

## **BACK TO THE FUTURE: UNDERSTANDING REVELATION IN LIGHT OF JESUS' PROPHECY**

### *Setting the Stage and the Covenant Lawsuit Against Jerusalem*

(Revelation 1:1–3; Matthew 23:29–39; Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20–24; Revelation 11:8; Revelation 18:24)

*"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1)*

*"for the time is near." (Revelation 1:3)*

*"Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."  
(Matthew 24:34)*

Today, we're going to see two connected truths:

- How Revelation sets the stage for judgment and kingdom advancement. And,
- How Jesus brings a covenant lawsuit against Jerusalem, proving that God keeps His word in both judgment and salvation.

#### **❖ Setting the Stage: We See Nearness, Judgment, and the Kingdom**

- **The Problem of Reading Revelation Without Audience Relevance** (Revelation 1:1, 3)
- **The Link Between Matthew's Olivet Discourse and Revelation's Early Visions**

*"Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another" (Matt. 24:2)*

*"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3)*

*"This generation will not pass away until all these things take place." (Matthew 24:34)*

*"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near" (Luke 21:20)*

- **Why AD 70 Is Central in God's Covenant Dealings**
- **How Judgment and Kingdom Advancement Go Together**

*"This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations" (Matt. 24:14)*

❖ **The Covenant Lawsuit Against Jerusalem** (Matthew 23:29–39; Revelation 18:24; Revelation 11:8)

*"Behold, your house is left to you desolate." (Matthew 23)*

- **The Old Testament Prophetic Lawsuit Pattern**

*"All that the Lord has spoken, we will do" (Ex. 24:7)*

*"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord has spoken" (Isa. 1:2)*

Every prophetic book has this pattern: **indictment, warning, call to repentance, and sentence.**

- **Matthew 23 – The Seven Woes and the Desolation of the Temple**

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” (Matt. 23:29)*

*“So that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth... Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation” (Matt. 23:35–36)*

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is left to you desolate” (Matt. 23:37–38)*

- **Revelation’s Babylon Imagery and Prophetic Bloodguilt**

*“In her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth” (Rev. 18:24)*

- **Why This Matters for Understanding the Fall of Jerusalem**