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

• 1^{ST} - 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 [משיה] would be killed [כרת] 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 [ἄγιος] 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 [סֶלַע]
 - **Psalm 18:2** "The LORD is my rock [סֶלַע] 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 [θλῖψις]
 - A time unlike ANYTHING the world has [perfect] ever seen since the beginning [ἀρχή]
 - And NOTHING [οὐ μὴ subjuntive] 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 [σώζω]
 - 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 [מְשִׁיהַ] is here or there do NOT put your faith [π ίστις] 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 [σημεῖον] and WONDERS [τέρας]
 - ullet 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 [מָשִׁיהַ] is in the DESERT you should [subjuntive] NOT go!
 - This could be a reference to the prophecy of Zechariah Zechariah 5:8
 - Who saw WICKEDNESS [רְשֵׁע] 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 [מֶשִׁיהַ] is in the ROOM you should [subjuntive] 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 [ταμεῖον]
 - 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 [subjuntive] not believe because people do NOT listen!
- o 5th Armageddon... vs. 27-28
 - Lightening... 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]
 - ullet 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 [$\dot{\alpha}$ $\epsilon \tau \dot{\delta} c_{\gamma}$] 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!
- 2^{ND} 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 heave 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 bit for THOUSAND years **Revelation 20:3**
 - FOURTH when he is CAST into the LAKE of fire [eternal prison] Revelation 20:10
 - o 2^{nd} 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 $[\pi \tilde{\alpha} \varsigma]$ NATIONS $[\phi \upsilon \lambda \alpha \tilde{\iota}]$ 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 [άρπάζω] 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!