

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 24:

vs. 1-35:

Jesus begins to speak of the destruction of Jerusalem. His disciples are impressed with the magnificence of Jerusalem, and Jesus tells them of its complete destruction (took place in 70 A.D.). As they sit on the Mount of Olives, outside the city, the disciples ask when Christ's return will take place and what the sign will be.

Jesus warns them against those who will pretend that they are Christ (and they will be successful to a degree). Another sign will be wars and rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes, persecution of His followers (because the world will hate Jesus and His message and will try and get back through His followers), many followers will fall away and even turn on their Christian friends, evil will increase and the message of salvation will be proclaimed to all nations. These are the signs. Jesus challenges them to remain faithful and if they will endure, they will be saved.

The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, was the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). Those living in Judea were to leave the area quickly. From that time on, false Christs and prophets and Christs will appear (doing miracles and performing great signs), but they are not to be believed or followed! Rather, when Christ returns, all will know in an instant, for the heavens will give the sign. The nations will mourn (because of the impending judgement) as Jesus comes in the sky with power, great glory, sending His angels with a loud trumpet call, to gather His elect.

Jesus goes on to say that even as we recognize the seasons by signs, so we are to recognize the end times. That generation (race of people, actually) would not be destroyed before these things would happen. Jesus then assures them that this will take place.

vs. 36-51:

Jesus warns them to be prepared for nobody will ever know exactly when Christ's return will be. It will happen so quickly, that nobody will even have a chance to reconsider their life and commitment to God. The message is clear: **BE PREPARED!** If one is not found faithful at the time of Christ's return, they will be cast out with the wicked into condemnation.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 24:

1. What does Jesus say about the buildings of Jerusalem?
2. What will many come, claiming?
3. Who, in verse 11, will appear and deceive many?
4. What will be given to the whole world as testimony, before the world will end?
5. Who spoke of the abomination that causes desolation?
6. What will false prophets and Christs perform, to deceive the elect (if it were possible)?
7. In verse 27, how will the coming of the Son of Man be?
8. Describe the coming of the Son of Man (see vs. 30,31).
9. What will never pass away, even though heaven and earth will?
10. Who is the only one to know the day or the hour?
11. At what hour, will the Son of Man come, according to vs. 44?
12. Who will be put in charge of all his masters possessions?

BONUS:

1. Have false Christs and false prophets appeared? Explain.
2. Why study about the "last days" and Christ's return, if nobody knows the day or the hour?
3. Explain how verse 34 could be true, since we are still here?