Matthew 24:1-14

- Rejection of the King Matthew 19-25
 - o Because of the BAD example of the SCRIBES and PHARISEES [seat of Moses]
 - o Jesus gave them EIGHT warnings exposing them for the HYPOCRITES they were...
 - o But after this final REBUKE Jesus looked to the FUTURE!
- 1^{ST} END OF THE AGE ... VS. 1-4
 - o 1st Destruction of Temple... vs. 1-2
 - Departing...
 - Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple!
 - Having REBUKED the Religious leaders Jesus went OUT and LEFT the temple...
 - Note the emphasis He went OUT and LEFT [imperfect]
 - Because He would NEVER come back to THIS [second] temple!
 - It was the symbol of an OLD covenant that was going to be REPLACED...
 - Because its system of SACRIFICES could NEVER remove sin Hebrews 10:4
 - Jesus was going to prepare for the CROSS [three days] He would be the final SACRIFICE!
 - Temple Complex... vs. 1
 - His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple!
 - As they were leaving the TEMPLE the DISCIPLES showed Jesus the buildings...
 - From the foundation to the colonnade of Solomons porch to the TEMPLE itself...
 - The complex had some of the most amazing architecture in the Rome...
 - Even today the remaining foundations stones are impressive [33 x 3 x 2 meters]
 - Not one stone... vs. 2
 - Jesus said to them: Do you not see all these things?
 - I say to you not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down!
 - Jesus told them AMEN [ἀμὴν] ALL [$\pi \tilde{\alpha} \varsigma$] of these buildings will be destroyed...
 - Not a SINGLE stone would be left [où $\mu\dot{\eta}$ subjuntive] standing on another!
 - About 35 years later in 70 A.D. Israel rebelled against Rome...
 - Future Caesar Titus Vespasian responded with the TENTH Roman legion...
 - He laid siege to Jerusalem killing over one MILLION Jews destroying the city...
 - He did not intend to destroy the Temple but in the siege it caught fire...
 - The gold of the Temple melted between the stone blocks...
 - The Romans dismantled the Temple stone by stone to get the gold!
 - o 2nd The Timeline... vs. 3-4
 - Mount of Olives... vs. 3
 - Now as He sat on the Mount of Olive the disciples came to Him privately!
 - Jesus took the DISCIPLES across the KIDRON valley to the Mount of Olives [east side]
 - He sat down and gave them a PRIVATE teaching on the END times [Olivet Discourse]
 - The SECOND longest teaching by Jesus in Matthew [Sermon on the mount is longer]!
 - One THIRD of the Bible is PROPHECY God telling us about the FUTURE before it happens...
 - God uses PROPHECY to show us He and He alone is God almighty...
 - The only one who sees the END from the beginning Isaiah 46:10
 - Prophecy is how He validates His Word it is His fingerprint on the Scriptures!
 - When... vs. 3
 - Saying: Tell us when will these things be?
 - The pressing question on the heart of the DISCIPLES was WHEN...
 - When would the TEMPLE be destroyed and WHEN would the END come!

- There are TWELVE major events in the TIMELINE that leads to the END...
- FIRST: Jesus death burial and resurrection John 19:30
- SECOND: the birth of the Church Acts 2:1-4
- THIRD: the destruction of Israel 70 A.D.
- FOURTH: the rebirth of the Nation of Israel [1948] Ezekiel 37:1-14
- FIFTH: Rapture of the Church I Corinthians 15:51-53
- SIXTH: Magog invasion [Russia and Muslim world] Ezekiel 38:1-13
- SEVENTH: the SEVEN years of Tribulation **Revelation 6-18**
- EIGHTH: the Great Tribulation [after the abomination of desolation] Daniel 9:27
- NINTH: Second coming of Jesus Christ Revelation 19:11-21
- TENTH: Millennial Kingdom [thousand years] of Jesus Christ Revelation 20:1-7
- ELEVENTH: the Great White Throne **Revelation 20:11-15**
- TWELFTH: New Heaven and New Earth Revelation 21-22
- Sign... vs. 3
 - What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?
 - The DISCIPLES were also looking for a SIGN [σημεῖον]
 - Something they could SEE that would tell them Jesus was coming again SOON...
