

Matthew 24:1-35 **Signs of the End Time**

Awesome Temple – Every Stone will be thrown down

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Disciples Questions

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

JESUS' ANSWER

Beginning of Sorrows

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. **5** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Tribulation

9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. **10** And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. **11** Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **12** And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. **13** But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **14** 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.

Great Tribulation – Abomination of Desolation

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), **16** then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17** Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. **18** And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. **19** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! **20** And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. **21** 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. **22** And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. **23** Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. **24** For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

You were told in advance

25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Warning to Beware – His coming will be obvious to all

26 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. **27** For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Stage Setting

28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

29 "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.

Coming with Clouds

30 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.

Gather the Elect

31 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.

Fig Tree Illustration – This Generation

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Certainty of the Words of Jesus

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ Jesus has been teaching in the Temple in Jerusalem, where He has been challenged by all the top religious leaders of Israel, the Chief Priests, Elders, Scribes, Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and Lawyers who were seeking a way to arrest Him to put Him to death. [Matthew 21:23-22:46, Mark 11:1-31, 12:1-40, Luke 20:1-45] Jesus had pronounced Eight woes against the Scribes and Pharisees, and lamented over Jerusalem because of its fate. [Matthew 23:1-39]
- ✚ Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. [Matthew 24:1, Mark 13:1, Luke 21:5]
 - ✧ As they were leaving the Temple the disciples were in awe over the magnificence of the temple buildings, which had been started by Herod the Great around 20-19 B.C., the surrounding buildings and court were still under construction, and not finished until 64 A.D., which was after Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead. The Temple was destroyed 70 A.D. by Titus and his Roman legions.
- ✚ Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." [Matthew 24:2, Mark 13:2, Luke 21:6]
 - ✧ The disciples contemplated the words of Jesus as they crossed the Kidron valley and ascended the Mount of olives.

Disciples Questions [Matthew 24:3, Mark 13:3-4, Luke 21:7]

- ✚ When Jesus sat down on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him and asked about His statement at the Temple when Jesus had said, "Not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Their question had three parts:
 - ✧ When will these things be?
 - ✧ What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?

- ✧ Apparently they saw a connection between the coming of Jesus, and of the end of the age.

JESUS' ANSWER

- ✧ Jesus began with the signs that would lead to the end of the age and to His coming.
- ✧ Jesus did not answer the question regarding the time of the destruction of the Temple.

Beginning of Sorrows

- ✧ Deceivers deceiving many. "Take heed that no one deceives you. For **many will come** in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' **and will deceive many.**" [Matthew 24:4-5, Mark 13:5-6, Luke 21:8]
 - ✧ One example I know of is the Sun Myung Moon from Korea who claimed to be Jesus Christ, who came to complete the work He started but was cut short at His crucifixion, Moon founded the Unification Church in 1954.
 - ✧ There have been many others just as deceptive.
- ✧ Jesus' first and highest concern, and the most important consideration as we approach the end of the age, is the profusion of deceptive teachers and doctrines that would and will come out to deceive the very elect if possible. [Matthew 24:4-5, 24]
 - ✧ The things the disciples needed to be on guard against, was first and foremost, the danger from those who would come with deceptive messages declared to be in the name of Jesus Himself, even claiming to be the "Christ."
 - ✧ The deception will be so strong that many will be deceived by them.
- ✧ There will be wars and rumors of wars all along through the ages, but the end is not yet. [Matthew 24:6, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9]
 - ✧ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, until the very end. [Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10]
- ✧ There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. [Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:11]
- ✧ These are the beginning of sorrows. [Matthew 24:8, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9]
 - ✧ So when we look back on history, we realize that all the wars of conquering, the wars to end all wars like the First and Second World wars, the Holocaust and all other forms of violence between nations are included in this text.
 - ✧ I believe that this even includes the invasion of Gog and Magog after Israel has signed a peace agreement with the Arab nations around her. [Ezekiel 38:1-23]
 - ✧ These are simply signs pointing to the coming end.

