

Matthew 24:15-31

- **REJECTION OF THE KING - Matthew 19-25**

- o End of the Age...

- Jesus departed the Temple [for the last time]
- And told His disciples - not ONE stone would be left upon another [70 A.D.]
- Crossing over the Mount of Olives - the disciples asked Him TWO questions...
- WHEN would these things be? What would be the sign of the end of the age?

- o The Signs...

- Jesus gave them SIX signs that would mark the beginning of the end...
- FIRST - there will be FALSE christs [men claiming to speak for God]
- SECOND - there will be WARS [and rumors] - with fearful sights [nuclear weapons]
- THIRD - there will be NATURAL disaster - but these would just be BIRTH pains...
- FOURTH - there will be PERSECUTION - we will be hated because of Jesus...
- FIFTH - there will be NO love - many will walk away from the FAITH - listen to FALSE teachers...
- SIXTH - the Gospel will be preached to the whole world - **Revelation 14:6**

- **1ST - THE TRIBULATION... vs. 15-28**

- o 1st - Abomination of Desolation... vs. 15

- No Church...
 - Having given the SIX signs that will lead up to the END [all of which we see today]
 - Jesus told the DISCIPLES what will happen when the END comes...
 - But we must NOT forget the CONTEXT - Jesus is speaking to ISRAEL [not the church]
 - And when the END comes - the RAPTURE will have occurred - the CHURCH is in heaven!
 - **Revelation 4:1** - "After these [Μετὰ ταῦτα] things... I heard... Come up here."
 - It is worth noting the word CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] appears TWENTY times in REVELATION...
 - NINETEEN times in the first THREE chapters - then ONCE in - **Revelation 22:16**
 - It is NEVER mentioned ONCE during the Tribulation - **Revelation 6-18**
 - Because the church CANNOT be around when the ANTICHRIST comes...
 - If we were still here - we would immediately know [Holy Spirit] he was a FALSE messiah...
 - We need to be removed before he can rise to power!
 - **II Thessalonians 2:7** - "He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way."
- Seventy weeks...
 - Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation - spoken of by Daniel the prophet!
 - THEREFORE - in light of knowing the SIX signs are all there...
 - What happens next [future] will occur once again in ISRAEL - in the city of JERUSALEM!
 - Israel is like a CLOCK - it is how God tells time prophetically...
 - And the SEVENTY weeks of Daniel - tell us how much time is on that CLOCK - **Daniel 9:24-27**
 - God told Daniel there are SEVENTY sets of SEVEN [490 years] left for Israel...
 - Until there will be no more sin - and God establishes His kingdom!
- Death of the Messiah...
 - The start of the CLOCK - was the command to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem!
 - This happened on March 14 - 445 B.C. - **Nehemiah 2:1-8**
 - If we count 483 years [69 x 7] - or 173,880 days [69 x 360] - it brings us to...
 - April 6 - 32 A.D. [Palm Sunday] - the day Jesus proclaimed Himself the Messiah...
 - But Daniel told us that the Messiah [מָשִׁיחַ] would be killed [כָּרַת] - **Daniel 9:26**
 - This stopped the CLOCK - with SEVEN years still left [been stopped for 2000 years]!

