

## **Our King Is Coming!**

### Part 3

#### **Introduction.**

1. In the two previous lessons on “Our King Is Coming” we have studied some facts that we need to quickly review before proceeding with this lesson.
2. Jesus warned the temple would be totally destroyed and “not one stone would be left on top of another.” (Matt. 24:1-2).
3. The shocked disciples proceeded to ask a two-fold question in Matthew 24:3.

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?"

- a. They wanted to know when the temple would be destroyed and when “the end of the age [the world] would occur.
  - b. It is very possible they thought these two events would occur at the same time, but Jesus revealed these two events would not be at the same time.
  - c. General signs and specific signs would precede the destruction of Jerusalem, but His second visible coming would be without warning.
4. Jesus proceeded to give the signs that would precede the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70. (Matt. 24:4-28).
    - a. Jesus taught the destruction of Jerusalem was included in the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy. (Dan. 9:24-27).

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) Daniel, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, foretold the invisible coming of the Lord and the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70. (Dan. 9:27).
- 2) Here is breakdown of his amazing 70 week [490 year] prophecy.

#### **Here Is The Timetable of Daniel’s Amazing Prophecy**

The temple had been destroyed in 586 B.C. - See Jere. 25:11-14; 29:10).	The Babylonians had completely destroyed the temple in Jerusalem
Cyrus, the Persian king, ascended to the throne of Babylon in 538 BC. (2 Chron. 36:22; Isa. 45:1).	This was 7 weeks [49 years] after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C..

70 years after 586 B.C. in 516 B.C. the temple was rebuilt.	
The 70 weeks prophecy began In 457 B.C.	This was the year Ezra [457 B.C.] was given authority to return to Jerusalem to restore the city.
7 weeks + 62 weeks - - 69 weeks would elapse after 457 B.C. before the Messiah would commence His ministry.	483 years from Ezra's return until the Messiah's ministry began. in about 29 or 30 A.D. or about 25 or 26 A.D. according to corrected calendar.
The 70 <sup>th</sup> week is divided into 2 parts - two half weeks.	
½ week	3.5 years to crucifixion of Jesus after His ministry began. This was about 29 or 30 A.D. - see below
½ week	3.5 years of preaching only to the Jews. After that the gospel was taken to the Samaritans and later to the Gentiles. (Acts 8 & 10).
Total 70 weeks	490 years

- 457 B.C. plus 486 ½ years means Christ died in about 33 A. D. or about 29 A.D. according to the corrected calendar. It is now known Jesus was actually born about B.C. 4. and perhaps B.C. 5 or 6.
- Jesus was about 30 years old (Lk. 3:23) when He began His ministry about 29 or 30 A.D or 26 or 27 A.D. according to the corrected calendar that dates things 4 years earlier.
- In 29 A.D., according to the corrected calendar, Jesus ended the value of the Jewish sacrificial system by being nailed to the cross for the sins of mankind. (Isa. 53:6; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9-10-12).
  - b. Only those in Judea, where Jerusalem was located, were taught to flee to the mountains. (Matt. 24:16).
  - c. Those in Judea were instructed they must quickly flee and not even get their belongings in their houses. (Matt. 24:17).
  - d. The Jews were commanded to keep the Sabbath day and they should pray that their flight would not “be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.” (Matt. 24:20).
- 5. These signs clearly referred to the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem and were not signs that would precede His second coming that would occur “as the thief in the night” without warning.
- 6. This lesson will begin by examining Matthew 24:29-30 that is nearly always misunderstood by those who fail to understand the difference between the visible and invisible comings of Christ and the fact Jesus taught all this would be fulfilled in “this generation.”
  - a. Matt 24:34 "Truly I say to you, **this generation** will not pass away until all these things take place.”
    - 1) “This generation” referred to the generation in which Jesus lived. (Matt. 24:34).
    - 2) The word “generation” was never used by Matthew to mean race [the Jewish race], but it was used to refer to those living at the same time.
  - b. Some or many who were alive at the time Jesus uttered these words would have lived another 40 years

when Jerusalem was destroyed.

### After The Destruction Of Jerusalem

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 [heaven], and then all the tribes of the earth [of the land] will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

1. **Verse 29 is figurative language for the gloom and misery that would follow the destruction of Jerusalem.**
2. This does not refer to a visible coming of Jesus who will appear visibly twice - incarnation and second coming.
3. Jesus is now in heaven, but He would be the One who was invisibly behind [orchestrating the events] the attack.

Matt 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels [heavenly or earthly messengers] with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds [every direction], from one end of the sky to the other.

- Jesus did not identify "the sign of the Son of Man" and there is no way of knowing for sure what it might be.
- This kind of language was used to describe other great falls. (Matt. 24:29).
- It was used to describe **the fall of Babylon**. (Isa. 13:10,19 and the fall of Edom. (Isa. 34:4).

