

Our King Is Coming!

Part 2

Introduction.

1. Last week we began a four part series of lessons on the subject "Our King Is Coming."
2. We emphasized Jesus is visibly coming a second time to take His disciples home to glory in heaven and to condemn those who did not obey Him. (Rev. 1:7; 2 Thess. 1:8-9).
3. We also studied some of the invisible comings of Christ and emphasized the Bible refers to both visible and invisible comings of Christ. (Matt. 26:29; Rev. 3:20; Acts 2:32-36).
4. We concluded lesson 1 by looking briefly at two questions the disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 24:3.

Matt 24:1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

Matt 24:2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

Matt 24:3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "**Tell us, when will these things happen, and what {will be} the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**"

Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

- a. The shocked disciples wanted to know when the temple of God would be destroyed and what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age [world].
 - b. They may have thought these two events would happen at the same time, but Jesus will teach these two events would be at different times.
 - c. There would be many signs signaling the approach of the destruction of Jerusalem, but His second visible coming would come "as a thief in the night" without any warnings or signs.
5. This lesson will study the response of Jesus to these important questions about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple and give more detail about His second coming.

Destruction of Jerusalem

1. Jesus begins by answering the question about the destruction of Jerusalem.
2. Jesus had revealed that the temple would be totally destroyed (Matt. 24:2), and this prophecy naturally upset the apostles who likely believed the temple would stand for a very long time or to the end of the age [world].
3. Here are some signs that would occur before the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - a. There would be false Christs [Messiahs], "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many." (Matt. 24:5).
 - b. There would be "wars and rumors of wars." (Matt. 24:6).

Matt 24:6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for {those things} must take place, but {that} is not yet the end.

- “end,” in this context, is a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
- There would be rumors of wars before Jerusalem’s destruction, but this prophesy of “wars and rumors of war” was not unique to that time. Sadly, this has been the history of the world and our nation throughout its history.

c. Jesus warned other signs would precede the destruction of Jerusalem. (Matt. 24:7,8).

Matt 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

Matt 24:8 "But all these things are {merely} the beginning of birth pangs.

- These horrible things and pains would later become more intense like a woman about to give birth to a baby.
- Just as a woman’s pains become more frequent and painful as delivery of her baby draws near, these pains would become greater and more intense as a sign of the nearness of Jerusalem’s destruction.

d. There would be persecutions and hatred of His disciples. (Matt. 24:9).

Matt 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

- 1) This would be true of the apostles who suffered much persecution and even death.
- 2) It would also be true of Christians in general who suffered much persecution. (2 Tim. 3:12)

e. Many would fall away and even hate and betray one another. (Matt. 24:10).

Matt 24:10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

- Early Christians faced great persecution.
- It began with the apostles and spread to other Christians. (Acts 4:10-21; 8:1-4; Acts 9:1-2).
- It especially became great after Nero who had a great hatred for Christians became Emperor of Rome.

f. “False prophets” would precede the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. (Matt. 24:11).

Matt 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

g. The love of many would grow cold. (Matt. 24:12).

Matt 24:12 "Because lawlessness [sin, persecution] is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

h. Jesus taught not all would fall away. (Matt. 24:13).

Matt 24:13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

- The word “end” would mean faithfulness to death. (Rev. 2:10).
- Christianity demands lifelong service and faithfulness even when it means ridicule, rejection, imprisonment and death.
- It demands we not deny Jesus or be ashamed of Him. (Matt. 10:22; Mk. 8:38).

I. The gospel would be preached “to the whole world.” (Matt. 24:14). See Col. 1:23.

Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

- 1) This verse was written about A.D. 62 during Paul’s 1st Roman imprisonment - A.D. 60-62.
- 2) The gospel had been “proclaimed in all creation under heaven.”
- 3) This would refer to the known world in Paul’s day or to the fact the proclamation of the gospel was very widespread in and beyond the Roman empire.

j. The abomination of desolation would come. (Matt. 24:15).

