

Matthew 24
Bible Study Notes

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

Matt.24:21-22

When we read the chapter of *Matthew 24*, we see Jesus giving His disciples a summary of events that were to take place before the literal destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Armies (the year AD 70) and the coming end of this earth’s history. This account was also given in *Mark 13* and *Luke 21*, which we will also reference to throughout the study.

The disciples had asked concerning the times when these things should be? Christ gave them no answer to that; but they had also asked what shall be the sign? This question he answers fully. The prophecy addresses the destruction of Jerusalem, the end of the Jewish church and state, the calling of the Gentiles, and the setting up of Christ’s kingdom. What Christ here said to his disciples, tended more to promote caution than to satisfy their curiosity; more to prepare them for the events that should happen, than to give a distinct idea of the events.

These words that Christ gave to His disciples were not only for them but for all of God’s people throughout the Church age and we should as a result, all take heed to the warnings here given.

Says Jesus in **verse 25**, *‘See, I have told you beforehand.’*

Again, He says, *“now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”* **Luke 21:28**

Let us read and study *Matthew 24* with a humble heart and contrite spirit and allow God’s Holy Spirit to guide us and to help us discern the events that are taking place around us daily, for final movements shall be rapid ones.

v.4

"And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."

Jesus warns us of the widespread deception that will take place in the last days. This point of deception is again repeated in **v.11** & **v.24**. People will be led astray by the many false hoods in the world at this time as satan will be using his many agents in the world to lead many astray.

The apostle Paul warns us of this time in **2nd Tim. 4:3-4**, where he says, *'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.'*

Many will be deceived because they have not a love for the truth, the Living Word of God, which stands the test of time through all generations but rather because they choose to listen to what pleases them. We, God's faithful remnant of believers in these last days, must stand by the truth of God's Word and allow it to be our sole foundation. If not, we will be swept away by every whim of doctrine that worldly men present to us. *'Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.'*

v.5

"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

Many shall arise proclaiming to be followers of Christ and even proclaiming to be Christ Himself but the Bible is clear that Jesus shall be seen by every eye in the clouds and his feet shall not touch this earth when He comes the second time. So, we will not need to be told that Christ is here or there for we shall all see Him at His glorious Coming.

However, having said this, many shall still believe the lies and be deceived by the enemy himself. We must know the truth, lest we fall, our salvation depends upon it and this truth can only be found in God's Word.

*"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord."* **1st Thess. 4:16-17**

"Therefore, if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." **Matt.24:26-27**

v.6

"And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

Warfare, potential and actual, shall be prevalent in these last days. Observe the current state of the world within the last 50 years. Wars in the Middle East, Vietnam, wars in Africa, rumours of wars between the US and South Korea, Russia, China, and the list goes on. This prophecy by Jesus has been fulfilled to the 'tee'. But these events must take place as Jesus has said, however the end is not yet.

Let us open our eyes, wake up and realise how Bible prophecy is fulfilling all around us, more so in these last days.

Says Jesus, *"Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."* **Eph.5:14**

v.7-8

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Creation will be crying out to warn us of the imminent coming of Christ, **Rom.8:19-22**. Worldwide famine, earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, worldwide plagues and pandemics are all affecting us and making themselves known. God is warning His people that time shall soon be up for mankind and now is the time to get our lives in order, now is the time to surrender all to Christ. Are we not seeing the rise and fall of nations and world powers as countries seek to be the most powerful in their respective regions of the world? Nation is indeed rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom. Read also **Luke 21:11** for comparison.

"Today if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts...." **Heb. 3:15**

v.9-10

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another."

The time will soon come when God's faithful remnant of believers will be hated by all people and nations. Then and only then will we see the true people of God who will stand for Him no matter what, they shall believe with all their heart, "death before dishonour". God's people will be persecuted in the courts of law, they will have all earthly support cut off from them, they will be flogged and maligned,

they will be betrayed by family, friends, co-workers and even by members in the church all for their unmovable faith in Christ Jesus; all because they refuse the mark of the beast and choose to stay faithful to God.