- Peace treaty...
 - In the wake of the RAPTURE - millions of people disappearing - **I Thessalonians 4:17**
 - And the destruction of the armies of Russia and Iran [Magog invasion] - **Ezekiel 38**
 - One man will confirm a PEACE treaty with Israel for SEVEN years - **Daniel 9:27**
 - The final SEVEN years - leading up to the END!
 - This man has many titles - but we most often refer to him as the ANTICHRIST – **I John 2:18**
 - He will be a leader who will rise out of Europe – **Daniel 7:8**
 - There is a good chance he will have Jewish heritage [God of his fathers] – **Daniel 11:37**
 - He will make PEACE by offering to build the THIRD Temple for Israel – **Revelation 11:1**
 - North of the Dome of the Rock [monument] – in a place called the Dome of the Spirit...
 - He will rebuild the Temple – as proof he is the messiah – and ISRAEL will embrace him!
 - **John 5:43** - “I have come in My Fathers name and you do not receive Me. If another comes in his own name him you will receive.”
- Third Temple...
 - Standing in the holy place [whoever reads let him understand]!
 - The ANTICHRIST will stand in the HOLIEST [ἅγιος] of All...
 - To which Jesus tells us to READ [γινώσκω] and KNOW [imperative] what that means!
 - This man will NOT honor God – he thinks he is ABOVE God - **II Thessalonians 2:4**
 - Half way through the Tribulation - he will perform the Abomination of Desolation...
 - The Antichrist will enter the rebuilt THIRD temple – into the Holiest of All – **Daniel 9:27**
 - The footstool of God – where the Ark of the Covenant once stood [first Temple only]
 - There he will demand he is god – and should be worshiped!
 - There is a good chance that this man is alive today – waiting for the right time...
 - Because he cannot be revealed UNTIL the church is removed – the RAPTURE!
- o 2nd - Run... vs. 16-20
 - Petra... vs. 16
 - Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains!
 - When ISRAEL sees [future] the ABOMINATION of desolation - they MUST run [imperative]
 - They are to flee to the MOUNTAINS [ὄρος] - to the WILDERNESS - **Revelation 12:14**
 - There is a LOT of speculation as to WHERE this hiding place might be...
 - A common view is the city of PETRA [the rock] – in modern day Jordan...
 - The city is in the MOUNTAINS to the EAST of Israel...
 - And when Jesus returns – He first goes to BOZRAH [Jordan] – **Isaiah 63:1**
 - The city of PETRA [Greek] – is called in the Hebrew SELA [סֵלָע]
 - **Psalms 18:2** – “The LORD is my rock [סֵלָע] and my fortress and my deliverer.”
 - Take nothing... vs. 17-18
 - Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.
 - And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes!
 - If someone is on top of the HOUSE - do NOT [imperative] go to get anything from inside...
 - If they are in the FIELD - do NOT [imperative] go home to get clothes!
 - When LOT fled from Sodom and Gomorrah - his wife LOOKED back - **Genesis 19:26**
 - As a results she did NOT make it out [pillar of salt] - **Luke 17:32**
 - The things of this life are NOT worth - losing our life over!
 - Pray... vs. 19
 - Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days.
 - Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath!
- Jesus goes on to paint the struggles MOTHERS will have...

- Trying to RUN while you are pregnant - or have toddlers - is NOT easy...
 - If it happens in the WINTER - it is much harder to TRAVEL...
 - If it happens on the SABBATH - then the Jews are NOT supposed to TRAVEL [no work]
 - Therefore PRAY [imperative] - so that God will give FAVOR in that day of TRIBULATION!
 - We do NOT have to worry about RUNNING away during the TRIBULATION...
 - But it is still wise to remember to PRAY when we are going through TRIALS...
 - NOT that PRAY will change our CIRCUMSTANCES - but it will change our PERSPECTIVE!
- o 3rd - Great Tribulation... vs. 21-22
- Judgment of God... vs. 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!
 - The reason why ISRAEL needs to RUN - is because of the GREAT [μέγας] Tribulation [θλίψις]
 - A time unlike ANYTHING the world has [perfect] ever seen since the beginning [ἀρχή]
 - And NOTHING [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] like it will ever happen again!
 - In the Book of Revelation – there are 21 judgments [three sets of seven]
 - The SEAL and TRUMPET judgements occur the FIRST three and half years...
 - The BOWL judgements [far worse] occur in the LAST three and a half years - **Revelation 16**
 - This final set of BOWL judgments is known as the GREAT [μέγας] Tribulation!
 - Limited time... vs. 22
 - Unless those days were shortened - no flesh would be saved!
 - If those days were NOT limited [κολοβόω] - then NO one would be SAVED [σῶζω]
 - Not that Jesus will REDUCE the number of days - but it will NOT go longer!
 - The Bible is VERY clear on the timeline - it will be 3.5 years [half of seven]
 - The ANTICHRIST will blasphemy for FORTY two months [3.5 years] - **Revelation 13:5**
 - And that Israel will hide from him for 1260 days [3.5 years] - **Revelation 12:6**
 - The Elect... vs. 22
 - For the elects sake those days will be shortened!
 - For the SAKE of the ELECT [ἐκλεκτός] - those days are LIMITED [κολοβόω]
 - Referring to the MULTITUDES who are saved during the TRIBULATION - **Revelation 7:9**
 - This has caused some confusion - because the CHURCH is also called the ELECT - **I Peter 2:4**
 - Which has led some to believe the RAPTURE occurs in the MIDDLE of the Tribulation...
 - Those who hold this view point out the LAST trumpet – **I Corinthians 15:52**
 - They see this as LAST of the SEVEN trumpets blown in - **Revelation 11:15**
 - Believing the WRATH of God only begins halfway through the Tribulation...
 - But by the time the SIXTH trumpet is blown – 60% of the world has already perished!
 - We will NOT be RAPTURED in the MIDDLE of the tribulation [mid-trib]
 - As believers we are not appointed to WRATH - **I Thessalonians 5:9**
 - The CHURCH is ABSENT throughout the entire time of the Tribulation!
- o 4th - Anti Christ... vs. 23-26
- The mark... vs. 23
 - Then if anyone says to you: Look here is the christ! or there! do not believe it!
 - In those final 3.5 years - people need to be CAREFUL...
 - If anyone says the CHRIST [ἡ ψῆ] is here or there - do NOT put your faith [πίστις] in him!
 - The way the world will show their FAITH in this false MESSIAH...
 - Will be by taking the MARK of the beast [to buy or sell] - **Revelation 13:16**
 - The number of the MARK will be 666 [unholy trinity] - **Revelation 13:18**
 - There has been a LOT of speculation as to what this MARK might be...
 - Some say it could be a BAR code – which happens to use SIX [three times] as delineators...

