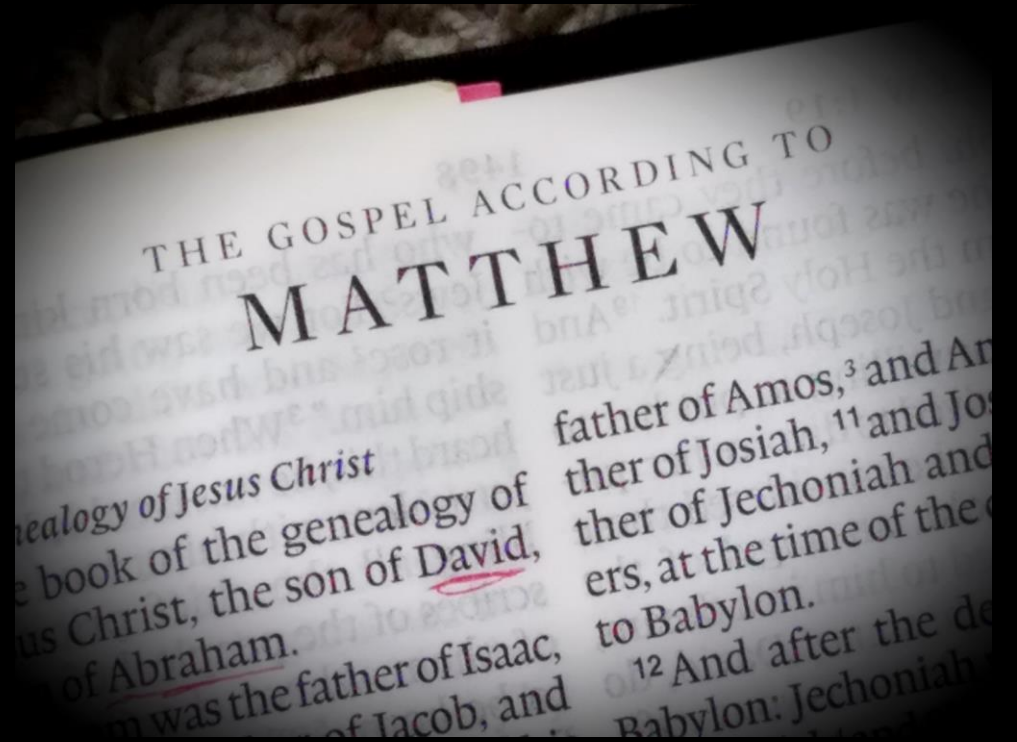


Verse by Verse

Matthew 24



Christ's Teaching in Matthew

Christ's Teaching in Matthew

Christ's Teaching in Matthew:

- Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5 – 7
- Commissioning of the Twelve Matthew 10
- Parables of the Kingdom Matthew 13
- Message on Community Life Matthew 18
- Seven Woes Matthew 23
- Olivet Discourse Matthew 24 – 25

Matthew 24 Introduction

Matthew 24 Introduction

- After the **Sermon on the Mount**, the **Olivet Discourse** is the next longest continuous teaching of Jesus that we have.
- After the book of **Revelation**, it is the next longest piece of New Testament prophecy.
- It has parallels in **Mark 13**, **Luke 17** and **Luke 21**.
- This all makes it pretty important.

Matthew 24 Key Verse

Matthew 24 Key Verse

- Matthew 24:44 (ESV)

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24 Outline

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1. The Temple Destroyed 24:1-2
2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44
 - Q1: When will these things be? 24:3a
 - Q2: What will be the sign ...? 24:3b
 - A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35
 - A1: Regarding When 24:36-44
3. Watch and Be Ready 24:45-51

1. The Temple Destroyed 24:1-2

1. The Temple Destroyed 24:1-2

- The temple was a beautiful site.
- The outside was covered in white marble with numerous gold plates adding to its brilliance.
- Work had progressed for about 50 years at this time and was not completed until AD 63, about 30 years later.
- The Romans destroyed it in AD 70.

1. The Temple Destroyed 24:1-2



Second Temple Model – Photo by Berthold Werner ¹

1. The Temple Destroyed 24:1-2

- Not one stone was left upon another.
- Roman soldiers burned the structure, which caused the gold to melt and run into cracks and crevices.
- The Roman commander ordered the temple dismantled stone by stone in order to recover the melted gold.
- It is now hard to know the exact outline of its foundation.

2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44

- First a few words on the structure of this section.

2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44

- **Chiasm** or **Chiasmus**: The use of an A - B - B - A or other form that follows a forward and back pattern.
- For example, A - B - C - D - C - B - A
- It is named for the Greek letter “Chi” that looks like an



2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44

Q1: When will these things be? 24:3a

Q2: What will be the sign ...? 24:3b

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

A1: Regarding When 24:36-44

2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44

- Matthew 24:3 (ESV)

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us,

Q1: When will these things be?

Q2: And what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?

2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44



Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives – Wikimedia Commons ²

2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44

- 24:3 The disciples probably thought they were asking one great big question.
- In other words, they assumed the destruction of the temple and the end of the age were connected.
- Jesus answered the temple question, but **Matthew** doesn't record it.
- You can find it in **Luke 21:20-24**.