 - Proof that the END [conclusion] of the AGE of men was CLOSE...
 - Jesus is went on to give them SIX signs SIX things to look for...
 - That when they saw these things they would KNOW the END was near!
- Not deceived... vs. 4
 - Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you!
 - Jesus commanded them to LOOK [imperative] be on GUARD...
 - Because if they were NOT careful they might [subjuntive] be DECEIVED...
 - DECEIVED $[\pi\lambda\alpha\nu\dot{\alpha}\omega]$ where we get the word PLANET the WORLD!
 - We tend to think Jesus will NOT come back today [tomorrow will be like today]
 - We spend ALL of our time busy with the care of this WORLD $[\pi\lambda\alpha\nu\dot{\alpha}\omega]$
 - And we tend to FORGET we are living in the LAST days Jesus will return SOON...
 - The next prophetic event to occur is the RAPTURE of the Church I Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - No one knows the exact day or hour only the Father in heaven Mark 13:32
 - It will happen in a moment [ἄτομος] in the blink of an eye like a thief in the night...
 - His BELOVED [ἀγαπητός] the church will be snatched [ἀρπάζω] up into heaven...
 - It could happen NEXT week it could happen TODAY it could happen right NOW...
 - This is an important message both as an encouragement and warning...
 - Because we need to ask ourselves if Jesus came back TODAY are we ready!
 - **Luke 21:28** "When all these things begin to happen... look up for your salvation is near!"
- 2^{ND} The Signs... vs. 5-14
 - o 1st False Christs... vs. 5
 - For many will come in My name saying: I am the Christ and will deceive many!
 - FIRST because many will come [future] in the name of God...
 - Saying they are the [\dot{o}] CHRIST [$X\rho \iota \sigma \tau \dot{o}\varsigma$] and it will [indicative] DECEIVE [$\pi\lambda\alpha\nu\dot{\alpha}\omega$] many...
 - This could be referring to people actually claiming to be the CHRIST...
 - Or also people just claiming to speak for God anointed [Χριστός] by Him!
 - Apollo Quiboloy claims to be the ANOINTED [Χριστός] son of God [Davao]
 - There are almost eight MILLION members around the world in his cult [KIC]
 - Charles Taze Russel taught that Jesus Christ came to earth in 1914 [no evidence]
 - There are almost nine MILLION Jehovah Witnesses around the world!
 - Just because someone claims to speak for God does NOT mean they are...

- We need to be on GUARD so that we are NOT deceived $[\pi\lambda\alpha\nu\dot{\alpha}\omega]$
- Anything a PASTOR or LEADER says we compare to the WORD Acts 17:11
- o 2nd Wars... vs. 6-7
 - Nation against Nation... vs. 6-7
 - You will hear of wars and rumors of wars.
 - For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom!
 - SECOND we will hear about WARS and even when there are NOT wars...
 - There are RUMORS of WARS that might start at any time...
 - For NATIONS [ἔθνος] will go to war with other NATIONS ethnic wars...
 - And KINGDOM [βασιλεία] will go to war with other KINGDOMS political wars!
 - The word GENOCIDE was first coined in 1940 nation [ἔθνος] against nation [ἔθνος]
 - In the twentieth century there were numerous acts of GENOCIDE in the world [holocaust]
 - There were also TWO political [$\beta \alpha \sigma i \lambda \epsilon i \alpha$] world wars fought in the twentieth century...
 - And the lingering effects of those wars have left countless conflicts...
 - Including the war in UKRAINE the conflict in the MIDDLE east...
 - And the RUMORS of a possible WAR with CHINA over TAIWAN!
 - Fearful sights...
 - FEARFUL sights [φόβητρον] only used once **Luke 21:11**
 - $[\phi \delta \beta \eta]$ to cause fear and $[\tau \rho o \nu]$ a machine or technology...
 - A unique word that suggests technological innovations used to cause terror!
 - In the days of Jesus the more terrifying weapon might have been a sword or bow...
 - But how times have changed over the past hundred years technology has exploded...
 - And brought about the most terrifying technology man had ever invented NUCLEAR bomb!
 - Not the end... vs. 7
 - See that you are not troubled for all these things must come to pass but the end is not yet!