Do not think for one instance that all persons in the Church will be saved. Jesus has made it clear that the wheat and the tares shall grow together until the harvest, **Matt. 13:24-30** & **Matt. 13:36-43**.

But Jesus has warned us not to fear these events, when we see all these things happen before our eyes, we should look to the heavens for we know that His coming is soon, even at the door. His Holy Spirit will be poured out upon us at that time, and we shall say what the Spirit of the Lord gives us to speak, let us not worry ourselves in that time.

"But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them." **Mark 13:9**

"But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit." **Mark 13:11**

"You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake." **Luke 21:16-17**

"He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." **Rev. 13:15-17**

v.11-12

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

Again, we see the widespread deception which shall arise at this time. Many will profess true Christianity, many will profess to be prophets of God and if we do not test the Spirits as the scriptures warn us, then we too shall also be deceived along with the masses, **1st John 4:1**; we too shall also be coerced into worshipping the 'beast' and its 'image', and thus receiving of its 'mark' (this topic covered in my previous studies on revelation 13).

Sin shall abound in the world at this time, God will allow the four winds of strife to blow upon the earth and satan will have full dominion on this earth for a time. See the biblical definition for sin in **1st John 3:4**, *sin is lawlessness, sin is the transgression of God's immutable and Holy Law.*

*"After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree." **Rev. 7:1***

*"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." **1st John 3:4***

v.13-14

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Despite all of this God gives us comfort, *"...he who endures to the end shall be saved."* Let us hold fast onto Jesus during this time, no matter the circumstance, let us not love our lives so much that we recant our belief in God. For he who tries to save his life shall lose it but he who loses his life shall preserve it, **Luke 17:33**, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those that love Him, **James 1:12**.

But before this time comes, the gospel of the kingdom of God must be preached into all the world. We must spread the message of Christ to all, that it may be a witness to all nations. No one will be able to say at the Coming of Christ that they did not have an opportunity to know the truth, all mankind would have had the opportunity to make the right choice.

v.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)"

Here we are told of the 'abomination of desolation' first mentioned by the prophet Daniel. In order to fully understand this phrase, one must then go back and read and study the book of Daniel. However, that is an entire study in itself so I will not go too deep into it right now.

When we compare the account in **Luke 21:20**, we notice that the 'abomination of desolation' refers to **Jerusalem being surrounded by armies**. This is not literal Jerusalem in this case but spiritual Jerusalem, that is, God's faithful people all around the world.

There are many scriptures in the New Testament which show us that those who are in Christ and are his faithful followers are referred to as Israel. Not Israel the country in the middle east, as their probation was over once they crucified Jesus and rejected Him, **Matt. 23:37-39**, but 'Spiritual Israel' meaning all those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Notice also that the Heavenly City in which we shall all dwell once we receive our reward is called the **"NEW JERUSALEM"** and all those who make it to Heaven will as thus all be "Spiritual Israelites". Notice also that this city will have 12 foundations and 12 gates named after the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes of Israel (all of whom were literal Israelites). This further shows us that it will not just be literal people from Israel who will enter into Heaven but rather all of us who are faithful followers of Christ. We are all Spiritual Israel.

*"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit..." **Rom. 2:28-29***

"For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but "In Isaac your seed shall be called." That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed." Rom.9:6-8

"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal.3:29

"Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.... Also, she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel... Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Rev.21:2,12,14

Therefore, what Jesus is saying to us is that when we see God's people being surrounded by 'armies', that is, when various laws are being made and put into place which we can see will have a direct attack on God's people, then know that we are at a pivotal point in Bible prophecy. For e.g. We see today that Churches all over the world are being shut down because of a 'pandemic', we see that freedom of choice and speech is being taken away, we notice that we can no longer worship God according to the what the Bible says but according to how and when the governments of the world say, we notice that we are being forced to take vaccinations and that those who refuse as such will have difficulties buying and selling and travelling and moving about freely.

We notice also that we are being forced by the governments to keep a certain day holy when the only day we should be keeping Holy is the Sabbath of the Lord.

