

Matthew 24 – 1 March 2020

“Prepare For Mass Evacuation” Part 2 of 2

Introduction

Christ has come into Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry and life.

This is the culmination of His dedication to save our souls as the Lamb of God, our substitutionary sacrifice.

In the midst of His agony of the pending cross, He takes time to answer disciple's questions re end times.

They're on the Mt of Olives east of Jerusalem, so they call this the Olivet Discourse

Matthew's 3 Great Discourses:

Matt 5-7 – The Idealic Nature of the Kingdom

Matt 13 – The Present Nature of the Kingdom

Matt 24-25 – The future entering into the Kingdom

**As we head toward entering into the Kingdom,
Jesus gives us 3 things to not be deceived about**

#1 – Regarding who Christ is at His 2nd Coming (Chap 24:1-14)

- 1. In vs 1-14 Jesus describes the conditions leading up to the Tribulation.*

#2 – Regarding When Christ's 2nd Coming will be (Chap 24:15-31)

- 1. In vs 15-31 Jesus describes the conditions of the Tribulation.*
2. This is the section of verses that culminates with Christ's 2nd Coming to earth

Now today, we look at the 3rd thing Christ wants us to know....

#3 – Regarding the time of the Church’s Rapture (Chap 24:32-41)

1. *In vs 32-41 Jesus describes the rebirth of the nation of Israel as the super-sign of the pending rapture of the Church*
2. **Rebirth of Israel deserves an entire study**
 - a. There had been no nation of Israel from 70AD until 1948 (Daniel 70 wks timeline)
 - b. Eze 36 – Land of Israel becoming fruitful
 - c. Eze 37 – The people returning to the land
 - d. Read Isa 66:8 – Nation born at once
3. Turn to Zec 14:4-5
 - a. At end of Trib, as Israel is fleeing from the A-C, the Jesus comes back “w/ His saints”.
 - i. Jude 14 – “Behold, the Lord cometh with 10,000s of His saints.”
 - b. This hints at the mystery of the church.

4. Israel is pictured as a Vine, Fig and Olive Tree
 - a. Vine – Spiritual Privileges
 - i. Psm 80, Isa 5, Jer 2, Eze 15, John 15
 - b. Fig – National Privileges
 - i. Hos 9, Jer 24, Matt 20, 21, 24
 - c. Olive – Religious Privilege & Heritage
 - i. Hos 14, Isa 17, 24, Psm 52, 128, Rom 11

Read Vs 32-35

1. “Now learn a parable of”...the nation of Israel
2. When we see the nation of Israel beginning to bud, we KNOW all these things are at hand.
 - a. Twain’s book, *The Innocences abroad*, he details how in 1867 it was completely desolate
 - b. Today, as Eze 36 tells, they’re blooming!
3. This generation shall not pass away
 - a. The generation that “sees” & “knows”!
 - b. How long is generation? (Read Psm 90:10)
4. So in the lifetime of the rebirth of the nation of Israel, the following events will happen!

Read Vs 36

1. **Now we're talking about a different event and not the 2nd Coming of Christ.**
2. 2nd Coming has a known, set day.
 - a. We read vs 15-31 that led up to 2nd coming.
 - b. Dan 9 tells us from Ab of Des until 2nd coming is exactly 3.5 yrs.
 - c. Rev 12:6 Israel flees to wilderness for 3.5 yrs only to be saved by the 2nd coming of Christ as recorded in Zec 14:5
3. The Rapture of the church is an unknown date.
 - a. Even Jesus limited by His humanity didn't know when it would be.

Read Vs 37-39

1. The Rapture is a “coming” of Christ but not to the earth, but to meet the Church in the air.
2. **Let's look at the rapture from Paul's writings.**

3. Turn to I Cor 15:50-58
 - a. Paul is teaching about the state of the body after you die.
 - i. Vs 51 – We shall not all sleep
 - ii. He's saying, 'we shall not all die'.
 - b. Rapture will happen "at the last trump"
 - i. Can't be 7th trump from Rev 11 b/c there's lot more judgements b4 Christ comes.
 - ii. In Rev angel has trump, in I Thes Jesus has
 - c. Have hope! The work we do for the Lord is worth it and shall be rewarded.
4. Turn to I Thes 4:13-18
 - a. Paul talks of rapture, 'by the word of the Lord'
 - i. This isn't Paul's opinion
 - ii. He tells us when it's something from him
 1. Ie I Cor 7:12 speaking of divorce
 - b. We meet the Lord in the air
 - i. This isn't 2nd Coming which is to the earth
 1. See Rev 19 & Acts 1:11
 - c. Comfort one another, have great hope!

5. **“Caught Up” prototyped all over the OT**
 - a. Gen 2:22 – Eve was brought to Adam
 - i. Brides always brought to husband
 - ii. The Church brought to Christ
 - iii. SOS 2:8-13 – “Arise & come away”
 - b. Gen 5-6 – Enoch raptured just before Flood
 - i. Read Gen 5:24 – “...for God took him”
 - ii. Noah then sealed in Ark thru flood as the Jews are sealed thru the Trib
 - c. Lot being taken by force
 - i. God said He won’t destroy righteous with the wicked – Gen 18:25
 - ii. Lot was righteous – II Pet 2:6-8
 - iii. Angels brought Lot forth out of Sodom, literally “to pluck out”. – Gen 19:16
 - d. Rahab saved before Jericho destruction
 - e. Daniel mysteriously not there (Raptured) when 3 Israelites go thru fire (Trib)
6. Turn to II Thes 2:6-8

- a. What is holding back the A-C from being revealed? The Holy Spirit within the Church.

7. Remember Tribulation is the wrath of God.

- a. He says so in Rev 6
- b. Read Luke 21:36 – We’re told to pray that we’re worthy to escape the wrath to come
- c. Read I Thes 5:9 – we’re not appointed to wrath, praise God.

8. Some people scoff at a “secret rapture”

- a. Yes it is secret
- b. Just as the Flood of Noah’s time was secret,
UNTIL IT HAPPENED

Read Vs 40-41

1. The word “taken”
 - a. Not a word for taken to destruction.
 - b. It’s a word meaning received or saved.
2. Notice the different time periods, marking a world-wide event!

Conclusion

3 Things Jesus would have us to know to prepare for entering into the Kingdom of God

1. **Who Christ is at His 2nd Coming**

- a. Many false Christs but also many false prophets will come as the days go on
- b. Christ will literally come, it's not hyperbole

2. **When Christ's 2nd Coming will be**

- a. It's 3.5 years after Anti-Christ desecrates the rebuilt temple
- b. It's known to the whole world, no secret

3. **The time of the Church's Rapture**

- a. Rapture is during the lifetime of those that witness the rebirth of Israel as a nation
- b. It's a different event than the 2nd Coming
- c. Paul spoke extensively about it
- d. It's prototyped all over the OT
- e. Tribulation is the wrath of God which we're not appointed to.

Read Vs 42-51 - **What do we do about it?**

1. Have hope in Christ's soon return!
 - a. Read I John 3:3
2. Let it drive us to live worthy of Christ!
 - a. Read II Pet 3:10-11
3. Luke 19:13 says to “occupy til He comes”.