

# Matthew 24.1-31 - Sermon Notes - November 28, 2021

## THE COMING OF THE END

- one of the greatest questions that often think about is, what does the future hold
- for many, that is translated into worry and stress
- others are fearful
- for the person who has committed their life to following God, the future looks bright because we know how the story ends
- we have a blessed hope
  - [Titus 2.11-15](#) - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself [His] own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.
- sometimes in the waiting, it is easy to lose hope and become discouraged
- that's why Paul said that we should encourage and comfort each other with the fact of the Rapture
  - [1 Thessalonians 4.16-18](#) - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- that's why it is important that we hang out together as much as we can
  - [Hebrews 10.24-25](#) - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- here in what is called the Olivet Discourse, Jesus talks about what has been the hope of the Church for 2,000 years - His Coming and the end of the world

## **1. DESTRUCTION OF TEMPLE PREDICTED**

### **(1-2) NOT ONE STONE LEFT UPON ANOTHER**

- Jesus had confronted the religious leaders about their hypocrisy, and had accused them of being dead spiritually
- after lamenting over Jerusalem and their rejection of Him, Jesus leaves the temple and heads back across the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olive
- as they were leaving, the disciples point out the magnificence of the Temple structure, Jesus talked to them about the Temple being destroyed
- this temple was originally built by Zerubbabel and Ezra.
- Herod the Great had done a lot of work in beautifying the temple
- the temple was the center of Jewish life for almost a thousand years
- The Jewish historian Josephus said that the temple was covered with gold plates, and when the sun shone on them it was blinding to look at. Where there was no gold, there were blocks of marble of such a pure white that from a distance strangers thought there was snow on the temple.
- the stones were massive, measuring twenty feet high, twenty feet wide, and forty feet long
- literally fulfilled in 70 A.D., when Titus and the Romans marched into Jerusalem to quench the Jewish rebellion
- Rich Cathers
  - The Romans were known for being respecters of other nations' religions. They had never torn down another nation's temples. I would imagine the Jews in Israel felt pretty good about their Temple, despite the fact of the Roman rule over the land. But that changed in AD 70 when Titus moved to put down the Jewish revolt.
  - When the Titus took Jerusalem, he intended that the temple be left in tact. After getting into the city, the battle headed toward the temple where 6,000 Jews were holed up. On August 30, in the attack in the inner court, a soldier tossed a firebrand through a window into one of the side chambers. Titus rushed up shouting commands for the fire to be extinguished, but wasn't obeyed. Another soldier tossed a burning brand into the Holy Place that set the sanctuary itself on fire. The 6,000 people in the temple complex died.
  - The fire melted the gold of the Temple and the molten gold seeped into the cracks between the stones. The Romans pulled the stones apart in order to salvage the gold.

- if this happened just as Jesus said that it would, what should we think about the test of this chapter

### **(3) WHEN WILL THESE THINGS BE?**

- as they were sitting on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple, the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him what they thought was one question - When will these things happen

## **2. SIGNS PRECEDING THE COMING OF JESUS**

### **(4-8) THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS**

- His first warning = Do not be deceived

- the danger of many coming claiming to be the Messiah

- why is it that before Jesus came, we have no record of someone claiming to be Christ, but after His coming there have been many

- wars and rumors of war

- what are we hearing today?

- Russia
- Israel and Iran
- China and Taiwan
- Turkey and Syria
- infighting and conflict between sects of Islam and tribal leaders in Afghanistan
- think of all that we hear of massive amounts of money being spent on military hardware

- the problem of world hunger

- pestilences - diseases for which there is no answer or remedy

- look at the world-wide impact of Covid, and now we are hearing of a more powerful, vaccine resistant strain called Omicron

- earthquakes

- the beginning of sorrows = literally - the beginning of birth pains

### **(9-14) THE LOVE OF MANY WILL GROW COLD**

- world-wide anti-Semitism - hatred and persecution of the Jewish people

- second, the hatred of the world for anyone who follows the God of the bible

- the warning about the deception of false prophets

- lawlessness will abound

- the love of many will grow cold

- the gospel preached to the nations

## **3. THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**(15) THHE ABOMINAION OF DESOLATION**

**(16-20) WARNINGS TO THE JEWS**

**(21-28) GREAT TRIBUALTION**

**(29-31) THE SECOND COMING**

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