

The Hour Is Coming

Introduction. Seattle's famed Kingdome — home of the Seahawks, Mariners, and the SuperSonics — was destroyed in March of 2000. Maryland-based Controlled Demolition Incorporated (CDI) was hired to do the job of imploding the 25,000-ton structure that had marked Seattle's skyline for almost 25 years.

Extreme measures were taken to ensure no one was hurt. CDI had experience with more than 7,000 demolitions and knew how to protect people. Engineers checked and rechecked the structure. The authorities evacuated several blocks around the Kingdome. Safety measures were in place to allow the countdown to stop at any time if there were any concerns. All workers were individually accounted for by radio. A large public address system was used to announce the final countdown. In short, CDI took every reasonable measure and more to warn people of the impending danger.

The Bible teaches of a final judgment on this sinful world. Like the engineers who blew up the Kingdome, our heavenly Father has spared no expense to make sure everybody can "get out" safely. He warns us through the Bible, through gospel preaching, through the church, and through our consciences.

After declaring that all men die and face the judgment, Hebrews 9:28 asserts, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." The most important event in the history of this world lies in the future. John, in his gospel, records Jesus using "the hour cometh" seven times to indicate the urgency of this great event. For almost 70 years, the existence of the state of Israel has been erroneously connected with the end of the world. To not be mistaken about the future, you need to know what Christ will not do and what He will do when He comes again.

I. Christ Will Not Come To ...

- A. Establish His kingdom (Mark 9:1).
- B. Sit on David's throne (Acts 2:29-32).
- C. Restore Palestine to the Jews (Joshua 21:43).
- D. Convert the Jews (Romans 1:16).
- E. Reign 1,000 years (1 Corinthians 15:25-26).

II. Christ Will Come To ...

- A. Raise the dead (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
- B. Judge the world (Acts 17:30-31; Romans 14:12; Revelation 22:12).
 1. He will reward the righteous (Matthew 25:46).
 2. He will pass sentence on the wicked (2 Peter 2:9).
- C. Deliver up the kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24).

Conclusion. John Beukema relates that after moving to a new state, he went to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get a new driver's license. The guy behind the desk said he couldn't help him because his license was suspended. "There must be some mistake," He said. "I've never done anything to deserve that."

The worker was very civil but said he had to clear up the problem with the State of Massachusetts before he could get his license. He hadn't lived in Massachusetts for

ten years, so he couldn't imagine what was wrong. Five long-distance phone calls later, he found out that when he moved from Massachusetts, he owed part of an excise tax of \$2. That tiny little bill began to accrue penalties and interest. He had to pay that bill plus the cost of a new Massachusetts driver's license and registration for a car that had long ago become scrap metal before he could become legal in his new home state. The price tag was nearly \$300.

The whole event was embarrassing. It wasn't so much the money that bothered him; it was knowing that he was on the wrong side of the law for all those years without even being aware of it. How shocking it will be for those who stand before the God of the universe one day and realize, for the first time, that He holds them accountable for all the wrongs they do.

Jesus is definitely coming for the right reasons. Are you ready for Him to come? When He does come, the world will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10) and we will be judged (Revelation 20:11-15). If you know that you cannot be judged worthy of eternal life, then come forward, responding to our invitation and offer of assistance to prepare yourself for that great day to come.