

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

The End of the Age

Matthew 24:1-14

Previously:

- Temple Cleansed, Kingdom Parables, Pharisees Rebuked

Next Few Weeks

- End Times, Jesus' Return, Parables on Preparation

Folks can be scared of knowing about the end

- Head in the sand or Sky is falling
- Balanced belief - don't have your head in the sand and you'll see the sky falling and not go crazy

Ecc 7:8a The end of a thing is better than its beginning;

In general, Not complicated

God wants us to understand and BE READY

Revelation 1:3 - Blessed [is] he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time [is] near.

We won't know the exact moment, but we will know the season

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.** You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **Therefore let us not sleep, as others [do], but let us watch and be sober.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God did not appoint us to wrath,** but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

Most of all, be excited! We look for the Christ, not the antichrist

Maranatha "The Lord is Coming" "Come, O Lord!"

[Pray]

24:1-2

Big cities, big buildings

Monuments to man's greatness

NYC/Times Square at night, lights

The Temple was a magnificent place

The money spent, the materials used, the amazing craftsmanship

OT instructions even for the tabernacle - God commanded the artisans

- **Tabernacle with Moses**
- **1st Temple with Solomon**
- **2nd Temple Zerubabel and Ezra, Herod Expanded - greater than Solomon's**
- **Nearly 1000 years center of life**

DGC - Josephus said that the temple was covered with gold plates, and when the sun shone on them it was blinding to look at. Where there was no gold, there were blocks of marble of such a pure white that from a distance strangers thought there was snow on the temple.

Jesus seemingly unimpressed!

The great works men do to impress God and it's really just to impress each other

But more so, any earthly temple would be temporary

A greater time was coming

John 4:24 - "God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Acts 17:24-25 - "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

A prophecy here - that the whole complex would be torn down!

40 years later, AD 70

The veil would be torn in a few days - this age of worship was coming to a close

And the priesthood was wicked and the people lukewarm

:3-5

Mount of Olives, looking down at the temple

Mount Helena, Blodgett Canyon

Came to Jesus privately, wanting the secret recipe

True, there are some things we'll only find out when alone with God
But everything we need to know He will tell us

What do they want to know?

- When?
- What will it look like?

Why? If the temple is going to be destroyed, it must be the end of all things!

To you and I, what would we think would be the end of the world?

- Lose that job?
- That relationship?
- Some thing to not exist anymore?

It's a funny thing - we all tend to live in a bubble and base our expectations on it

2 Peter 3:3-7, 9 - knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world [that] then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth [which] are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ... The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(separate study)

America may not be in prophecy.

Or it's destruction is foretold in it.

But the world will go on in Great Tribulation

Just because we're not promised the Great Tribulation doesn't mean we won't face trouble

America can and will likely fall, before the return of Jesus. Before the rapture. Oh no, Pastor, that cannot be! Don't you see how great and mighty she is?

So what are the signs of the end?

- **#1 Deception**
False teachers, False Messiahs

AI, fake news, propaganda, how will you and I ever know? Would we know half of what we know without the free speech of the internet of the past 25 years?

There is no trust in society anymore because everything we were told was a lie and there's no way to verify the truth

It will only get worse.

How do I know? The course is obvious, but the Bible says so!

The Bible needs to be our source of truth.

Jesus IS the truth!

Deceive - planao

- to cause to stray, to lead astray, lead aside from the right way
- to go astray, wander, roam about
- to lead away from the truth, to lead into error, to deceive
- to be led into error
- to be led aside from the path of virtue, to go astray, sin
- to sever or fall away from the truth
- of heretics
- to be led away into error and sin

Hebrews 3:12-13 - Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

The primary method of deception is sin.

It's what allows us to follow lies! Who knowingly wants to follow a lie? Oh, but make it enticing with sin and we'll believe anything and do anything!

The rise of cults in the past 150-200 years

Mormons, Jews, Scientology, Halle Bop, Mysticism, New Age, Mind altering drug use, normalization of yoga, meditation, witchcraft, etc.

This is it! These are the signs. They're out there. Are we paying attention?

:6-8

Wars and Rumors of Wars

- 20th Century bloodiest in history
- Communism killed most - and of their own people
- Most of the 20th century was either a war or a rumor (cold war anyone?)

Hear of rumors - but is it true?

What's going on in Ukraine, China, Taiwan, Russia, the Middle East

How can you know any of it is true? How can you trust anything you are told about it?

We put flags on our cars and in our social media bios, but it's just what you've been told, is it not?

Not that it's not happening - but what you are told is not for your benefit, it is for the benefit of those in charge

These things should naturally trouble us. Scary! War! Nuclear! World-ending!

I'd move to Alaska and live in a bunker if it wasn't for the Lord

Jesus tells us - See that you are not troubled

It's going to take effort to live in the last days and not be fearful

How not to be fearful?

Jesus called it way ahead of time and told us it's not the end...yet

Sure it's bad, but don't worry, the story ain't over yet.

