

Eschatology: Studies Concerning Future Events

6/10/2018

Lesson 5. Matthew 24

Context! What is the context of Matthew 24?

Outline of the Olivet Discourse

24:1-3	The Setting
24:4-14	Events Preceding the End
24:15-28	The Abomination of Desolation
25:29-31	The “Sign.” The Appearance of Jesus
25:32-41	Illustrations of His Sudden Return
24:42 – 25:30	Exhortations for Watchfulness and Faithfulness
25:31-46	Separation of the Righteous and the Wicked

Matthew 24 Observations

24:1-3 The Setting

 :3 “*When will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?*”

- Review their view of coming events... Messiah would return after a period of persecution and tribulation to establish His eternal kingdom.
- What coming are they asking about? (rapture or 2nd coming)
- What age are they referring to?
Note: This is before the cross. The church age has not yet begun.
The Cross and Day of Pentecost marked the beginning of a different age, the church age.
- How much time is remaining in Daniel’s 70 Weeks prophecy?
(What was to be accomplished by the end of the 70 Weeks?)

24:4-14 Events Preceding the End

 :5-8 War, famines, earthquakes, persecution

- Have these things already happened in the history of the world?
But the end has not yet occurred.
 - The destruction of the temple would not signify the end of the age!
 - Note the persecution of the Jews through the centuries.
- “Beginning of birth pangs” – These indicate the beginning, rather than the end.

 :9-14 Tribulation

- They will kill you. You will be hated by all nations.

Is this true now?

Note the condition after the rapture when all believers are gone! How many supporters of Israel will be left?

- B. False prophets will mislead many.
- C. The Gospel will be preached to all nations.
- * “*Then the end will come.*”

24:15-28 The Abomination of Desolation

 :15-28 Last half of the tribulation –

- A. :15 Abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel
Daniel 9: 24-27 (3 ½ years); 12:11 (1290 days)
Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 8-9
- B. Read :15 and :21 together.
Great Tribulation – (last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period) unequaled in all of history!
- C. :16-21 There will be intense persecution and judgment.
Cf. Revelation 12:1-9, 12-14 (1260 days = times, times and ½ a time = 3 ½ years)
- D. :23-28 Warning concerning false Christs.
:27 Sudden appearance of the Son of Man

25:29-31 The “Sign.” The Appearance of Jesus

- A. :29 “After the tribulation” – along with the abomination of desolation by Satan comes judgments from God!
- B. :30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky.
 They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds.
- C. :31 The elect will be gathered by the angels!

25:32-41 Illustrations of His Sudden Return

- A. :32-34 The fig tree
When you see all these things take place, (including the Abomination of Desolation) He is near.
- B. :36 Of that day and hour no one knows ---
- C. :37-41 Those suddenly “taken away” are subjects of judgment!
Matthew 13:41-43, 49-50; Luke 17:34-37*

24:42 – 25:30 Exhortations for Watchfulness and Faithfulness

- Be on the alert!
- 24:42-44 The Faithful Householder
- 24:45-51 The Wise Servant
- 25:1-13 The Ten Virgins; 25:14-30 The Talents

25:31-46 Separation of the Righteous and the Wicked

Judgment and Blessing!