

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Great Tribulation

Matthew 24:15-31

Matthew 24 & 25

- End Times, Jesus' Return, Parables on Preparation

Previously:

- Temple Prophecy, Signs of the End, Deception!

Again, we can be scared of knowing about the end

- Head in the sand or Sky is falling
- Balanced belief

Recent Pre-Trib Findings in the Early Church Fathers, Lee W. Brainard

Pp 76, pp 86

What did Jesus tell us “beforehand?”

He wants us to understand TO 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.**

Romans 13:11-12 And [do] this, **knowing the time**, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep; for **now our salvation [is] nearer than when we [first] believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand.** Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

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

Maranatha “*The Lord is Coming*” “*Come, O Lord!*”

[Pray]

:15

The “Abomination of Desolation”

Jesus speaking of specific event

- **A foul thing**, detestable thing (pertaining to idols - **especially gross**) (related to OT uncleanness)

- **Making desolate** (destroying or devastating land, people, community, barrenness, loneliness, sorrow, grief, woe)

(in a way) The abomination both causes the desolation and the desolation is the abomination

Rom 1 God's abandonment judgment

Men forget God, turn to idols and detestable things, they are left to their own devices

But this is one step worse, the emptiness of the holy place filled with something unholy

What is it?

Remember, Prophecy has a bit of a three-fold fulfillment - immediate/foreshadowing, future, and in most cases provides a pattern until final fulfillment

Daniel 11:29-31 - "At the appointed time he shall return and go toward the south; but it shall not be like the former or the latter. "For ships from Cyprus shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return in rage against the holy covenant, and do [damage]. So he shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily [sacrifices], and place [there] the abomination of desolation.

AD 66 - Titus (son of Emperor Vespasian) pigs blood, (some say his statue there)

AD 70 - temple destroyed

But this was not the complete fulfillment, that is to come

- **Signing of a 7-year peace deal between Israel & her enemies**
- **Brokered by the Antichrist**
- **Temple sacrifices resume**
- **World is already aligning for this** - Israel & Gaza, Muslims and Jews, Temple Mount, Rebuilding of Temple instruments, Red Heifer search

3 ½ years in (Rev 11-12)

(if we're looking at a calendar, we need to count days due to 360 day calendar)

Peace deal brokered - temple mount and dome of the rock,

1990s - peace in the middle east

Who is it? The AbOfDes is standing in the holy place...

AC has had enough,

goes into holy of holies, proclaims himself to be God - and must be worshipped

- **This is either what causes the assassination that results in false resurrection and taking mark**
- **Or he was falsely resurrected and so goes in and says he's god and causes all to take mark**

Missing Jesus, rebuilding the temple in the flesh, making a deal with the world to worship God in an obsolete way...all leads to the abomination of desolation

When we reject God we'll accept anything

God is a title. A position.

"Power is not the same as authority. Power is the ability to affect change. Authority is the right to command." Dr. Dan Schneider (Catholic...)

Only God has the right, the worth, the glory to sit in His seat. His place.

Satan strives. Is counterfeit. Forces everyone to take a mark.

Meanwhile believers choose freely and receive the Spirit as a guarantee (Eph. 1:13-14)

Whoever reads...

A message to anyone reading. Gentile. Jew. Saved. Unsaved.

A message to anyone in the area when this happens.

God's plan for Israel is on hold (Daniel's 70 weeks) - until the Tribulation Period - 7 years

He's speaking to the Jews getting saved during the time

let him understand

Perceive, understand, think upon, **HEED**, consider

It's one thing to know what is supposed to happen

It's another to recognize it happening before your very eyes

And then act appropriately

:16-20

Flee to the mountains

Go to where no one is - get out of Dodge
 Get to the high ground
 Get as far away as you possibly can as quickly as you can

Airplane crash - supposed to leave it all behind
Hurricane evacuation as a kid - leave right away

Don't even go into your house and pack a bag
Don't go home and change your clothes

Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's wife

Taking a baby!

