

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!

- **1ST - 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 [ἀμήν] - ALL [πᾶς] of these buildings will be destroyed...
 - Not a SINGLE stone would be left [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] 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 [subjunctive] be DECEIVED...
- DECEIVED [πλανάω] - 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 [πλανάω]
- 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 [ἁρπάζω] 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!"

• 2ND - 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 [ὁ] CHRIST [Χριστός] - and it will [indicative] DECEIVE [πλανάω] 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 [KJC]
- 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 [πλανᾶω]
 - 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 [βασιλεία] 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**
 - [φόβη] - to cause fear - and [τρον] - 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 [πᾶς] 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 [σειώ]
 - 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 [ὠδίν] - 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 [ὠδίν] have begun...
 - The world will [future] persecute [θλίψις] and KILL believers...
 - We will be HATED by all [πᾶς] NATIONS [ἔθνος] 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...
 - 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 [πλανάω] - 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 [πολύς] 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 [διὰ] 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 [πολύς] 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 [πολύς] 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 [δέ] - the person who ABIDES [μένω] to the END [τέλος] 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 [πᾶς] 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!