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Matthew 24:37-42

Good morning! Did any of you notice the lack of traffic on the roads this morning? Or the cars along the road and in the ditch? Could it be? Oh, heaven forbid! Have we been left behind?

April fools! Just kidding. Now seriously, does this possibility strike fear into your hearts? If so, turn to Matthew 24:37-42.

37. “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

38. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39. and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

40. Then there will be two men 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 be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”

Often this Scripture is quoted as evidence for the so-called rapture, in which all Christians and those pleasing to God will be taken off the earth. Those people left behind, according to the rapture theory, are then doomed to years of tribulation, fear, hopelessness, and destruction.

But today's Scripture text does not indicate this at all! Verse 37 says, "The coming of the Son of Man (that is Jesus) will be just like the days of Noah." Verse 38 indicates life was going along pretty much as usual, until Noah entered the ark. Verse 39 then reads, "And they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away." The "they" here refers to all the people who perished in the flood.

The Scripture goes on to say, "So shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left."

According to the Scriptures then, those who "are taken" when the Lord comes will be the lost; those without "understanding." And just as Noah and his family were left after the flood, so those who are left when Jesus returns will be saved. So the rapture theory has it backwards. The taken are lost, and those who are left are saved.

Check it out for yourself. The word "rapture" is not found in the Bible. And the Bible does not teach that Christians will be taken up before the lost, or before a

time of tribulation. In this case the saying is true: “A falsehood repeated often enough becomes fact in the public mind.”

According to Acts 17:11, “those who are noble-minded receive the word with great eagerness and examine the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things are so.” What does Matthew 24:37-42 say? In the days of Noah, who was taken? Who was left? When Jesus returns, who will be taken? Who will be left?