

Revelation: The Time is Near

## The Beginning of Sorrows

Matthew 24-25

**A lot of people tend to be afraid of this book:**

- Because of the mystery
- Because of the judgment
- Some both

**But if we remember what we read last week...there's a blessing**

- If we read
- Hear
- Keep

**Read > hear/understand > keep**

**Recap:**

- John on Patmos
- Jesus in heaven. Flaming eyes, white hair, white robe, golden sash, bronze feet, sharp two-edged sword, voice like a mighty trumpet and rushing waters
- Walking between 7 lampstands
- 7 stars

**Revelation 2&3 are Jesus' words to the seven churches. He's walked through the lampstands, inspected them with eyes of judgment (not condemnation) and has a word for them.**

**But before we get to His words for the church. Let's look at some other verses in the Bible that speak about the end time.**

**We're not going to look exhaustively at these other passages, but I think it's good to take a look at them and keep them in mind as we go through Revelation.**

## Matthew 24-25

Matthew 24 is most closely associated with last days before Jesus' return...yet 25 has a lot to say as well.

### 24:3-14

**Take heed that no one deceive you** that we, as believers, need to pay attention and put effort into not being deceived into these days. We can't keep rolling through life like everything is ok. We can't digest everything that is told to us on the news or even in church and take it as de facto. We will be deceived if we aren't paying attention and "walking circumspectly" Ephesians 5

### **False Christs...coming in Jesus' name and even claiming to be the Messiah**

Just look at the 20th century, cults every which way you look. The rise of Mormonism and JW's. David Koresh, Hale Bopp,

### **Wars and Rumors of Wars**

Cold war, 20th century more wars, more death than any other time in history. Holocaust. Genocides.

**The beginning of sorrows.** This isn't even the tribulation yet.

**Many will be offended...**is this not our day and age?

### **Lawlessness abounds**

### **Love will grow cold**

Loveless time - kids, mothers in age where we claim to define love in all new ways, unrestricted ways, it is actually the most LOVEless time and most selfish time.

**[Mar 13:12-13 NKJV] 12 "Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father [his] child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 13 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

OK Boomer. Respect for elders turned to no respect for elders which turned to disrespect for elders. This generation more than any other thinks it knows it all.

### **Gospel preached and then the end**

The gospel has gone out into the whole world. Translations left and right. Missionaries everywhere.

## **:15-28**

### **Abomination of desolation**

Happened in history, a pig was offered there apparently, will happen again when the temple is rebuilt. The antichrist, one world leader, will go in and proclaim himself to be god

### **Pray that your flight may not be in winter**

Primarily an Israeli/Jewish audience here by location and that they are to flee

ii. *Those who believe that the events of Matthew 24 were all or mostly all fulfilled in a.d. 70 have a difficulty here. There is no good evidence at all that what they believe was the abomination of desolation (the Roman armies or their ensigns) were ever set up as idolatrous images in the holy place of the temple. Instead, the temple was destroyed before the Romans entered.*

iii. *Therefore, those with this interpretive approach often re-define what the holy place is, as does Bruce: "One naturally thinks of the temple or the holy city and its environs, but a 'holy place' in the prophetic style might mean the holy land."*

iv. *"The normal meaning of hagios topos ('holy place') is the temple complex... But by the time the Romans had actually desecrated the temple in a.d. 70 it was too late for anyone in the city to flee." (Carson)*

**Great tribulation. Worst time ever. Worse than any war. Worse than any genocide. Worse than any natural disaster or terrorist attack.**

Interesting that Jesus talks about the elect being deceived if possible.

Arguments for pre and mid and post trib. Talk more later.

**Again, you will not miss the return of Jesus. No one will need to tell you it's happening. You'll know.**

## **:29-31**

**There are two halves to the tribulation, the first 3 ½ years and then the last 3 ½ years. The last half will be worse than the first.**

**Sign of son of man - a cross? Or just literally the things that will happen are the signs.**

**Gather his elect...the angels will gather up all the believers.** The elect. Post-trib rapture here. But, this could be the gathering up of the people who have come to faith in the last days, the Jewish people who have turned to Him, etc. Not those of us who were here before hand.