- Others say it could be a RFID chip – implanted under our skin...
- But BAR codes – and RFID chips – are NOT the MARK in of themselves...
- The MARK of the BEAST - is people putting their FAITH in the ANTICHRIST [beast]
- Which is why – even if it means NOT being able to BUY or SELL...
- NEVER take the MARK – because those who do CANNOT be saved!
- **Revelation 14:11** – “The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever... who worship the beast and his image - and whoever receives the mark of his name.”
- Signs and wonders... vs. 24-25
 - For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders.
 - To deceive - if possible - even the elect. See I have told you beforehand!
 - We might ask - if taking the MARK means a person goes to HELL...
 - Why would ANYONE be willing to put their FAITH in the ANTICHRIST...
 - The answer is this FALSE messiah [ψευδόχριστος] - and his FALSE prophet [ψευδοπροφήτης]
 - Will performs great [μέγας] SIGNS [σημείον] and WONDERS [τέρα]
 - That are so CONVINCING - if possible [δυνατός] - they would deceive the ELECT [ἐκλεκτός]
 - BEHOLD [imperative] - Jesus tells us to consider ourselves WARNED [told beforehand]!
 - The ANTICHRIST will be resurrected from the dead - **Revelation 13:3**
 - And his FALSE prophet can call make images of the ANTICHRIST speak - **Revelation 13:14**
 - This is NOT come computer generated AI - or special effects...
 - This is a SIGN so convincing - if possible - it has the power [δυνατός] to deceive believers...
 - Which is why there is a very real danger to following SIGNS and WONDERS...
 - Satan can and will imitate God – he can look just like the real thing - **II Corinthians 11:14**
 - The only way to know the truth is by being men and women of the Word...
 - Jesus Word is the Truth – it is how we know the truth from a lie - **II Timothy 2:15**
- In the desert... vs. 26
 - Therefore if they say to you: Look he is in the desert! do not go out!
 - If they claim the MESSIAH [מָשִׁיחַ] is in the DESERT - you should [subjunctive] NOT go!
 - This could be a reference to the prophecy of Zechariah - **Zechariah 5:8**
 - Who saw WICKEDNESS [רָשָׁע] being taken to the DESERT - to BABYLON [plains of Shinar]
 - Perhaps pointing to where the ANTICHRIST will set up his government!
 - Revelation 17:5 - “BABYLON THE GREAT... THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”
- The room... vs. 26
 - Look he is in the inner rooms! do not believe it!
 - If they claim the MESSIAH [מָשִׁיחַ] is in the ROOM - you should [subjunctive] NOT believe them!
 - The Jehovah Witnesses claim Jesus came to New York City in October of 1914...
 - Of course ONLY the chosen few were witnesses as he came to an INNER room [ταμειον]
 - There is NO reason for the people to be DECEIVED by signs and wonders...
 - We have been warned about the LIES - given the TRUTH...
 - Yet Jesus says we SHOULD [subjunctive] not believe - because people do NOT listen!
- o 5th - Armageddon... vs. 27-28
 - Lightning... vs. 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!
 - Instead of being DECEIVED by FALSE messiahs and prophets...
 - We should instead recognize they are the PROOF the END is near...
 - Because just as LIGHTENING reflects across the sky [from east to west]
 - So also it will be when the SON of man [title for Jesus] - COMES [παρουσία]
 - The reason why there is a FALSE messiah - it because the real one is close!

