

## In the Fire Part 11

### Matthew 24

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. **2** “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

**3** As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

- At this point Jesus’ time with the Disciples is getting close to the end...
- They are together leaving the temple when the Disciples in passing draw Jesus’ attention to the construction of the temple...
- The Disciples were obviously impressed by what they saw...

“After the destruction of Solomon’s temple, this temple was originally built by Zerubbabel and Ezra. Herod the Great (who ruled when Jesus was born) greatly expanded and improved it. This temple was the center of Jewish life for almost a thousand years – so much so, that it was customary to swear by the temple, and speaking against the temple could be considered blasphemy.” (Guzik)

Jesus responds to the disciples by saying; **Vs. 2** “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

- History proves the words of Jesus to be true as the Temple was destroyed and every stone thrown down in 70AD when Rome overthrew Jerusalem.

## **The Disciples then asked Jesus two questions:**

1. When will this happen?
2. What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?

### **Vs. 4-14**

**4** Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. **5** For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. **6** You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **7** Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the beginning of birth pains.

**9** “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11** and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12** Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13** but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

### **Jesus tells the Disciples:**

- For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.
- You will hear of wars and rumors of wars
- Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
- There will be famines and earthquakes in various places
- All these are the beginning of birth pains.

**Story:** Nasa Article Sept 2, 2020 “The Moon Is Rusting, and Researchers Want to Know Why”

*While our Moon is airless, research indicates the presence of hematite, a form of rust that normally requires oxygen and water. That has scientists puzzled.*

*Mars has long been known for its rust. Iron on its surface, combined with water and oxygen, give the Red Planet its hue. But scientists were recently surprised to find evidence that our airless Moon has rust on it as well.*

*While the Moon's surface is littered with iron-rich rocks, he nevertheless was surprised to find a close match with the spectral signature of hematite. The mineral is a form of iron oxide, or rust, produced when iron is exposed to oxygen and water. But the Moon isn't supposed to have oxygen or liquid water, so how can it be rusting?*

*The name of the substance on the moon they call hematite is derived from the Greek word for "blood," in allusion to its red colour.*

### **Acts 2:20**

The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

Then Jesus says to his Disciples:

**Vs. 9** "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

- We know all the Disciples preached the gospel and were martyred for their faith, the only one not martyred was John the Beloved.

**12** Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **13** but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

- Jesus issues a strong warning to believers here...

- It is a clear and fair warning in the last days, to guard your heart...
- Even as He says in **Vs. 6** “but see to it that you are not alarmed.”
- We are not to be alarmed by the unfolding of all these things, we can expect they will happen just as Jesus describes...
- In that hour we are to purposefully cling to the Holy Spirit, dependent upon his strength and nature to keep our hearts from becoming cold towards God and one another...

Because **Vs. 13,14** says “the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- If we don't stand how can we preach this Gospel...
- If we don't love how can we have an effective testimony to the nations...
- Jesus tells us one of the greatest threat we have in the last days is a love grown cold...
- It is the Love of God at work in our lives that allows us something to give...
- Oh that we would experience the love of God so we might give the love of God to others...
- Jesus promised that before the end, the gospel would go out to the whole world.
- Notice this; the persecution, false prophets, and general downgrade of society will not prevent the spread of the gospel, and then the end will come.

### **Vs. 15-21**

**15** “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— **16** then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17** Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. **18** Let no one in the field go back to get their

cloak. **19** How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! **20** Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. **21** For then there will be great distress (tribulation), unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

- The abomination of desolation speaks of the ultimate desecration of a Jewish temple.
- This is the establishment of an idolatrous image or act in the holy place on the temple mount in Jerusalem.
- It is the abomination that brings desolation and will inevitably result in the judgment of God.

*“For centuries, there was only a small Jewish presence in Judea and Jerusalem. Their presence in the region was definite, and continuous, but small. It was unthinkable that this weak Jewish presence could rebuild a temple. Therefore the fulfillment of this prophecy was highly unlikely until Israel was gathered again as a nation in 1948.”* (Guzik)

It’s good to keep in mind, Jesus is first off speaking here to the Jewish people.

- Those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
- Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

### **Vs. 21**

For then there will be great distress (tribulation), unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

*“Jesus said that this will be the most awful time in all history. When we think of the terrible wars, plagues, famines, and genocide history has seen, this is a sobering statement. When God pours out His wrath on a God rejecting world, it will be truly a great tribulation.”* (Guzik)

**22** “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. **23** At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. **24** For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **25** See, I have told you ahead of time.

**26** “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. **27** For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **28** Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

**29** “Immediately after the distress of those days

“the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

**30** “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. **31** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

- Following the sign of the end times is another sign, the sign the Son of Man...
- The world for too long has rejected and resisted any belief in God or his son Jesus...
- They have tossed and turned in their intellect to gather any excuse to believe in something else...
- But on that day they will see him and they will mourn...

**32** “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is

near. **33** Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

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**36** “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **41** Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

**42** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. **43** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **44** So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

### **Revelation 3:20**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.