

Jesus: No Spin Matthew Chapter Twenty Four: Signs of the Second Coming

personal / group study for use with the message of March 21st and March 22nd, 2009

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

After the debates with temple leaders Jesus declares to His disciples, “Do you see all these things? I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another, every one will be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2). So begins what we refer to as the Olivet Discourse. Jesus is teaching from the Mount of Olives, the same place that Zechariah prophesied that the Messiah would stand when He establishes His kingdom. This statement causes Peter, James, John and Andrew (Mark 13:3) to ask, “When will this happen and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” He doesn’t answer the “when” in fact some of these things have happened already, some will happen later. **Don’t get so caught up in the when that you miss Jesus’ warnings that you are not deceived and you need to be prepared now!**

Introduction.

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30).

There are several different views of Christ’s return, also called “the Rapture.” There are those who believe Christ will come at the beginning of the Great Tribulation and take the believers with Him. There are those who believe the Bible teaches a Mid Tribulation (3 ½ years into the Tribulation) Rapture of the believers. There are those who believe that the believers will live through the entire Tribulation, to be taken up with Christ Post Tribulation. The most important thing to know is that Jesus will return and we are to be prepared! We must know Him as our Lord and Savior and we must let others know that He came to save them from sin.

God in His mercy will give His people grace to survive whatever they must live through. The most important thing to remember is to BE READY, in service to the Master when He comes. Maybe He will come TODAY!

Read.

Matthew 24

Signs of the End of the Age

¹Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ²“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

³As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

⁴Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’^[a] and will deceive many. ⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’^[b] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. ¹⁹How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

²²If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. ²⁵See, I have told you ahead of time.

²⁶"So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹"Immediately after the distress of those days
" the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ⁴¹

³⁰"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

³²"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

The Day and Hour Unknown

³⁶"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴²"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

⁴⁵"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' ⁴⁹and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 24:5](#) Or Messiah; also in verse 23
- b. [Matthew 24:15](#) Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11
- c. [Matthew 24:29](#) Isaiah 13:10; 34:4

**All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

Questions.

ThinkAboutIt...

1. What lasts forever according to Matthew 24:35?
2. There is a difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ. The Rapture is when Christ returns to take all who believe in Him as Savior to be with Him. Believers who have died will be resurrected and join those who are living in the air. The Second Coming is when Christ comes to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

ReflectOnIt...

3. Who alone knows exactly when Jesus' 2nd coming will be? If a person or a group set a date of His return should yo believe it?
4. Explain what Jesus means in Matthew 24:27. How can this information help you to know Jesus when He comes?
5. Why will all the nations of the earth mourn when Jesus comes??
6. Make a list of the things that Jesus says will happen to usher in the end of the age.
7. Read verses 6, 8, and 14. What does Jesus mean when He says, "the end is still to come"?
8. What physical and spiritual dangers will believers face in these times (Matthew 24:15-26)?
9. Why didn't Jesus answer specifically about when He would return?

RespondToIt...

10. Is it more important to know when He will return or to be prepared for Him to return at all times?
11. Are you and those you love ready for Jesus to come back?

Extra

Luke 17:26-28 (Days of Noah and the Days of Lot)
1 Thessalonians 4:13-19 (the dead in Christ will be raised)
1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (I tell you a mystery)
Revelation 1:7 (every eye will see Him)
Revelation 19:11-16 (the rider called Faithful and True)