Tribulation and Betrayal – Holy Spirit Helping Testimony

- ✧ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. [Matthew 24:9, Mark 13:9, 13, Luke 21:12, 17, 12:11-12]
- ✧ 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]
- ✧ Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. [Mark 13:11, Luke 21:14-15]
- ✧ But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. [Luke 21:12-13]
- ✧ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. [Matthew 24:10, Mark 13:12, Luke 21:16]
- ✧ 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. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. [Luke 21:16-18]

- ✧ The betrayal to death will extend into the family unit.
- ✚ By your patience possess your souls. [\[Luke 21:19\]](#)
 - ✧ This calls for the patient commitment to the very end on the part of the Saints. [\[Revelation 13:10, 14:12, Matthew 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13\]](#)
- ✚ Tribulation is in store for the Apostles and all who stand for the sake of the Name of Jesus.
 - ✧ The Church in Jerusalem suffered such great persecution that everyone except the Apostles were scattered all over the region of Judea and Samaria. [\[Acts 8:1\]](#), And we find that they even went as far as Syria, evidenced by Saul who was on his way to Damascus with authority to bring all Christians to Jerusalem to be tried and executed. [\[Acts 9:1-2, 22:4-5, 26:9-11\]](#)
 - ✧ Tribulation brings violence into the home where many will be offended, will betray one another, and hate one another.
 - ✧ Even today as the Humanists have gained power to persuade the US. Government and the American Education Authority to remove any acknowledgment of God and the Bible from public places, government offices, and school buildings and grounds, public parks, etc. we see the public turning more and more violent.
 - ✧ That violence is often aimed against all aspects of Christianity and Judaism with attacks against the persons and structures. Churches and Synagogues are burned, property destroyed, hate crimes are increasing in America and around the world.
 - ✧ The general attitude is increasingly leaning toward the betrayal in home or public against those who stand for godliness and righteousness.
 - ✧ The news media and movie industry have been very influential in turning public opinion against true Christianity. So often in news reports and movies, Christians are ridiculed and shown in a derogatory manner as bigoted abusive hypocrites.
 - ✧ In many wars of history, there were family members reporting on other family members who were then put to death. This was quite common during the holocaust of the Second World War. This will also be quite common during the time of the Antichrist and False Prophet.

End Time Deceivers

- ✚ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. [\[Matthew 24:11\]](#)
 - ✧ The effectiveness of the deception is expressed by the words, "and deceive many."
 - ✧ Today we see the rapid spread of the cults and the occult along with many blatantly false doctrines presented in many large churches, radio, and television.
- ✚ And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. [\[Matthew 24:12\]](#)
 - ✧ When betrayal is rampant, and family members are betraying each-other, it is easy to see why the love of many will grow cold. [\[Matthew 24:12\]](#)
 - ✧ Even today, because of widespread abuse in the homes, children are instructed to report their parents to school authorities or to the police. Many children are taken out of the homes and placed in foster homes because of these reports, and many parents face criminal charges because of it. This is only setting the stage for the End-time betrayals.
- ✚ But through it all, we have the promise that "**He who endures to the end shall be saved.**" [\[Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13, Luke 21:19\]](#)
 - ✧ This is encouragement for the Saints, that even in the darkest hour, salvation is still there for the ones who, like Job, remain faithful to the end.

Gospel preached world wide

- ✚ 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. [\[Matthew 24:14, Mark 13:10\]](#)

- ✧ This is one factor that is happening today. Radio and Television waves are beamed into homes in every nation of the earth with the gospel of the Kingdom of God. The truth is going out faithfully even over the internet.
- ✧ This is a witness to the nations. It does not mean that everyone will be converted, but that it is available, and they will have the chance to hear if they seek it out. However, because of the great profusion of false teaching that is also rampant, it requires discernment on the part of the hearer to be able to sort out the truth from the error.
- ✧ The key to discernment is in the Bible, and requires knowledge of the truth in order to recognize the error. If you know the truth from God's Holy Word, the Bible, you will recognize the deceptive message when it comes along.
- ✧ If you do not know the truth, you may be led astray after every wind of doctrine that comes along, and be unable to discern the difference. [Ephesians 4:14]
- ✧ Before the end we find that there will be an "angel flying in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel** to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." [Revelation 14:6-7]