Matt 24:15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

- 1) This is a reference to general Titus under the command of the Roman emperor Vespasian and refers to the Roman army that surrounded Jerusalem in about A.D. 67 and destroyed it in A.D. 70.
- 2) Daniel had prophesied the coming of the Messiah and this great and horrible destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple. Dan. 9:26,27).

Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks [7 x 70 =490] years have been decreed for your people [the Jews] and your holy city [Jerusalem], to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up [make come true] vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy {place.} “Place” is in italics and it is better understood to refer to the Person of Jesus Christ as the “most holy.” (Mk. 1:24; Lk. 4:34; Jn. 6:69; Acts 2:27).

Dan 9:25 "So you are to know and discern {that} from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah [anointed one] the Prince [**Cyrus ascending to the throne of Babylon**] {there will be} seven weeks [49 years] and sixty-two weeks [434 years]; it will be built again, with plaza [streets] and moat [defenses around], even in times of distress [much trouble]. See Ezra 6:14 for the decree.

Dan 9:26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks [434 years] the Messiah [the anointed Jesus] will be cut off [suffer a violent death] and have nothing, and the people of the [Roman] prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary [God’s temple]. And its end {will come} with [like] a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

Dan 9:27 "And he [Jesus, the Messiah] will make a firm covenant with the many for one week [7 years], but in the middle [midst, half] of the week [after 3 ½ years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations {will come} one [Roman General and his army] who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Seventy Weeks

- ◆ Jerusalem and the temple had been destroyed in 586 BC. by the Babylonians because of the sinfulness of the people of Judah.
- ◆ “Seven weeks” [49 days=49 years] later {Cyrus} became prince of Babylon in 538 BC. (Dan. 9:25).
- ◆ In 457 B.C. Ezra took a group back to Jerusalem with authority to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and the temple even though Nehemiah actually was the one who supervised the rebuilding of the walls in 444 B.C.
- ◆ There would be 69 ½ [7 +62 ½] weeks between 457 B.C. and the death of Christ on the cross..

- ◆ Some 69 ½ weeks [486 ½ years] after Ezra's commission this prophecy would be complete [457 + 29 ½].
- ◆ This would be the very year of Jesus' death - A.D. 30.
- ◆ Jesus had begun His ministry some 3 ½ years earlier [about A.D. 27] when He was immersed by John the Baptist in the Jordan river and anointed by the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:13-17; Acts 10:38). He was about 30 when He was baptized. (Lk. 3:23).
- ◆ As punishment for their wickedness and for putting Jesus the Messiah to death, God appointed the Roman General Titus would come and destroy Jerusalem and the holy temple.
- ◆ According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple was the completion of Daniel's prophecy.
- ◆ The coming of the Messiah [Jesus] would "finish transgression" by making "reconciliation for iniquity."
- ◆ Sin would not cease, but Jesus came to make atonement for all who would receive Him and His atoning sacrifice.
- ◆ The Messiah [Jesus] would usher in an era of "everlasting righteousness" referring to the Gospel dispensation..
- ◆ The "most holy" seems to be an allusion to Jesus who was God's anointed One. (Matt. 3:16; Acts 2:36; 10:38; Heb. 1:9; Isa. 61:1).
- ◆ He would "make a firm covenant with many."
- ◆ "One half week" [3 ½ years] after Jesus' death Paul was converted to Christ (Acts 9:1-30), and the gospel was later offered to Gentiles through the preaching of Peter. (Acts 10:34-35).
- ◆ This is a reference to the New Covenant. The Old Covenant, the Mosaic Law, was nailed to the cross when Jesus died on the cross. (Rom. 7:4; Col. 2:14-17; Heb. 10:9).
- ◆ Jesus' death and the destruction of the temple would lead to the ceasing of "the sacrifice and oblation." (Dan. 9:27a).
- ◆ Jesus' ministry began at the age of about 30 (Lk. 3:23), and ½ week later [3 ½ years] Jesus died to atone for the sins of mankind. (Isa. 53:6; 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- ◆ Jesus taught the Old Testament gave prophecies concerning Himself and emphatically affirmed He was fulfilling Old Testament prophecies including Daniel's prophecy. (Lk. 24:27,44).

Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luke and Matthew confirm this prophecy would have its fulfillment when Jerusalem was surrounded and destroyed. (Lk. 21:20-21; Matt. 22:7).

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

Luke 21:21 "Then **those who are in Judea** must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city;

Matt 22:7 "But the king [Nero] was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire."

k. Those "in Judea" should flee. (Matt. 24:16).

Matt 24:16 then those who are **in Judea** must flee to the mountains.

- 1) Jerusalem was the capital of Judea.
- 2) Fleeing to the mountains would save the lives of Christians residing in or near Jerusalem.
- 3) Many seek to apply this to the end of the world and Christ's second coming, but we do not live in Judea and fleeing to the mountains would not help in case of a nuclear attack.
- 4) Jesus showed this only applied to those in Judea and instructed only those in [or near] Judea to flee.

l. They were not to take the time to get their belongings out of their houses nor return from the field to their houses "to get their cloaks. (Matt. 24:17, 18)

Matt 24:17 "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

Matt 24:18 "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

- 1) Quickly fleeing would save them from the Roman army, but it would bring on great hardships since they were leaving everything behind.
- 2) It would not help in a nuclear war as some believe will bring on the devastation of the world.
- 3) This is something those who want this to apply to the end of the world should remember.

m Warning to pregnant women and to women nursing babies. (Mat. 24:19).

Matt 24:19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

- 1) A pregnant woman would not be able to flee very far or fast.
- 2) A woman nursing a baby would also find it hard to flee very far or fast without problems.

n. They should "pray" this did not occur in winter nor on the Sabbath. (Matt. 24:20).

Matt 24:20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

- 1) They would also be limited in the distance they could travel - a Sabbath's day journey was less than 1 mile.
- 2) Fleeing without food and their goods would make the winter very hard.

o. There would be "great tribulation." (Matt. 24:21-22)

Matt 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

Matt 24:22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

- 1) The tribulation would be unimaginable in Jerusalem.

- 2) The Roman army surrounded Jerusalem for 3 years and cut off the food supply leading to the starvation of many Jews.
 - 3) No one could leave or enter Jerusalem because of the Roman army surrounding Jerusalem.
 - 4) Josephus reported no one survived the destruction of Jerusalem. They were either killed or taken captive.
- p. Another warning against false Christs and false prophets who would precede the destruction of Jerusalem. (Matt. 24:23-28).

Matt 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There {He is,}' do not believe {him.}

Matt 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Matt 24:25 "Behold, I have told you in advance.

Matt 24:26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, {or,} 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe {them.}

Matt 24:27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt 24:28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

- Jerusalem would be full of rotten carcasses for the vultures. (Matt. 24:28). Josephus said 1 million people died in the destruction of Rome.

q. "This generation" [some or many of those alive at the time] would see these things.

- r. Jesus uttered these words recorded in Matthew 24:29-30 about 29 or 30 A.D. not long before His death and Jerusalem was totally destroyed by the Roman army in A.D. 70.

Matt 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Matt 24:30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

Conclusion.

1. In lesson 3 we will continue this study "Our King Is Coming."
2. We will study the apocalyptic [catastrophic] description of the destruction of Jerusalem in Matthew 24.
3. We will clearly show, from the Scriptures, that Matthew 24:29-30 is figurative language for Jesus' invisible coming to oversee the destruction of Jerusalem.
4. We will set forth from the Scriptures that the destruction of Jerusalem would occur in the "generation" in which Jesus lived. (Matt. 24:34).

Matt 24:34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.