**Chuck missler, four horsemen series, gives a breakdown of Matthew 24 vs. the events of Revelation. Almost an outline.**

## **:32-35**

*c. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place: This statement of Jesus is one of the central reasons many have looked for all or most of*

*the events of this chapter to be fulfilled in a.d. 70, approximately 40 years after Jesus spoke these words. Yet as previously argued, to assert this is to greatly stretch the most natural interpretation of the abomination of desolation, of the severity of the great tribulation, of the cosmic signs, and of the coming of the Son of Man. It is better to let those passages have their most natural meaning and to fit this promise into that framework.*

*i. The generation Jesus meant cannot be the generation of the disciples, because they never saw Jesus return in glory as described in Matthew 24:30. It is undoubtedly the generation that sees these signs. These events and Jesus' return won't be on some 1,000-year timetable, but will happen in succession.*

*ii. It has been suggested that the word generation could also be translated "race," and is a promise that the Jewish race would not be extinguished and would survive to the end. This would be a valuable promise, but some commentators (such as France) claim this is an embarrassingly wrong translation. Yet others – such as Adam Clarke, who strongly believed the events of this chapter were almost all fulfilled in a.d. 70 – writes, "This race; i.e. the Jews shall not cease from being a distinct people, till all the counsels of God relative to them and the Gentiles be fulfilled."*

**Israel became a nation May 14, 1948**

**[Isa 66:8 KJV] 8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? [or] shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.**

**Could the generation that saw Israel return to being a nation be that generation? Many are still alive, but their time is coming close to an end. And I think they could be it. A lot of the other things that are going on are in alignment.**

We won't know the day or the hour, but we are being instructed that we can in a sense, know the season. We could be wrong on the final season, but we can be sure that if Jesus says he's coming in Winter, so to speak, that when we pay attention and it looks like Winter, it could be this winter.

**:36-44**

**Day or the Hour, no one knows**

How many people in the past hundred years have tried to convince people they knew when Jesus was coming back. Even fairly recently.

**Days of Noah**

**Be ready!** We're told to be ready! We won't expect it in a sense. Perhaps we'll think there's more time.

**[2Pe 3:1-18 NKJV] 1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in [both of] which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 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." 5 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, 6 by which the world [that] then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 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. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day [is] as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 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. 10 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. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 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? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable [people] twist to their own destruction, as [they do] also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know [this] beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen.**

**Rapture** one taken, one left  
Wheat and tares, Matthew 13

**:45-51**

Two responses of the "believer" or person to Jesus' coming

1 - being ready, serving until that moment

2 - thinking God is being lazy, slack, delaying his coming...begins to turn on his fellow servants and gets drunk

**Weeping and gnashing of teeth**

Hell, outside of heaven

## **Matthew 25:1-13**

Wise and foolish

Lamps, oil...holy spirit

Being ready!

I did not know you

Watch therefore! We're to pay attention.

**[Mat 16:1-4 NKJV] 1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '[It will be] fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 "and in the morning, '[It will be] foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot [discern] the signs of the times. 4 "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.**

## **:14-30**

Unprofitable cast into outer darkness...weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Do we see that there are those who think they are believers, but are not? Who think they know God, but do not. This really sets the stage I think for some of Jesus' words for the church.

**[Mat 13:31-32 NKJV] 31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."**

**:31-46**

Sheep and the goats. The two judgments.

Everlasting punishment and eternal life.

**Are you ready?**

**Are you watching?**

**Are you waiting and expecting?**

**Or**

**Are you sleeping?**

**Are you drunk?**

**Are you biting and devouring others?**

**Are you continuing on as they have from the beginning, marrying and giving in marriage, without a care in the world, without a concern? Thinking that things are OK, getting better even?**

**“Don’t sleep!”**