

WARNING SIGNS | MATTHEW 24:32-44 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 11/05/2023

I. The Fig Tree (32-36) | II. The Days of Noah (37-42) III. The Thief (43-44)

Intro: – In (Matt 24:3) the disciples asked Jesus, “*What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?*” Jesus then expounded on several **Signs of the End**: providing the signs of the **Temple (1-2)**, the signs of the **Nations (3-14)**, the signs the **Tribulation period (15-28)**, and the signs of **Heaven (29-31)**. – In our study today, we will examine the ***Warning Signs** Jesus gave to his disciples, which teaches us to Be Ready! – Because these signs are still in the future, many are still uncertain as to **WHEN all of these events will pour out** but let me be clear... **THEY WILL HAPPEN!** Before we unpack **The Warning Signs of (Matt 24:32-44)**, **I want to review some highlights of the end-time scenario:**

The next major trigger is...

1. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH (1 Cor 15:51-58; 1 Thess 4:16-17) – *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.* ¹⁷ *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.* – This event **ends the church age**, and believers will “*be with the Lord forever.*” At this point the clock starts ticking again on the **70-week prophecy of Daniel 9**, of which all focus returns to Israel for the last seven years. **The rapture can happen at any moment!**

2. THE ANTI-CHRIST APPEARS (Dan 9:26-27; 2 Thess 2:3-4) – He is the leader of the 10 European nations who will **make a 7-year covenant with Israel**, bringing Peace to the region at the beginning of the tribulation period. He will arrange for the Temple to be rebuilt, which allows the Jews to **reestablish the sacrifices**.

- But (Dan 9:27) makes clear that, **after 3 ½ years** “*he will bring an end to sacrifice and offering,*” placing a sacrilegious object in the temple, and **declaring himself to be God!** (*i.e., The Abomination of Desolation – of Matt 24*)
- (Rev 13) then foretells of a “**beast**” who will rule with absolute authority during the **second half of the tribulation**: (Rev 13:5) “*The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months*” – Along with the false Prophet, he will **control the world** and will force people to worship him (Rev 13:8), causing many to “**receive a mark**” in their right hand or forehead **in order to buy or sell**. (Many will be deceived into receiving “the mark of the beast,” (Rev 19:20)
- **Once again, is this known as the great tribulation or Jacob’s Trouble.**

At the climax of this terrible time...

3. THE NATIONS GATHER AT ARMAGEDDON (Ezk 38; Zech 12; Rev 16:12-16 – Rev 19:11-20) – The word **ARMEGEDDON** makes its only appearance in the Bible in (Rev 16:16). It happens toward the end of the tribulation when an **angel pours out the sixth bowl judgment** on the earth. *Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared...* **OVER**

¹³ And I saw **three unclean spirits like frogs** coming out of the mouth of **the DRAGON** (i.e., Satan, the devil), out of the mouth of **BEAST** (i.e., anti-Christ), and out of the mouth of **the FALSE PROPHET**. ¹⁴ **For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty...**¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, **ARMEGEDDON**. – These demonic forces cause many nations to **fight against Jerusalem**, and eventually against the **Rider of the White Horse**, i.e., Jesus Christ, **KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS!** (Rev 19:19)

4. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (Matt 24:27-28; Rev 19ff; Zech 12:7-13:1) – In (Rev 1:7), we're told that **He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn!** – When He comes, (Rev 19:11–21), tells us that **the triumphant Christ conquers the troops of the Antichrist** in a decisive battle that takes place during His second coming. – Finally, (Zech 12:9) tells us that [God] **“will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”**

- **At the Consummation of Armageddon**, the **Beast and the False Prophet** were captured and **hurled into the Lake of Fire**, while still alive! And all the those in opposition were killed with the sword from Jesus' mouth! (Rev 19:20-21) and their flesh will be eaten by birds!

At which point we read of ...

5. THE BINDING OF SATAN (Rev 20:1-3) – **Satan goes to jail!** Satan is captured, but not yet destroyed. He is **chained up in the bottomless pit** and **rendered powerless until after a 1,000 year period**. This thousand-year period is commonly referred to as the **Millennial Kingdom**.