 - When we SEE these WARS we must [imperative] NOT be troubled...
 - Because they must ALL $[π\tilde{\alpha}\varsigma]$ happen but the END [τέλος] is not yet!
 - When we play chess the pieces move around the board...
 - Just because a particular piece moves does not mean the game is over...
 - But if we WATCH the way those pieces move tell us the END is close!
 - Those who do NOT know Jesus see all the WARS in the world today and FEAR...
 - But as we see the conflicts we get EXCITED because the chess pieces are MOVING...
 - When we see RUSSIA [Magog] forming an alliance with IRAN [Persia] Ezekiel 38
 - And when we see ISRAEL being attacked by proxies of IRAN [Hezbollah]
 - We know we are close to the Magog invasion which happens AFTER the RAPTURE!
- o 3rd Natural Disasters... vs. 7
 - Famines... vs. 7
 - There will be famines!
 - THIRD there will be natural [and man-made] disasters that come upon the world...
 - Including FAMINES people will have a shortage of food!
 - More people live in the world today than at any time in history over eight BILLION...
 - Which might make us think there would be a LACK of food to go around...
 - But with the invention of modern farming [fertilizer] and machines...
 - We are producing more food than at ANY time in history [enough to feed ten billion]
 - The problem is too much goes to some [first world] not enough to others [third world]
 - It is GREED a lack of COMPASSION that is at the root of FAMINE!
 - Diseases... vs. 7
 - Pestilences!

- PESTILENCE [λοιμός] referring to plagues or diseases!
- The world has had a number of MAJOR pandemics...
- Bubonic plague [black death] in 1300s killed almost fifty MILLION [half of the population]
- The Spanish flue in 1918 killed up to one hundred MILLION people...
- HIV [aids] is a current plague responsible for the deaths of almost fifty MILLION...
- Most recently the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the whole world!
- Earthquakes... vs. 7
 - Earthquakes in various places!
 - EARTHQUAKES [σεισμός] from the root word to SHAKE [σείω]
 - There are an average of twenty THOUSAND earthquakes every year [55 per day]
 - But only about TEN a year are considered as MAJOR [magnitude 7 or above]
 - There is mixed research on if they are INCREASING but they are COMMON!
 - God allows natural disasters [famine pestilence earthquakes] to get our attention...
 - When DISASTERS strike [no warning] and ravage our communities rip apart our lives...
 - We see how fragile life is and how quickly it can all come to a stop...
 - Which causes us to look up and think about the Lord!
- Sorrows... vs. 8
 - All these are the beginning of sorrows!
 - These first THREE signs are just the beginning [ἀρχή] of SORROWS...
 - SORROWS [ἀδίν] the pain the comes on a woman in child birth!
 - When a woman goes into LABOR it can take DAYS...
 - But the closer she get to delivery the CLOSER and STRONGER the contractions become...
 - That way the MOM knows to get ready because the baby is coming!
 - If we are paying attention we can see the BIRTH pains all around us...
 - We living in a world defined by FALSE teachers WARS and natural DISASTERS...
 - They are INCREASING because God is trying to get our attention...
 - He is trying to WARN us that the END is coming and we need to be READY!
- o 4th Persecution... vs. 9-10
 - Hated by everyone... vs. 9
 - Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you.
 - You will be hated by all nations for My names sake!
 - FOURTH then [τότε] once the SORROWS [ώδίν] have begun...
 - The world will [future] persecute [θλῖψις] and KILL believers...
 - We will be HATED by all $[\pi \tilde{\alpha} \varsigma]$ NATIONS $[\tilde{\epsilon}\theta v o \varsigma]$ for the name of Jesus
 - It is not restricted to a region or nation it is worldwide HATED!
 - Because men LOVE sin they HATE the light that reveals their sinfulness John 3:19-20
 - If we are Jesus FRIEND because they HATE Jesus they also HATE us...
 - Being the FRIEND of Jesus means being an ENEMY of this world!
 - John 15:18 "If the world hates you you know that it hated Me before it hated you."
 - Many Offended... vs. 10
 - Then many will be offended will betray one another and will hate one another!
 - As a RESULT of the persecution MANY [πολύς] will be STUMBLED [σκανδαλίζω]
 - They will BETRAY other believers [ἄλλος] and HATE them...