Is 13:10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.

Is 13:19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Is 34:4 And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as {one} withers from the fig tree.

- It was also used to describe **the distress of Egypt**. (Ezek. 32:7-8).

Ezek 32:7 "And when {I} extinguish you, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud And the moon will not give its light.

Ezek 32:8 "All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you And will set darkness on your land," Declares the Lord GOD.

- This kind of language did not refer to the literal destruction of the world and the universe, but was symbolic language used to describe great falls.
- Josephus indicated Christians were not in Jerusalem when it was destroyed.
- Early Christian historians Eusebius and Epiphanius claim that prior to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70 the Jerusalem Christians fled to the Decapolis city of Pella (note also Mark

13:14; Matt 24:15; Luke 21:20-22; 19:43-44).

Mark 13:14 "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

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),

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;

Luke 21:22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

Luke 19:43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

Luke 19:44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

- The validity of this claim that Christians fled to Pella is challenged by some and accepted by others, and there is no absolute way to prove or disprove it.
- If this claim of Josephus is correct [which is likely], it would explain much of Matthew 24:30-31.

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.

Matt 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

- There were signs when summer was approaching and when they saw these signs they would know the destruction of Jerusalem was near.

Matt 24:32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

Matt 24:33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, {right} at the door.

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

- The signs Jesus had given would help them know the destruction of Jerusalem was near.
- The citizens of Palestine could tell by the budding of the fig tree the coming of summer and these signs would let them know the destruction of Jerusalem was near.
- "All these things" refer to all the signs previously spoken of in this chapter. (Matt. 24:4-33).
- The words "this generation" are very important and they are the key in understanding this difficult passage.
- Some have understood it to mean the Jewish race would not pass away until all of this was fulfilled, but the word used here is "genea" meaning "generation" and not the word "genos" meaning race.
- In other places in Matthew, he uses "genea" [generation] to mean people alive at one time and usually at the same time. (Matt. 1:17; 11:16; 12:39, 41, 45; 23:36).

Matt 1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Matt 11:16 "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other {children,}

Matt 12:39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and {yet} no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

Matt 12:41 "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

Matt 12:45 "Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation."

Matt 23:36 "Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."

- Mark and Luke use "genea" in the same way. (Mk. 8:38; Lk. 11:50-51; 17:25).

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Luke 11:50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

Luke 11:51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house {of God;} yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.'

Luke 17:25 "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

- These words were spoken about A.D. 29 or 30, and the temple was destroyed in about A.D. 70.
- Some of those who heard these words and warnings would still be alive at that time.

## Second Coming

1. Jesus began to answer the 2<sup>nd</sup> question in regard to His second coming. (Matt. 24:35-44).

- a. There would be **a day** when the earth and universe would be destroyed. (2 Pet. 3:10-13; 1 Thess. 5:2).

2 Pet 3:10 But the **day** of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2 Pet 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Pet 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the **day** of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

1 Thess 5:2 For you yourselves know full well that the **day** of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

- b. There will be no signs preceding the second coming because the Lord would come like a thief in the night and thieves do not tell you when they are coming
- c. No one knows **the day** except the Father when He will come again. (Matt. 24:36).

d. It will be sudden without warning.(Matt. 24:36-44).

Matt 24:36 "But of **that day** and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Matt 24:37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

Matt 24:38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

Matt 24:39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt 24:40 "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

Matt 24:41 "Two women {will be} grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

Matt 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

Matt 24:43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

Matt 24:44 "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think {He will.}

Matt 25:13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know **the day** nor the hour.

2. The second coming is described as happening on a **day** (Matt. 24:36), but the destruction of Jerusalem involved **days**. (Mk. 13:19-20).

Mark 13:19 "**For those days** will be a {time of} tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.

Mark 13:20 "Unless the Lord **had shortened {those} days**, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, **He shortened the days**.

3. Those in Noah's day had no warning and there will be no warning preceding Christ's return.

4. Jesus stressed that no one knows "the day nor the hour" of His coming.

5. If one knew the day or hour or even the year Jesus was coming, he/she could prepare for His coming.

6. We must be ready every day for His coming because we cannot be sure about tomorrow. (Prov. 27:1; Jas. 4:13-15).

### **Conclusion.**

1. In lesson 4 we will study some additional details in regard to the coming of our King.

2. This will a vital lesson that every man, woman and child needs to hear and heed.

3. It will demonstrate the urgency of being prepared for Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> visible coming at the end of the age.

4. We may never ever completely understand every detail of Jesus' coming, but unless we heed the truths in lesson 4 we will be forever lost.

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