



Things To Come: Week 6

Matthew 24:

Jesus' Overview of the End of the Age

Audio & Notes at:

<http://www.htchurch.com/things-to-come>

Video at:

<http://www.htchurch.tv>

Jesus' purpose here:

In Matthew 24, Jesus is not listing every end times event. It is a thumbnail sketch of vital information for people who find themselves living in those days.

Verses 1-2: *1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

- Jesus was teaching in the Temple area that week.
- Jesus burst their bubble!

- These words of Jesus no doubt created a great confusion among the disciples.

Verse 3: *3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

- Notice that they came to Him privately.
- The question they asked is twofold. First, what is the sign of His *parousia*.
- The second part of the question is: what will be the sign of the end of the age.

Verses 4-5: *4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

- Religious deception was the first sign given.
- Notice that Jesus said many would claim to be the Christ, meaning the Messiah.
- Ultimately the world will see the final Antichrist, but before the Antichrist comes, there are many lesser antichrists.
- *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. (1 John 2:18)*
- The Scriptural test for who may be called an antichrist is simply this: *to be one who denies that Jesus is the Christ.*
 - Sun Myung Moon.
 - New Age religions teach that Jesus was not the Christ and that we are awaiting a final Christ.
 - Islam is an antichrist religion.

Verses 6-8: *6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

- There will be both the tragedy of war and the fear of war breaking out.
- He says there will be wars by nation against nation. The Greek word is *ethne*,
- 20th century: large wars with coalitions of kingdoms.
- In addition there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes.
- Jesus said that these are the beginning of sorrows or, more literally, birth pangs.

The beginning of sorrows: historical events or events of the 70th Week?

Verses 9-14: *9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

- Persecution in Israel and around the world. Notice that people are hated by all nations because of the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the issue!

- The final, climactic battle is about who shall be King!
- As in all past times of persecution, betrayal is an important element.
- False prophets who will rise up and deceive many people.
- People will need to maintain a red hot, fervent love for Jesus! The enemy will always dangle something else in front of your face...
- Jesus ends this section on a faith-filled note: the Gospel cannot be stopped!

Verses 15-22: *15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.*

- When will this happen
- The abomination of desolation will take place in the middle of the seven years, counting 1260 days forward from the beginning of the “week.”
- That day marks the beginning of what Jesus called the Great Tribulation.

- The abomination will stand in the holy place; 2 Thessalonians 2.
- We know from Daniel 9 that in the middle of the week the Antichrist will cause sacrifices to stop. He will then begin his persecution.
- Note that there are specific instructions given to people to flee and pray.
- Jesus also says to pray that your flight may not be on the Sabbath.
- Jesus foretells the future!
- Great Tribulation = the greatest pressure. Quite literally the worst time in human history, and Jesus said that if it were not cut short no flesh would be saved.
- The time of Jacob's trouble: Zechariah says in all the land two out of every three Jewish people will die.
- Those who serve Jesus Christ in this time also face severe persecution.
- Jesus says that the days will be shortened. There has been a lot of discussion about what that means.

Verses 23-28: *23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.*

- Now Jesus warns us against people claiming that he has come.
- People debate and argue about what Antichrist will look like.

- Jesus does not give us those details here.
- He will not be born again as a baby!
- What about those vultures in verse 28?

Verses 29-31: *29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

- There will be signs in the heavens to tell the world that He is drawing near.
- The sign of the sun being turned to darkness and the moon to blood is seen in multiple Old and New Testament accounts, and it is a marker.
- The sign of the Son of Man then appears.
- The nations mourn, and Jesus gathers His people to Himself as He descends.

Verses 32-35: *32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

- This is not necessarily a reference to Israel, but a parable warning people.
- The generation which sees these things will not pass away until Jesus comes.

Verses 36-44: 36 *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- He wants us to know that no one knows the time of His coming. We should never set dates for the coming of Christ, or for the Rapture.
- There will be one generation of Christians who will not experience death!
- Before God pours out his wrath upon this world, he will raise the dead in Christ and change living believers at the same time.
- Jesus then compares the days before his coming to the days of Noah.
- Be ready!

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