

This week we are going to work on two questions I received. They both concern the Gospel of Matthew.

We will begin with a refresher on the big picture of Matthew.

We will use that to determine how we should interpret passages in the gospel of Matthew.

Then we will use that to answer our two questions.

Here they are:

1. Can we go over the great commission and baptism in Matthew again? Why did Jesus tell the disciples to baptize in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Matthew 24:36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” How could God the Son not know? Is it talking about just His humanity?

The big picture of the Gospel of Matthew is this:

Matthew was written for the Jewish people to present their Messiah – their King - , Jesus Christ, to them.

The first verse brings out the Jewish character of Matthew:

*Matt 1:1*

*1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

In Matthew, the recorded teachings of our Lord have to do with the coming kingdom. His miracles fulfill what the Old Testament prophets predicted would be the signs of the coming of the Messiah.

Let's take the second question first.

*Matt 24:29-38*

*29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

*32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take 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, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.*

Jesus is talking about His Second Coming.

He is saying that the God-man, Son of God, does not know the day or the hour of the second coming.

He won't know until the Rapture occurs. At the time Jesus was teaching his Jewish disciples about the events of the Tribulation and Second Coming as recorded in Matthew, the Rapture was still a mystery that had not yet been revealed.

Right now Jesus is seated at the Right Hand of the Father until his enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

God the Father is in charge of that activity and only He knows when that is complete.

The three members of the Trinity function in their roles with relation to one another.

The Son is subject to the Father, and the Spirit is sent forth by the Father and the Son.

What the Spirit hears from the Son He communicates to us.

*John 16:12-15*

*12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 " All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*