

away His own <sup>people,</sup> and then will pour out His wrath upon the ungodly.

Verses 40-41. These verses shed further light on the nature of the event, and its suddenness. Two men will be in a field--one shall be taken and the other left. The division will cut through all levels of society and through all races of people. There is no nation that is entirely Christian, nor has there ever been one. God has never promised that all the world will be converted to Christ in this age, but that there will be a witness to all the world, and that believers will be found in every nation. ~~At~~ <sup>make</sup> The sudden return of Christ, there will be a division ~~made~~ among individuals who previously were closely associated together. Those who truly believe on Christ will be taken; the others will be left.

Verse 42. "Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Here our Lord describes the attitude which the Christian should take. It is God's desire that we should always be ready to meet our Lord, no matter when He comes (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

The English verb, "watch," is used in the New Testament to represent five different Greek words. The one used in this lesson in verses 42 and 43 (and also in 25:13) does not mean "watch" in the sense of observing something, as watching a football game. Nor does it mean "watch" in the sense of looking for something, as when a man watches for a bus with a certain number. It has an entirely different meaning; it is defined as "to be vigilant, to be wide-awake, to be active." It does not mean that we should constantly be speculating about signs of His coming, or looking at current events with tremendous interest in order to try to set the date when He will be here. On the contrary, the requirement of these three verses is that we be wide-awake and active in Christ's service. <sup>¶</sup> Our Lord bases the

~~The~~ command to be vigilant is based upon the fact that we do