“32 Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 In the same way, when you see all these things, know that he is near, at the gates. 34 Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 36 But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 In (those) days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. 39 They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be (also) at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” (Matthew 24:32-42 New American Bible)

Jesus Christ cautioned those who would be living in the last days to stay awake. The Greek word that He used means to be vigilant and watchful. As He looked ahead through time, He knew there would be many who would not be vigilant, watchful and discerning of the events that were transpiring around them. He said that they would be so busy with their daily activities (Matthew 24:38) they would not take the time to make preparations for His coming. Consequently, they would be left behind.