All this is what is referred to as '*Jerusalem being surrounded by armies and the abomination of desolation*'

v.16-21

"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Jesus warns us that when we see '*Jerusalem being surrounded by armies*' then it is time to flee with urgency. The mark of the beast will be forced, (*forced Sunday observance*) upon all, and those who stay faithful to God will thus be persecuted and will be hated by all. It is at this time that we are to look to flee and not hesitate. What a perilous that time will be, "*it will be a time of trouble as never was nor ever shall be*" **Dan. 12:1.**

Let us hope & pray that our time of fleeing will not be on the Sabbath of the Lord as God expects us still to observe and keep this special Day Holy.

The prophet Amos forewarns about this time, showing us that there will be a point in time where the Word of God will be hard to come by; God's faithful will be in hiding, evading the persecution and the truth will not be heard. False prophets and false teachers shall abound all over the place but those who preach the present truth will be in prisons, will be martyred and a vast majority will be hiding for their lives during this last great test for God's people.

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it." **Amos 8:11-12**

v.22

"And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

The persecution and hatred of all God's faithful commandment keepers will be so immense at that time, that if Jesus had not cut short those days of persecution none of God's faithful followers would survive. This goes against the false teaching in today's church that the church will be 'raptured' away before the great tribulation, a lie from the devil himself, so as to cause the church to think that they do not need to go through any tribulation and persecution, thus when that time comes, they will be caught by surprise and unawares for their characters were not fortified to stand.

The scriptures are clear that God's people will have to stand through the tribulation, this will be our last great test, and only then will the 'nominal Christians' be sifted out and the true remnant remain. Just as with Daniel in the lion's den, just like the three Hebrew boys at the plain of Dura, just like John the Baptist and king Herod, just like the apostles and the persecution they encountered, just like the early church and the church in the middle ages had to all endure persecution, we too will have to pass through this final test, the great tribulation.

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." **2nd Tim. 3:12**

"He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed" **Rev.13:15**

v.23-28

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore, if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

Again, Jesus repeats for the third time the widespread deception that shall be prevalent in the world. There shall be many false prophets, false teachers and even persons who profess to themselves be Jesus. This deception comes from the devil himself, and it will be so close to truth as is virtually possible that

if it were possible, God's faithful followers (the elect) would be deceived, but it is only by their knowledge of the scriptures and the grace of God that keeps them from being deceived.

The scriptures show us that Jesus will come in the clouds with His great multitude of angels, and He will not come down to us, but instead we shall be changed, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye and be carried up by the angels to meet Him in the air. In addition, every eye shall see Him when He comes, for He will come with the glory of the Father, and His own glory and also with the glory of all the angels.

Therefore, if they say here He is or there He is, do not believe it, for the scriptures are clear as to how He comes. Let us therefore not be deceived.

*"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord."* **1st Thess. 4:16-17**

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses." **Rev. 19:11-14**

v.29-31

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Immediately after the time of great tribulation and the seven last plagues are poured out upon the wicked (**Rev.15&16**), there shall then be great signs and wonders in the sky. The sun will no longer give its light, the moon and stars also, *'for the great day of His wrath has come and who will be able to stand'*, **Rev.6:17**.

The sky shall roll back like a scroll and Jesus will then appear, with the full Glory of His Father and the angels, **Matt.16:27**, at this time all eyes shall see Him, the seventh trumpet will sound, the dead in Christ will rise first to receive their reward and then the living who remain in Christ will then receive their reward. They shall then be taken up to meet the Lord in the air to be with Him forever.

The wicked shall see this taking place and shall mourn for they rejected Jesus at every single step of their lives and now they shall receive their reward of death by fire.

"I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" **Rev.6:12-17**

"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! ...The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth." **Rev. 11:15,18**

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord." **1st Thess. 4:16**

Conclusion

Let us thank God for giving us a chapter like Matthew 24, along with Mark 13 and Luke 21, that we may be forewarned of the many end time events that are to take place just before His coming. Let us not be deceived as the devil will be out with his fallen angels seeking to deceive God's people and to lead them astray that they may be lost. There will be a sifting out of the ungodly and the nominal Christians from amongst God's true remnant of believers, His true Church, therefore let us be awake and sober lest that great Day come upon us as thief in the night.

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work."
Rev.22:12