Great Tribulation – Abomination of Desolation – Warning [Matthew 24:15-25, Mark 13:14-20, Luke 21:20-24]

- ✧ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. [Luke 21:20]
- ✧ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand). [Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14]
 - ✧ The Jews believe that in 175 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel regarding the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple. [Daniel 11:31]
 - ✧ However Jesus, over 175 years later, stated the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy of the Abomination of Desolation was still future, thereby refuting the supposition of the Jews.
 - ✧ The Abomination of Desolation in question is a reference to the **Beast** of Revelation, and the **Image of the Beast** that will be set up in the Temple by the **False Prophet**. [Revelation 13:14-15]
 - ✧ This act will start the countdown of the last 3 ½ years before the Battle of Armageddon, [Revelation 16:16], the last 42 months before the coming of Jesus with the armies of Heaven, [Revelation 19:11-16] the last 1260 days before the Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast into the eternal Lake of Fire. [Revelation 11:3, 12:6, 19:20]
- ✧ The warning for those who recognize the fulfillment of this prophecy is urgent, flee for your lives.
 - ✧ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. [Matthew 24:16, Mark 13:14, Luke 21:21]
 - ✧ You will not have time to go back to take anything out of your house, or go back from the field to get your clothing. [Matthew 24:17-18, Mark 13:15-16, Luke 17:31]
- ✧ The Great Tribulation of that time will be so severe, Jesus said a woe for a pregnant woman or one with an infant.
 - ✧ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! [Matthew 24:19, Mark 13:17, Luke 21:23]
- ✧ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. [Matthew 24:20, Mark 13:18]
- ✧ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles **until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled**. [Luke 21:24]
 - ✧ The Great Tribulation culminates the Time of the Gentiles.
- ✧ For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. [Luke 21:22]

✠ **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**. [Matthew 24:21-22, Mark 13:19-20, Luke 21:23-24]

- ✧ The Great Tribulation will be the worst time in the entire history of the earth.
- ✧ The time will be cut short for the sake of the Elect, so there will still be flesh to enter the Kingdom of Heaven as mortals to make up the kingdoms of mankind for the thousand year reign of Christ.
- ✧ If the time was not cut short, no flesh would be saved (survive). [Matthew 24:22]
- ✧ God wants mortals in the Kingdom of Heaven so they can be raising families and experience the benefits of a perfect government with Jesus reigning as King of kings, and Lord of lords, in perfect righteousness and peace.

Great Tribulation – Deceivers – Antichrist and False Prophet

- ✠ 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. [Matthew 24:23-24, Mark 13:21-22, Luke 17:23]
- ✧ This is a reference to the Antichrist and False Prophet of the Last 3 ½ years. [Revelation 13:1-18]

You were told in advance

- ✠ See, I have told you beforehand. [Matthew 24:25, Mark 13:23]
- ✧ Since Jesus warned us before it happens, we are responsible to believe the warning and avoid believing the deception.
 - ✧ Knowing in advance what will happen, should make us able to discern the actual event when it takes place, so we will not be like the Pharisees who could discern the weather but could not discern their own time as it took place around them. [Matthew 16:1-3]

This is the end of the signs. What follows, is filling in of information pertaining to the time of the end, and is similar to Genesis chapter 2 as God filled in information regarding creation which He introduced in Genesis chapter one.

Conclusion of Warning to Beware, Do not be deceived

- ✠ 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. [Matthew 24:26, Mark 13:21-22, Luke 17:23]
- ✧ This applies to today as a warning of the many false representatives of Jesus Christ who claim to be Him, and lead so many gullible people astray.
 - ✧ Many reports have been circulated since the late 1950s saying He is in a building in Europe, or in Asia, or in Africa, or in some place in America, and He is just waiting for the right time to show Himself.
 - ✧ These various statements demonstrate the accuracy of the prophecy of Jesus, and fulfill His words to the letter, but more such, are still to come.
 - ✧ Deceivers have been warned against now 4 times in this presentation, therefore we must realize that it is the greatest danger the Church will face, and God's greatest concern for the Church as we approach the time of the end.

His coming will be obvious to all

- ✠ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. [Matthew 24:27, Luke 17:24]
- ✧ When Jesus does come, no one will need to tell anyone about it, because it will be obvious to all.

