

Matthew 24:15-35 “The Coming of the Messiah Part 2”

Stand Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Pray.

We are in a 4-week study of the Olivet Discourse and have come to the part where Jesus is answering the last two of the three questions they asked. By way of reminder...

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Last week we answered the first question of what the world would be like before the time of the end would come. Now he is going to answer the last two of what will be the sign of Your coming and what will be the Sign of the end of the age. Jesus will answer with the most prominent of them all...

Matthew 24:15

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)

This is a loaded statement as it requires you to know something, and that is the book of Daniel. This is so important because it dispels the idea that this was already fulfilled in history. Preterists say that this is referring to the destruction of the temple in the first century. The problem is this is pointing to something very

specific that we just read in 2 Thessalonians. This also destroys the critics of Daniel that say that was fulfilled in 160 AD by Antiochus Epiphany IV as Jesus refers to this happening in the future. This same thing did not happen when Rome destroyed the Temple. Let's listen to Jesus and understand what Daniel said...

The Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 9:20-27

Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

24 "Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.

25 "Know therefore and understand,

That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

26 “And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

The end of it shall be with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes
desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate.”

This is very important to understand that He is referring to this to get you to see that the “end” will be characterized by this prophecy of Daniel that is dealing with the last seven-year period of the history of the Jews. Before you can understand what Jesus is saying you must know this. They were expecting the kingdom to be restored to Israel at His coming and Jesus is correcting their eschatology. Before that can happen there needs to be this last seven-year period. The Kingdom can't come until it happens. As we read through what Jesus says here, we have to understand He

is referring to the Jews, not the church. Let's look at this in its context...

The Tribulation Period

Matthew 24:15-22

Now, we need to deal with the elect that is mentioned here as many will say "See, there's the church in the Tribulation!" Again, Jesus has told us to understand from the book of Daniel.

Daniel 7:25

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

Who * were the Saints at the time of Daniel? Not the Church!
"Yeah, but it says Elect and not Saints and we know that is the Church!"

Isaiah 45:5

For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.

We * need to remember there are:

Old Testament Saints

New Testament Saints (The Church)

Tribulation Saints

Millennial Saints

Some try to say that Jesus is only referring to the second half of the Tribulation because in verse 21 it says “For then” But when we compare it to Mark’s account...

Mark 13:19

For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

By comparing the two accounts we can understand that * the “For then” is not referring to the event at the midpoint but the whole time period. When we take into account all of it, we understand that Jesus is talking about the WHOLE seven year tribulation.

We know that will be the worst time in Human history as there will seven seals followed by seven trumpets and the seven bowls.

A warning for the reader

Matthew 24:23-28

One of the signs that we are getting closer to this time He is talking about is the rise of false prophets and false Jesus’s. In the last 200 years we have seen many come and go and many cults with a different Jesus’ all around us. Jesus is warning you that not everyone who says “Jesus, Jesus” is calling on the right one. As we get closer to that day, we will see more deception than ever as they will even perform “Signs and Wonders”. This I believe is not

only a warning to those in the Tribulation but also for us today. The world will know when the second coming of Christ is, and the church will know when the rapture happens!

The Second Coming of Christ Matthew 24:29-31

This culminates the Seven-year Tribulation when Jesus will come with us and set up His earthly Kingdom. The saints He is gathering are the Jews and the few believing gentiles that make it through the Tribulation period. But verse 29 gives us a clue that all of this that Jesus is talking about is the Day of the Lord. This will be very important to understand as Jesus will change the subject to what the church is waiting for. How do we know this is what Jesus is saying? He is using Old Testament language to let us know...

Isaiah 13:9-10

Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

Joel 2:31

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

Amos 5:18 (For you post-tribbers!)

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light.

Zephaniah 1:14-15

The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness.

Would you call this day the “Blessed Hope?” Of course not!

1 Thessalonians 1:10

...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

That wrath is the whole seven-year tribulation period. Jesus knows this and will make a point of it that we will look at next week. But one more thing we need to look at...

The Fig Tree

Matthew 24:32-35

Who * or What is the Fig Tree?

Mark 13:28

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

Luke 21:29-30

Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

Summer is referring back to what He just told us about. The Day of the Lord. Is this just a parable referring back to verses 4-14 or something else? I think He is using the Fig tree on purpose because He had taught them a lesson with it just a couple of days before...

Matthew 21:18-19

Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.

As we mentioned before this is after He had presented Himself to the nation as their Messiah but will be rejected. Remember right after this He taught a parable about the vinedressers? I believe that the Fig tree was a representation of Israel that was not producing fruit. Some will say that Israel was never referred to a fig tree. Oh yeah?

Hosea 9:10

I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to

Baal Peor, And separated themselves to that shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.

Joel 1:6-7

For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion. He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

So finally, we need to deal with “this generation”. This is where many commentators get into trouble by trying to set a date. I believe that is not a generation in time but a generation of a people group. I think it refers to Israel not leaving the land until all these things are fulfilled.

But let us finish with this statement...

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

This will happen. The Day of the Lord is coming. This is a promise. Are you ready?