2. End Times Q & A 24:3-44

- 24:3 The word “coming” is the Greek word *Parousía*.
- It means a “personal presence” or an “arrival,” but in the New Testament it refers to the Christ’s Return.
- Paul, James, Peter and John use the word this way 20 times in their letters, but they picked up this usage from Jesus.
- He uses it first, 4 times, in 24:3, 27, 37 and 39.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:4-6 False Christs, wars and rumors of wars – in and of themselves – do not signal the end.
- These have been normal throughout the church age.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:7-8 Put together, on a worldwide scale, all these things signal “the beginning of the birth pains.”
- Expect these to increase in both frequency and intensity until they reach their climax near the end.
- This climax is in view in Revelation 6 – 10.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:9-14 Persecution will also increase – right along with the spread of the gospel.
- Again, these reach their climax near the end.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:15-20 The “Abomination of Desolation” appears in Daniel 11:31 and 12:11, but its timing is first referenced in
- Daniel 9:27 (NIV)

He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:15-20 This “abomination” is the idol that represents the “He” or “him” in Daniel 9:27, the one known as
- The Beast in Revelation
- Antichrist in the Letters of John
- The Man of Lawlessness or Man of Sin in 2 Thessalonians.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (ESV)

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35



The Abomination of Desolation signals Satan's and the Antichrist's final attempt to exterminate the Jews. The fact that the Jewish generation will still be here when the Second Coming of the Messiah occurs shows that Satan's attempt toward Jewish destruction will fail, and the Jewish saints of the second half of the Tribulation can receive comfort from these words.³

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum,
The Footsteps of the Messiah*

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:21-27 At this point, the judgments of God, which were already severe in the first half of the “seven” get worse.
- This also parallels Revelation 11 – 19.
- 24:28 is difficult. It seems to be some kind proverb or figure of speech indicating certainty. The loose meaning might be,
“God’s judgment will surely come in God’s own time, when the world is ripe for judgment.”

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:29-30 At the end of all the judgments, Christ returns.
- This will be an unmistakable event, as in Revelation 19.
- No one left alive will confuse it with something else.
- 24:31 This verse parallels various Old Testament accounts of the regathering of Israel.
- See Isaiah 11:11 – 12:6, 43:5-7; Jeremiah 23:5-8, 31:7-14; Ezekiel 11:16-21, 20:40-42, 36:22-31 and more.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35

- 24:32-35 After Israel won its independence some teachers latched onto this illustration and began setting dates.
- Their basis was that the fig tree represented Israel.
- One problem with this is the parallel account in Luke 21:29, here Jesus says “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.”
- A better view is to look at the whole collection of signs leading up to the Abomination of Desolation as relevant.

A2: Regarding Signs 24:4-35



The point of the illustration is to provide a word of comfort that the worldwide attempt to destroy the Jews is destined for failure, for the Jewish generation that sees the Abomination of Desolation will still be around when Messiah returns.³

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum,
The Footsteps of the Messiah*

A1: Regarding When 24:36-44

A1: Regarding When 24:36-44

- 24:36 Highlight or mark this verse in your Bible.
- The Greek term *Peri de* or “But concerning” shows contrast.
- Jesus changes the subject and introduces something new.
- He is moving from “Regarding signs” to “Regarding when.”
- The answer is that everyone will be surprised.

A1: Regarding When 24:36-44

- I believe this whole section is talking about the **Rapture of the Church**, a doctrine that is getting less popular these days.
- If it stayed popular it wouldn't be such a surprise.
- Only God the Father knows, Jesus probably does now (**v.36**).
- No unusual signs at all will proceed it (**37-39**)
- People will be suddenly separated (**40-41**)
- Therefore we need to constantly watch and stay alert (**41-44**)

A1: Regarding When 24:36-44

The rapture is not an escape from a world of trials, but a “catching up” to be protected from the future divine judgments that will come on the earth and to join with our Savior and Lord to be with Him forever. ⁴

– John F. Hart,
Moody Bible Institute



3. Watch and Be Ready 24:45-51

3. Watch and Be Ready 24:45-51

- A belief in the Rapture nicely harmonizes two points:
 1. Christ comes as a complete surprise.
 2. Christ comes only after numerous terrible and easily identifiable events.
- These events include the worst troubles the earth has ever seen and the abomination of desolation at the temple.
- No one would survive if they were not cut short (24:21-22).

3. Watch and Be Ready 24:45-51

- Christ can come for his church at any time.
- This is the next big event in the prophetic timeline.
- This view takes seriously the “any time” or “surprise” element of his coming.
- That will set off a series of events that will comprise the climax of God’s judgments upon a sinful world.

3. Watch and Be Ready 24:45-51

- Those judgments will take place during a seven-year period of time that will focus on the nation and people of Israel.
- Israel and the Gentile believers who come to faith during that time will be certain of what is happening.
- At this time, however, we need to always watch.

Matthew 24 What We Just Read

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Matthew 24 Key Verse

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Matthew 24 Key Points

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1. Do not be overly concerned with signs or you might easily be deceived by “false labor” or worse, false Christs.
2. Expect “signs” to only increase in frequency and intensity.
3. When Christ returns his coming will be unmistakable.
4. Before the final outpouring of God’s judgments, he will remove his church.
5. Since this will come at an unexpected time, we must be alert, diligently at work, and always watching for Jesus.

Matthew 24 A Prayer

Matthew 24 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- Jesus warned us that many will be deceived by false signs and false Christs prior to his actual coming.
- Please protect us from every form of spiritual deception.
- Help us not to fear as we continuously hear of wars and rumors of wars, political turmoil, famines, earthquakes, and increasing troubles of various kinds.

Matthew 24 A Prayer

- We understand that these things must be, but they do not mean that the end is here, or even that it is near enough for us to see it.
- On the other hand, help us to always be watchful, because our Lord is returning for us at a time that we do not know and will not expect.
- He might even come today, so help us to always be ready.
- In Christ's name,
- Amen.

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