✧ The works of God are not hidden, but open and obvious.

Stage Setting for the Second Coming

Eagles gathered

✧ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. [Matthew 24:28, Luke 17:37]

✧ The coming of the Lord is a tremendous event which God has planned and prepared in detail which includes the clean-up crew and special lighting.

✧ The coming of the Lord at the Battle of Armageddon will result in the slaughter of all the armies of the world who are gathered to that great battle.

✧ Where ever a corps lies dead on the ground, the birds of carrion and beasts of the fields will be there to consume the flesh and clean up the mess. [Revelation 19:17-18, Matthew 24:28, Luke 17:37]

✧ It will be the same as the cleanup after the invasion of Gog and Magog at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. [Ezekiel 39:17-20]

Special lighting

✧ "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. [Luke 21:25-26]

✧ "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." [Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24-25, Luke 21:25-26]

✧ God even has special lighting effects in store for that time. [Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24-25, Luke 21:25-26, Joel 3:15, Zechariah 14:6-7]

Coming with Clouds

✧ 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**. [Matthew 24:30, 26:64, Mark 13:26, 14:62, Luke 3:6, 21:27, Revelation 1:7, 19:11-16]

✧ He will come with the clouds (armies) of Heaven made up of the Saints and Angels. [Isaiah 13:5, Matthew 24:31, Mark 13:27, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 1 Thessalonians 4:14, Jude 1:14-15, Revelation 17:14, Matthew 16:27, 25:31-46, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:25-26, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10]

Mourning at His Coming

✧ All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. [Matthew 24:30, Zechariah 12:10-14, Revelation 1:7]

✧ The mourning that will accompany His coming is because at the time of His coming He will set up the seat of judgment and all that offend God will be cast into eternal judgment as He purges the earth to start the Kingdom in purity and righteousness. [Isaiah 13:4-9, 59:1-21, Zechariah 12:10-14, Matthew 7:21-23, 13:30, 40-42, 49-50, 16:27, 22:13, 25:31-46, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:23-26, Romans 2:1-6, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Jude 1:14-15]

Gathering the Elect to make up the Armies of Heaven prior to His coming with them

✧ 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. [Matthew 24:31, Mark 13:27]

✧ This is in preparation for the time when they will come with Jesus in the Armies of Heaven at the Battle of Armageddon.

Illustration of the Fig Tree – This Generation

✧ "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. [Matthew 24:32-34, Mark 13:28-29, Luke 21:29-31]

- ✧ The signs Jesus gave of the time of the end as listed above, are as sure a sign to be witnessed as the evidence that summer is near when you see the fig tree with leaves.
 - ✧ In the Spring, the fig tree puts forth the fruit before the leaves come out, then as summer draws near, the leaves come out. So the leaves of the fig tree is a good and reliable sign that summer is near.
- ✧ In the same way, the signs Jesus listed above are as reliable an evidence of the approaching time of the end.
- ✧ The signs given, extend to the end, and include the Antichrist and false prophet, Jesus' second coming, and the judgment that precedes the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✧ Now when these things **begin to happen**, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the **kingdom of God is near.** [Luke 21:28, 31, Matthew 24:34]

This Generation

- ✧ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. [Luke 21:32]
- ✧ Since the time of the end, from the preceding signs to the end of the Great Tribulation, is accomplished in a little over a seven year span of time, it is plain to see that the generation that recognizes the signs of the end will still be alive at the end of it. [Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32]

Certainty of the Words of Jesus

- ✧ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. [Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33]
- ✧ The Words of Jesus are reliable. [Revelation 3:7, 14, 19:11, 21:5, 22:6]

Conclusion and warning

- ✧ "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. [Luke 21:34-35]

Illustration of our need for Watching when the time is unknown

- ✧ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" [Mark 13:32-37, Matthew 24:36, 42, 25:13, Revelation 3:3]
- ✧ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. [Luke 12:40]

Hope of Escape

- ✧ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." [Luke 21:36]

Teaching in Temple Day Time – Night time on Mount of Olives

- ✧ And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet. [Luke 21:37]
- ✧ Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him. [Luke 21:38]