- Eagles... vs. 28
 - For wherever the carcass is - there the eagles will be gathered together!
 - Just as when we see VULTURES [ἄετός] - we know there are dead bodies [carrion]!
 - This may also be a foreshadowing of what is coming...
 - For when the true MESSIAH comes - He will go to the valley of MEGIDDO - **Revelation 16:16**
 - Where the ANTICHRIST and his armies will face off against Jesus...
 - But with a single WORD - they will all PERISH - **II Thessalonians 2:8**
 - And ANGEL will call the BIRDS to the great SUPPER of God - **Revelation 19:17**
 - Because there is no question as to how the story END - God WINS!
- 2ND - SECOND COMING... vs. 29-31
 - o 1st - Heaven shaken... vs. 29
 - After the Tribulation...
 - Immediately after the tribulation of those days!
 - At the end of the final SEVEN years of Daniel [490 total]
 - 3.5 years - or 42 months - or 1260 days after the Abomination of Desolation...
 - IMMEDIATELY - right on TIME - the END will come!
 - Powers of Heaven...
 - 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!
 - The SUN and MOON will go DARK - **Joel 2:10**
 - And the STARS from heaven will [future] FALL down...
 - So that the POWERS [δύναμις] of HEAVEN are overthrown!
 - John describes a scene in heaven where God casts out the DRAGON [satan] - **Revelation 12:9**
 - And when he falls - a THIRD of the STARS [his angels] fall with him!
 - There are FOUR times in the Bible we read about SATAN being CAST down...
 - FIRST – when Lucifer [satan] rebelled against God in the beginning – **Isaiah 14:12**
 - Jesus would go on to describe him as FALLING like LIGHTENING – **Luke 10:18**
 - SECOND – when he is finally CAST out of heaven for GOOD [overthrown]
 - THIRD – when he is CAST into the bottomless pit for THOUSAND years – **Revelation 20:3**
 - FOURTH – when he is CAST into the LAKE of fire [eternal prison] – **Revelation 20:10**
 - o 2nd - Son of man... vs. 30
 - The Sign... vs. 30
 - Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven!
 - Then THE [τὸ] SIGN [σημεῖον] will appear in heaven...
 - The SON of Man will come riding out of heaven on a WHITE horse!
 - **Revelation 19:16** – “He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...”
 - Mourning... vs. 30
 - Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn.
 - They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory!
 - ALL [πᾶς] NATIONS [φυλαί] of the earth will SEE [livestream] Jesus when He RETURNS...
 - These nations will MOURN when they He comes in the clouds...
 - MOURN [κόπτω] – to beat their chest in grief – to be CUT off...
 - Because there is no more TIME to repent – the JUDGEMENT has come!
 - The POINT – is that we do not have a lot of TIME left...
 - Because BEFORE the TRIBULATION – BEFORE the SECOND coming of Jesus...
 - The CHURCH must be RAPTURED [ἁρπάζω] - **I Thessalonians 4:14-17**

- The ONLY way to be sure to avoid the WRATH of God – is to receive His GRACE today!
- o 3rd - The elect... vs. 31
 - He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet.
 - They will gather together His elect from the four winds - from one end of heaven to the other!
 - The word ELECT [ἐκλεκτός] has again caused some confusion...
 - This is again a reference to those who come to FAITH during the TRIBULATION...
 - At his return the LORD will send [ἀποστέλλω] our His ANGELS - with a great [μέγας] TRUMPET...
 - To gather the BELIEVERS from the FOUR corners of the earth - **Revelation 14:15**
 - POST-TRIB holds to a RAPTURE at the END of the SEVEN years...
 - But no one knows the day or the hour when the RAPTURE will occur – **Mark 13:32**
 - The RAPTURE will happen like a THIEF in the night – **I Thessalonian 5:2 – II Peter 3:10**
 - And we KNOW the exact day when the LORD will come BACK...
 - Therefore - knowing what is COMING - we need to be ready TODAY!