

MATTHEW 24:1 – 35 INTRO AND OUTLINE

We are coming to the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. His presence in Jerusalem at this time has been anything but quiet, at least if you've been around the Temple precinct and even then, there was a rumbling among the pilgrims who were still on the periphery of the city. He has been regaled as Messiah by those who have accompanied Him from the Galilee and that has brought on the ire of the religious establishment. Then, He had a running debate with them about His authority to say what He has said. That ended, you may remember with the last mic drop as no one dared ask Him any more questions.

In Jesus' battle against those in power on and around the Temple mount, He hasn't pulled any punches. The aristocracy has served notice that those they have seen to be the least qualified to enter the kingdom will go in before them, if they are to get there at all. This, of course, didn't go over well. The truth is that they, along with the Temple are soon to be rendered obsolete. This point is normally made when teaching through this pericope, but is soon lost once one gets into chapter 24, where the prophecy bug soon takes over. This is sad, because it allows or causes chapter 24 to often be misunderstood.

- Myopic prophecy. Running in one lane. Country never goes to town. Staying within a system. Glossing over holes.

Because there is so much to unpack in this section of Matthew, and because I run the risk of getting too technical, I believe we will start with an outline of chapter 24. I hope you will give me the benefit of the doubt until we get through this section because most of you will not have heard this chapter broken down in this way. What I will say is not new, but it hasn't always trickled down from the scholar through the prophecy pundits, to the congregation. I'm afraid what sells books and makes movies isn't always what is best concerning Biblical exegesis and hermeneutics. (Define these terms.) So I ask for your patience and the benefit of the doubt concerning such a sensitive topic as bible prophecy.

Because this passage has been taught for so long with the use of poor hermeneutics, it will be necessary to get technical at times, but I promise to keep it as simple as possible. I don't want to make this a seminary lecture, but at the same time we are known here for taking the text seriously. Therefore we will do so with as little technical jargon as possible, but I believe you will leave chapters 24 and 25 with a greater and clearer understanding than ever before. And that is our aim, to make

this clearer and to give God the glory for such an amazing section of scripture. I stated earlier that the religious officials as well as the Temple were soon to be rendered obsolete. I would like to show you what I mean by that.

Jn 4:19 - 24

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. 21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Heb. 9:24-26

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself

1 Cor. 3:16,17

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

2 Cor.6:16-18

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

**“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”**

17 Therefore

**“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”**

**18 “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”**

(Notice that Paul is quoting OT here. This is of the utmost importance.)

Eph. 2:19-22

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Failing to understand this point can only complicate the bigger picture. Failing to understand the OT context of the verses quoted by Jesus will also cause confusion.

Now, imagine if you can, America prior to 911. It seemed impossible to think that any of our major buildings could be destroyed. And even though this has proven to be possible, I don't believe any of us could imagine the U.S.A. existing without the White House or the Lincoln monument, et al. And that is the thinking of the disciples as they exit the Temple precincts and point out all the grandeur of the place.

Mt. 24:1,2

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."

- This is stated in public within ear-shot of people because it will be used against Him later in court.
- Country boys overwhelmed by the grandeur of the complex. There is no way the Temple - the center of the Jewish world could ever be destroyed, especially with the promises made to Israel as a nation.
- Jesus in a rather matter of fact way states that the Temple and even most of Jerusalem will be destroyed. WOW!
- Once they are across the Kidron Valley and apparently among themselves, the disciples ask Jesus a two-part question.

Matthew 24:3

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?"

Some have suggested that this is a 3 part question, but to a first century Jew, the "coming" or the "parousia" and the end of the age are the same thing.

Because this is a two-part question, I will divide the chapter into two parts. The first part consists of verses 1 – 35, which I maintain deals with the first part of their question, **“When will these things be?” This question deals with the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 AD.**

The second part of the question is dealt with by Jesus from verse 36 and goes into chapter 25. That section relates to the “coming” of the Lord, His “parousia” and the end of the age.

That may be hard for some of you to swallow, but I believe it will be made very clear when we are through with this section of our study. Please hold all your questions and death threats until the end.

OUTLINE: Matthew 25: 1 - 35

Verses 1-3: Shock and awe; the two-part question.

Verses 4-8: Preliminary events, not to be taken as signs of the end.

v. 6 It is not yet the end.

v.8 This is only the beginning of labor pains.

Verses 9-14: Persecution and discouragement during that period but stand firm until...

v. 14 Then the end will come.

Verses 15-28: Description of the beginning of the end (the siege of Jerusalem)

v. 15 But when you see...

v. 16 Then...

v. 19 ... in those days

v. 21 Then...

v. 22 ... those days; those days

v. 23 Then...

(Verses 27-28; do not confuse those days with the “parousia.”)

Verses 29-31: v. 29 Immediately after the distress of “those days” (echoing vv.19,22)

v. 30 And then...; and then...

Verses 32-35: Summary of the answer to the question, “When?”

vv. 32-33 When you see (echoing v. 15) ... it is near (a parable about

temporal sequence)

this **v. 34 All these things (echoing verse v. 15) will happen within**
generation.
v. 35 You can trust my prediction.

This section of scripture is so pivotal not only for prophetic reasons but also for theological reasons.

- We are now the Temple of God both collectively and individually. That is a game-changer!!
- Prophecy and its uniqueness to Christianity.
- **Matthew 24:35**
- **35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.**
- The God of the Bible puts it all on the line with His predictions! And we can trust that! When you've already been told that you will win the game, it's much easier to go out there and play! But that doesn't mean we can become complacent.
- We win because God says we do!
- We are saved because God says we are!
- Now all we have to do is live out that reality!