6. THE MILLENIAL REIGN OF CHRIST (Rev 20:3b-7a) – These verses provide **the exact time frame of a literal millennial kingdom on earth**. – According to the Bible, Christ will **establish His kingdom in Jerusalem** and take the throne of David when He returns (Luke 1:32–33), **all in fulfillment of the UNCONDITIONAL COVENANTS**: The Abrahamic, Palestinian, and Davidic Covenants, as promised by God. The Davidic Covenant promised Israel a king from David's line who would rule forever—giving the nation rest from all their enemies (*cf.* Gen 12:1-3; Deut 30:1-10; 2 Sam 7:10–13).

- For the kingdom to be established, **Christ must literally and physically return**, according to the unconditional promises.
- At the end of the Millennial Reign, **Satan is loosed and is able to deceive a vast multitude to follow him in one final rebellion** against the Lord of glory and His saints! His new army is quickly consumed by fire from heaven, and **Satan himself, the devil, the deceiver (Rev 20:10), was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the false prophet and the beast are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”**

7. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT (20:11-15) – **A GREAT WHITE THRONE – BOOKS WERE OPENED – THE WICKED DEAD ARE JUDGED – And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire!** –

*[With all that said, now let's examine the **Warning Signs of Jesus** in (Matt 24:32-44)...]*

Jesus provided **Signs of Warning**, so that His people would not be caught **“Off-Guard.”**

He provides three **fascinating illustrations...** I. The Fig Tree (32-36) | II. The Days of Noah (37-42) III. The Thief (43-44)

READ

I. **THE FIG TREE (32-36):** Jesus used the natural growth of a **fig tree** to interpret the sign of His second coming... **“when its tender branch puts forth leaves, summer is near.”** Likewise, **Jesus’ return...is near!**

A. Importance (32-33) – The **FIG TREE** is a symbol of Israel nationally (Hosea 9:10), historically (Joel 1:6–7), and scripturally (Luke 13:6–10). When Israel re-blossomed as a nation on **May 14, 1948** **it unveiled many scriptures regarding end time prophecy.** *(The re-birth of Israel as a nation was a miracle – A significant sign that God is not done with Israel, it also reveals that God plans are right on schedule!)*

B. Indefinite Return (33-36) – Jesus speaks of **‘a generation’** that will witness all this. Many interpret this as the generation that existed when Jesus spoke these words, which would then mean that the Nation Israel would never be destroyed *(History tells us that this is not true – Judgment came in A.D. 70).*

1. When applied to **the Generation of People** who witnessed **“the rebirth”** of the Nation Israel, **everything fits!** **“This Generation” WILL NOT PASS until till all things take place!** – I find it interesting that the average generation from **Abraham to David (Matt. 1:17)** was approx. **64 years**

- **(Psalm 90:10)** *The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

2. **The Generation that Witnesses these signs** will live through that period and will see the Lord Jesus coming as the King of glory. **This promise is sure,** for it would be easier for **heaven and earth to pass away than for Christ’s words to fail.** **Simple math: 2023 -1948 = 75 years!** The Rapture is close, and the Tribulation is close! *(Could we be the last generation?)*

3. The **Day and Hour (36)** – **Remember, Jesus is responding to the disciple’s question back in (v.3).** – Here, Jesus makes it clear that the precise moment of the Lord’s return cannot be calculated by anyone! **“It is not for you to know the times and the seasons which the Father has put in His own authority” (Acts 1:7)**

READ

II. **THE DAYS OF NOAH (37-42)** – Jesus uses Noah’s circumstances to warn of unpreparedness. The people of Noah’s Day **paid no attention** to what Noah preached but were consumed with self-gratification.

A. **Verses (38-39)** tells us that **they did not recognize the importance of the warning until the flood swept them ALL away!** *(It was too late!)*

B. Verses (40-42) – It is important **NOT** to interpret the word **'TAKEN,'** to mean **'Taken to Heaven.'** In Noah's day **the Flood took people away in judgment,** while Noah and His family lived on the new earth

- **The warning here is to WATCH! Be Ready!** When God's judgment falls in the Tribulation, one will be taken (*in judgment*), but another will be left on earth for the millennial kingdom.

READ

III. THE THIEF (43-44) – As **Jesus used Noah to warn** that men will not **know the day,** He then used the **illustration of the thief** to warn that they will not **know the hour.** Therefore, the simple application here is to **BE READY!**

CLOSING EXHORTATIONS: What does Jesus emphasize in His response to the His disciples...**WATCH AND BE READY!**

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