

Matthew 24 - Sermon Notes - December 5, 2021

JESUS IS COMING SOON!

- this is the most wonderful time of the year!
- decorations, trees, get-togethers, parades, plays and stories, nativity scenes
- many people have reduced Christmas to these things, and have forgotten the real reason that we celebrate
 - [John 3.16](#) - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- that was the same thing that happened at the first Christmas - most people were so preoccupied with life, or don't know or care, that it was the time foretold by the prophets
- there is an eerie similarity to the days we are living in
- you see, as those who were living in the first century were oblivious to the coming of the King, so are we today
- the King is coming and most people are so preoccupied with life, or don't know or care, that it is the time foretold by the prophets
- Paul gives us a solemn warning about that in [Hebrews 9.27-28](#) - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
- it is with those thoughts in mind that we look at what is called the Olivet Discourse because I believe that the Father wants every Christian of every age to live in the hope of the soon return of Jesus

1. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE

(1-2) NOT ONE STONE LEFT UPON ANOTHER

- calling attention to the beauty of the Temple, Jesus simply reminded them that everything they were looking at would be destroyed
 - literally fulfilled when Titus marched on the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
- there is a similar warning to those who focus on stuff

- [2 Peter 3:10](#) - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

(3) WHEN WILL THESE THINGS BE?

- in a quieter moment, away from the Temple, but on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple, the disciples asked about when this would happen
- their questions were really one because in the Jewish mind, the destruction of the Temple would be the end of the world because that Temple had been the center of Jewish life for over a thousand years

2. THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

(4-8) SUMMARY OF HISTORY FROM THEN UNTIL THE LORD RETURNS

- Jesus described events that would happen during the years, decades, centuries, and millennia preceding His return and the end of the world
- these events are not necessarily signs that the end is near
- the key = the beginnings of sorrows, literally the pangs of childbirth
- as with childbirth, the closer to delivery, the labor pains become more frequent and more intense
- so it is with these events as we approach the time of His return

(9-14) ENDURING TO THE END

- Jesus speaks of worldwide hatred and persecution of the people of God
- many people will be offended, and hatred will be the norm
- the truth will be attacked by false teachers, and there will be great deception
- there will be regard for law - each person will decide what is right and wrong
- the love of many will grow cold
- the warning not to be sucked in - hold on to your faith and trust in Jesus regardless of what you see happening around you
- in spite of all of this, the Gospel will be preached to the entire world
 - [Isaiah 59:19](#) - So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.
 - [Revelation 14:6-7](#) - Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

3. THE RETURN

(15) THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

- Jesus is referring to a prophecy by Daniel

- [Daniel 9.27](#) - Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."
- [Daniel 11.31](#) - "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily [sacrifices], and place [there] the abomination of desolation.
- [Daniel 12.11](#) - "And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, [there shall be] one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

- this is what Paul was referring to in [2 Thessalonians 2.3-4](#) - Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- it is what Jon was referring to in [Revelation 13.14-15](#) - And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted [power] to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

(16-20) WARNINGS TO THE JEWS

- the language here refers to Jews during the time of the Great Tribulation

- those in Judea
- how many of us in the west have a place of entertainment on our rooftops
- how many of us are concerned about travelling on the Sabbath

(21-28) THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- this will be the worst time of human history when over 1/2 of the worlds population will die or be killed

- those that believe this was fulfilled in 70 A.D. are hard pressed to say that was the worst time in the history of the world

- never before in human history have we ever thought about the entire world being destroyed
- this will be a time of massive deception
- when Jesus returns at the end of the Great Tribulation, the whole world will know and see it
- the gathering of the birds to the carcass could be referring to the battle of Armageddon where the birds of the air are invited to feast the flesh of men

(29-31) JESUS COMES

(32-35) WARNING

4. IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN - BE READY

(36) WE DON'T KNOW WHEN

(37-39) LIKE THE DAYS OF NOAH

(40-44) WATCH AND BE READY

- show video

5. PARABLE OF THE TWO SERVANTS

(45-46) THE WISE SERVANT

(47-51) THE FOOLISH SERVANT