

Wake Up and Pay Attention

“A Prophetic Discourse of the End of Time”

Matthew 24:1-14 KJV

1 “And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

1 Thessalonians 5:2-7 KJV

2 “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.”

Introduction: The consequential danger in being a sleeping nation.

The Conscious reality of Subconscious slothfulness: Walking and Talking while sleep with your eyes open but your mind is blind.

Indecent Exposure: Truth is Unveiled

The Undecided Voter: Indecisiveness is inexcusable.

The pitfall of political piety and partisan persuasions: The political diaspora is both divided and in many cases demonic.

Independent Thinking that is absent of divine influence through spiritual inspiration and revelation: Living life without the influence and leading of the Holy Spirit, who is God.

The Biblical Context

This chapter is known as the Olivet Discourse: Jesus is at the climax of his ministry and he is having discourse with his disciples as he prepare them for the devastation and persecution that awaits them. He's on the Mount of Olive in Jerusalem. This chapter contains a more specific and detailed prophecy that warns them that city and the temple would be destroyed. Just for prophetic and historical relevance, it was not only destroyed in AD 70 when Titus destroyed the city, but also through the centuries since that time. Less I bore you with historical monologue, let's do a biblical exposition of this prophetic narrative.

1. The Prophetic Prediction of Destruction (Matthew 24:1-2)

- Jesus is leaving the temple with His disciples.
- The disciples are impressed with the magnificent temple complex in Jerusalem.

Jesus 'Shocking Statement: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another..."

Nothing could have shocked the disciples more, the temple being destroyed. The temple was the pride of all the Jews. It was the time of the *Pax Romana*, the political peace that resulted from Rome's conquest of much of the known world. It was an unthinkable reality to think that Rome would destroy such a magnificent and beautiful edifice. They took much pride in its architectural splendor, and the idea that God would let anything happen to it. Its stones were white and

strong, 50 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 16 feet thick. Such ginormous strength could withstand any attack against her. But yet Jesus, the king of kings was prophetically declaring that not one stone could withstand the sovereign power and judgment of the Almighty Jehovah. Remember what Jesus said in John 2:19, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. The Pharisees were appalled in anger at Jesus because they thought he was talking about their beloved temple but he was talking about his divine body. They said this man is crazy, it took us 46 years to build this temple and he said he would destroy it and rebuild it in three days. A \$40 million dollar church building, you could feed 10 million people with \$40 million dollars.

What people admire, God may be preparing to dismantle.

Historical Fulfillment:

- Fulfilled in 70 A.D. when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans.
- Earthly systems and institutions are temporary.
- God allows shaking to redirect faith from systematic structures to the Savior.

Personal Application:

- **Never place your confidence in buildings, systems, or nations.**
- **Only the Kingdom of God is permanent.**

2. The Disciples 'Three Questions (Matthew 24:3)

While sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples privately ask Jesus three questions:

- 1. When will these things be?
(Destruction of the temple)**
- 2. What will be the sign of Your coming?**
- 3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?**

Jesus answers all three questions simultaneously, blending near and future prophecy. This is what I call Prophetic Clarity, which entails warnings before war.

3. The First Warning: Spiritual Deception (Matthew 24:4-5) "Take heed that no one deceives you."

The First Sign Jesus Mentions, is not war, not disasters, but deception.

"The conception of deception must happen before deception becomes the human reality."

Idols and Ideologies are conceived before they are ever born. Once they are born, they become precepts and perceptions that influence and shape the way people form their opinions and views.

Characteristics of deception and deceivers.

- **False messiahs**
- **Religious deception**
- **Spiritual confusion**

Before the end comes, truth will be under attack.

Personal Advisory and Application

- **Know Scripture.**
- **Test every teaching.**
- **Discern false spiritual authority.**

4. Global Turmoil Will Increase (Matthew 24:6–7)

Don't focus on global warming, but global warning. Jesus describes a world in upheaval:

- **Wars**
- **Rumors of wars**
- **Nation against nation**
- **Kingdom against kingdom**
- **Famines**
- **Earthquakes**

Prophetic consultation and consolation: “See that you are not troubled.” Meaning; These events are not the end yet.

5. Birth Pains of the Last Days (Matthew 24:8) “All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

The phrase literally means birth pains. **The characteristics of Birth Pain.**

- 1. They increase in frequency.**
- 2. They increase in intensity.**
- 3. They move toward a definite arrival.**

WARNING!! Things are progressively moving because something bigger is coming.

The Prophetic Principle: Global instability will intensify as history moves toward Christ’s return. The world will be as a drunken man, drunk on the immorality of power, greed and global dominance. The whose the boss syndrome will cause global leaders to begin jockeying against each other in what I call the tug of war of egocentric aspirations.

6. The Persecution of Believers (Matthew 24:9) “They will deliver you up to tribulation...”

Believers will experience:

- **Persecution**
- **Hatred**
- **Martyrdom**
- **Global opposition**

The conclusive reason that Jesus gives for this in this scripture is; **“For My name’s sake.”**

“Faithfulness to Christ will become costly.”

7. The Great Falling Away (Matthew 24:10) Jesus warns of apostasy.

- **Many will be offended**
- **Many will betray one another**
- **Many will hate one another**

This describes spiritual collapse under pressure.

Persecution reveals true faith vs. superficial faith.

8. The Rise of False Prophets (Matthew 24:11)“Many false prophets will rise and deceive many.”

Not just false messiahs. But false teachers, false movements, and false doctrines. The dangerous reality of this is that deception will become normalized.

9. The Cooling of Love (Matthew 24:12) “Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

Lawlessness:

- **Moral decay**
- **Rejection of God’s authority**
- **Cultural rebellion**

The Results will be:

- **Compassion decreases**
- **Loyalty disappears**
- **Faith becomes transactional**

10. The Call to Endurance (Matthew 24:13) “He who endures to the end shall be saved.”

“Endurance is the presence of persecution with the absence of escape.”

In other words, we will feel the heat of the pressure, but our faith must remain steady and sure. True faith and salvation is demonstrated by a lasting loyalty to Christ.

11. The Gospel Will Reach the Whole World (Matthew 24:14) “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world...”

Even in chaos, the mission of God advances. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ will reach:**

- **All nations**
- **All people groups**
- **The entire world**

Then the end will come. History will grow darker, but the mission of the Gospel will grow brighter.

Sermon Summary and Conclusion

1. The Temple Will Fall (v.1–2)
2. The Questions About the End (v.3)
3. Deception Will Increase (v.4–5)
4. Global Turmoil Will Rise (v.6–7)
5. Birth Pains Begin (v.8)
6. Believers Will Be Persecuted (v.9)
7. Apostasy Will Spread (v.10–11)
8. Love Will Grow Cold (v.12)
9. The Faithful Must Endure (v.13)

10. The Gospel Will Reach the World (v.14)

Closing Statement:

The question is not “Are we living in the last days?” The real question is: “Will we remain faithful in the last days?”