 - ullet Paul tells us in the LAST days MANY [πολύς] will FALL away II Thessalonians 2:3
 - FALL away [ἀποστασία] to depart form the FAITH!
 - 1976 over NINETY percent of the USA identified as Christian...
 - 2022 that number has dropped to just over SIXTY percent...
 - And the US is better on the whole than much of the rest of the Western world!

- The message of the Gospel is NOT about a better life it is about ETERNAL life...
- If we are looking to the WORLD $[\pi \lambda \alpha \nu \dot{\alpha} \omega]$ looking for a better life...
- And instead find that we are PERSECUTED for our faith in Jesus...
- It becomes very easy to walk away from the FAITH!
- o 5th No Love... vs. 11-13
 - False Prophets... vs. 11
 - Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many!
 - FIFTH because MANY [πολός] will be offended because of the TRUTH [Jesus] **John 14:6**
 - It will open the door for MANY [πολύς] false prophets [ψευδοπροφήτης]
 - They will come and DECEIVE [πλανάω] the MANY [πολύς] who are stumbled!
 - I know of a BIG church they openly teach people do NOT need to REPENT to be saved...
 - TEACHING the Old Testament is NOT real just Jewish stories written as moral lessons...
 - DENYING there is a hell it is just an invention of men meant to control people...
 - God LOVES everyone just as we are EVERYONE is saved...
 - But there is a PROBLEM it is not the TRUTH they are FALSE teachers!
 - People do not want TRUTH they look for people to tell them what they WANT to hear...
 - They look for pastors churches who tell them their LIFESTYLE is OK with God...
 - Because of this a lot of churches have gotten away from teaching the Word of God!
 - II Timothy 4:3 "A time is coming [and now is] when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will... look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear."
 - Lawlessness... vs. 12
 - And because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold!
 - As a result [διά] of the multiplication of the FALSE teachings [ἀνομία]
 - The LOVE [ἀγάπη] of MANY [πολύς] will be blown out [cold]!
 - Do NOT miss the progression of the MANY [πολύς]
 - The MANY $[\pi o \lambda \dot{v}_{\zeta}]$ are stumbled because of PERSECUTION for the sake of Jesus name...
 - Therefore the MANY [πολύς] then depart the true FAITH [ἀποστασία]
 - As a result the MANY $[\pi o \lambda \dot{o} \varsigma]$ will listen to FALSE teachers who itch their ears...
 - But because they no longer hear the TRUTH the LOVE of God leaves them...
 - Like a flickering candle the light of the Lord is blown out [cold] in their life!
 - Endure to the end... vs. 13
 - But he who endures to the end shall be saved!
 - BUT $[\delta \epsilon]$ the person who ABIDES $[\mu \epsilon \nu \omega]$ to the END $[\tau \epsilon \lambda \sigma \varsigma]$ will be saved...
 - Abide is one of those funny Biblical words we never use it...
 - It is better interpreted to ENDURE or stubbornly refuse to let go of Jesus!
 - If we are shipwrecked in the ocean and someone throws us a life preserver...
 - We do not casually hold on we CLING to it with all our strength!
 - The ONLY way we can be sure we are READY for the END...
 - Is to make sure we are CLINGING to Jesus like our life depends on it!
- o 6th The Gospel... vs. 14
 - This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations.
 - Then the end will come!
 - SIXTH the final SIGN that the end is coming is the GOOD news [gospel]
 - It will [future] be preached [passive] to the WHOLE world to ALL $[\pi\tilde{\alpha}\varsigma]$ nations!
 - There are those who teach that if we PREACH to more people...
 - We can expedite the return of Jesus because once the WHOLE world hears the END comes...
 - But it would seem we are NOT the ones who do the PREACHING [passive]
 - During the tribulation ONE angel preaches the Gospel to all creation Revelation 14:6

- And not long after Jesus comes out of heaven which is the END!
- The church has struggled for TWO thousand years to spread the GOSPEL across the world...
- But God does it in a single DAY using just ONE angel…
- Obviously God does NOT need us He uses us because He LOVES us…
- What He wants from us is to be READY because the END` is coming soon!