This doesn't mean don't have kids now
 But having kids closer to the end will be harder - until it will be nearly impossible

Winter

Cold! Hard, deadly.
 Better to die hungry and cold in the mountains than be around what's happening in Jerusalem

Sabbath

Important to the Jews, still observing...Sabbath day's journey
 There will be NO REST on this Sabbath

That's the opposite of God in his right place in heaven, on earth, in the temple, in our hearts - that produces rest, peace, and safety

This is the complete opposite...
Abomination of Desolation...

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 6-12 (Break passage down during reading) - Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.** ... And now you know **what is restraining**, that he may be **revealed in his own time**. For the mystery of lawlessness is **already at work**; only **He who now restrains [will do so] until He is taken out of the way**. And then the **lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of

the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

:21-22

Then Great Tribulation

“not in prosperous but in troublesome times” Sir Isaac Newton

Yet that is the promise of this period to the world by the enemy

7 years, split into two - Lesser Tribulation, Greater Tribulation

First half - tribulation but we think the worst is over, still things happening

Four horsemen have ridden, AC promises peace and unified world

Has resistance, not total control yet - still pockets of unbelief

Abomination of Desolation

Total dominance, mark, death to those who oppose - individually and in those nations that oppose him

All of heaven breaks loose, destruction across the world, plagues

Jesus' Promise

It'll be worse than anything in history - There is nothing worse than a loving God's wrath.
(so yes, things will get worse, not better)

But it'll never be like this ever again.

So it's obvious, all of this is still to come...

It's so bad, nobody would survive -

but again, God shows grace on all for the remnant's sake

Again, Sodom & Gomorrah - Will you spare the city for 10 righteous?

:23-28

What is the worst part of the tribulation? The deception!

Spiritual, physical, mental, emotional,

Jesus tells us beforehand (repeatedly) - if he didn't, we'd have been fooled.

When Jesus comes back - there will be no doubt

Watchtower Society - He's in the inner room!

Do not go out! Do not believe it!

I wonder what would happen if you go out? Deceived? Death?

A way to lure believers out of hiding?

Remember. they won't be able to buy or sell without the mark...

Jesus will light up everything. Everyone will see it.

I love thinking about how that'll physically work with dimensions and the heavens receding.

Rapture vs. Second Coming

Morning Star, Start of Dawn vs. Sun Comes Up

Second Coming is a series of events, kicking off with the rapture - there only the church goes to see Him. When He returns all the world will see him.

Carcass and eagles - vulture that resembles an eagle - death, lies, deception and false teachers, prophets, crowds of wicked -

2 Cor 11:14 Satan himself transforms (disguises) himself as an angel of light

:29-31

Immediately After

Jesus will waste no time in coming back.

The enemy's days are numbered

Seven years is all he gets.

Then the show is over.

The curtain is drawn.

And reality takes over.

All the powers of the heavens will be shaken

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

2 Peter 3:10-14 NKJV - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore,

beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Creation, ruined by sin completely, done away with

What's the final sign? A sign of truth.

Jesus' very appearance in glory to the whole world

(remember the transfiguration and Revelation)

Barlcay - "It is the regular word for the arrival of a governor into his province or for the coming of a king to his subjects. It regularly describes a coming in authority and in power."

All the tribes of the earth

Different word than ethnos and basileian (nation, kingdom) v7

tribe/nation, people group

Everyone sees. No mistaking this sign. Easy to read and understand.

...MOURN...

Cut, strike, smite, cut off...**beat one's breast for grief**

They know who He is. And they know their FATE.

We all have choices

We're all given the choice of salvation in this life

God is gracious

But there will be day when time runs out.

It's why God "tarries" in our estimation

He wishes that none should perish

Power & Great glory

- Dynamite power
- Much magnificence, brightness, judgment, exalted state

This is the harvest prophesied of and foretold in parables

- All the believers still standing (Tribulation Saints)
- Those not martyred (Rev 6:9-11)

**Are you a tare or are you wheat?
Are you sheep or are you a goat?
Will you mourn or will you rejoice?**

2 Cor 6:2c - Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Jesus paid for you at the cross. If you will be His, he will redeem you, his purchase, when He returns.

Are you ready? Are you waiting? Are you watching? Are you preparing?

He's returning. Maranatha.