Nation v Nation - ethnos. Think apartheid, civil wars, sunni/shiite, jew/muslim

Kingdom v kingdom - royal both in kingdom and uprisings against those in charge - revolutions

How many revolutions were in the last 250 years? France? Russia? Germany? Japan? Iran? Arab spring? Summer of love? South Africa? The CIA's main job it seems is to stoke them!

- **Famines** - *We've forgotten about the 1930s and the dust bowl in our own land*
- **Pestilences** - *don't tell me you've forgotten 2020 already...HIV, ebola, Bird Flu, Polio, Spanish Flu*
- **Earthquakes** - *8.8 just the other day, record!*

Various places - all over the world and in places you wouldn't expect

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The beginnings of sorrows

When you see it, buckle up!

Church is not the destination, it's the starting line

These things are not the end, they're the opening act

It happens, the world doesn't end, we wrongly think that's it
No, that's it. The world is ending.

It doesn't start and end in a day or a week.

It's years leading up to a final 7 years.

The countdown started when Jesus ascended. It ends when He returns.

Spirit of the ac in the world, patterns, the temple destroyed

Threefold prophecy - immediate fulfillment, long-term fulfillment, spiritual pattern

Churches in Revelation

Sorrows - pain of childbirth, birth pangs "intolerable anguish"

- Ash making fun of labor depictions in movies
- Toni Braxton contractions
- Start spread out, then faster, then faster, then baby!

Like contractions, these events will become more and more frequent the closer we get

News cycle - *ever notice how fast crazy events come and go? It used to hold our attention for weeks, months, years. Now crazy things happen and we barely bat an eye and another thing happens.*

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:9-12

Then...the world is so fed up with how things are going they'll turn on Christians once and for all

Persecution ancient rome, throughout the world, modern China, Communism, Islam - world

could care less when 1,000s of Christians are murdered - but dare touch a Muslim or a Pride parade

Oh, it can't happen here! It did already... FBI in Virginia...

Baking cakes, school boards and classrooms

The relief? It's for Jesus' name's sake.

It's not us they hate. It's Jesus.

Many will be offended

Skandalizo - stumbling block, entice to sin, fall away

Is this not our age, the age of offense ... to everything?

Titus 1:15-16 - To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny [Him], being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

There is impurity and things to be offended over

Looking up new kid's movie...3.5 family friendly with 1 S word, 2 b, 1 A...

Conversation with lady about homeschool - the change in the past 10-15 years

The church needs to be more offended

Not surprised - but offended. It should show in how we live and how we vote and how we spend our dollars.

Maybe even over what we allow in our lives, our homes, our kids hands...and in the church...the pulpit. Those we lift up and admire.

Some hard things need to be said and done or else the bride won't be dressed in white...

Jesus said many false prophets will rise up and deceive many

Was not the 20th century (and 21st) full of false prophets?

Basically turn on TBN, look to some of the largest churches (not all)

Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Duplantis, Dollar, New Apostolic movement and all the prophecies around Trump

Lawlessness will abound. I don't think we understood that in America until

the past 5-10 years

The lawlessness isn't the problem - it's the hard hearts. The cold hearts.

People don't care. People don't love. Lawsuits. Abortion. Handing off children to the government, university, TV, internet...worse, the so-called church doesn't care.

Revelation 3:14-22 - "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, [that] the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. "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. "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' "

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:13-14

This is hard. He who endures to the end shall be saved.

It doesn't mean your salvation is based on your effort.

It means, if you are saved - you will have to endure - go against the system.

If you aren't saved, you'll go with the flow.

Which direction are we going?

- When work has mandatory indoctrination?
- When they demand you take an unproven medication?
- When they demand you kneel or raise a flag?
- When they tell you not to post, not to speak?

This is all a preview of what's to come...these things are a pattern and the pattern gets fulfilled in worse and worse ways each go-around

If you endure, if you make it - don't worry, the boat is coming for you.

Tribulation & the rapture - late bus, early bus

The final sign and event - the kingdom preached in all the world to all nations

Great commission fulfilled

Some would say to do it to rush it, fulfill the fullness of the gentiles (Rom 11:25)

Handing out Bibles, how many people said they had multiple at home (but are they reading them?)

How many translations? Languages? Nations on earth. Only a few remote tribes potentially unreached - yet God reaches them.

Revelation tells us of Angels flying spreading the gospel in the last days - even when the church has done all it can, God still goes out and preaches. It's ultimately ALL of his work and responsibility. Will we be a part?

Every nation - ethnos again - every people group

Revelation 7:9-10 - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

There's really nothing left to happen before Jesus' return.

It's really going to be any minute. Even if it's 50 or 100 more years, in the grand scheme of things, is that a lot?

Why does God tarry?

Grace. He desires that none should perish. He wants everyone to be ready. Are you ready?

**This is it! These are the signs. They're out there.
Has Jesus got your attention?**