

MATTHEW (THE KING, HIS KINGDOM AND ME)
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SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 41 – The End Of The Age

MONDAY

OPEN

Wars, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, calamities happening. “Is this the end of time?” Is this the end of the world?” I’m standing in Jerusalem where Jesus explained to His disciples what the end of the age” would be like. We’ll look at it as we study the gospel of Matthew.

PART ONE

We’ve come to the final discourse, the final teaching of Jesus Christ that is recorded for us in the gospel of Matthew. [“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,” Jesus says in Matthew 23, “How often I would have gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks, but you would not come to me.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 23:37) And He goes on to say, “**Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!**” (Matthew 23:38) As you look at the Temple Mount, where you see the golden dome is where the temple would be standing, right in that vicinity. So if you can imagine, instead of the golden dome, the temple, you

can understand what Jesus is saying, **“Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!” (Matthew 23:38)** Remember when Solomon built the temple, the “Shekinah” glory of God, the presence of God, filled that temple. And then when God destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C., Ezekiel saw the Spirit of the Lord leaving that temple. They saw the cloud of His presence leaving that temple. That presence did not come back into the rebuilt temple. The temple that was started by Ezra and was refurbished and aggrandized by Herod, that temple never had the presence of God in it until Jesus was carried in as a baby to fulfill the law. Then the glory of the Lord came back into the temple. In John chapter 1, it says, **“And the word became flesh, and...we beheld His glory...as of the only begotten [of] the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14, NASB 1977)** We beheld his glory. And so the glory of the Lord went into the temple. Jesus is walking out of the temple. He’s going to be crucified. He’s going to be buried. He’s going to be raised from the dead. And Jerusalem has rejected Him. To appreciate Matthew chapter 24 and 25, because when He finishes these sayings it’s recorded for us in Matthew 26:1. To appreciate that, you have to understand now what has come to this point in the gospel of Matthew. Remember He is presenting to them the kingdom of heaven, and they are to **“Repent, [because] the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2)** Remember there is a clash. There’s a clash between Rome, between the world’s governments, and between Jesus Christ; because when the magi come and say **“Where is He who [was] born King of the Jews...?” (Matthew 2:2)** Herod wants to find Him and wants to kill Him. But the greatest clash is between those that have a religion but not a relationship. Those who are the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, who want to get rid of Jesus. And what you see in Matthew chapter 22, as you see the final parables that Jesus is telling, you see the Pharisees and the Sadducees trying to trap Jesus. And then, in Matthew chapter 23, Jesus pronounces the “Woes” on these scribes and Pharisees. What has happened? Israel as a nation has rejected

Jesus. As a nation, there are some that are following Him, there are some that are believers. And so it says in Matthew chapter 23, **“Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!”** Verse 39, **“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’ ”** (Matthew 23:38-39) Now, what you have to realize is, He’s speaking to Israel. He’s speaking to Israel, and He’s saying, “Israel, you as a nation are not going to see me until you say, **“...Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’ ”** (Matthew 23:39) And that’s the time when Israel will recognize who He is, that He is the “Mashiach,” “ha Mashiach,” that He is “Yeshua,” the One that saves them. And they will mourn Him, because they will recognize that this is the one that came to them and they rejected Him. You say, “It’s not the same people, is it?” No, it’s not the same people. But it’s the same nation with the same information. The same “Tanakh,” the same Old Testament, and all of a sudden their eyes are going to be opened. And they’re going to recognize Him. Well, it says in Matthew chapter 24, verse 1, that **“Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.”** (Matthew 24:1) So just think now, along the pinnacle of the temple, the corner, on top was the “stoa,” and those were buildings of the temple and as they point them out, **“...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.’ ”** (Matthew 24:2) You know, today I could take you, at the bottom of what they consider may be the pinnacle of the temple, and I could show you stone upon stone piled there that was thrown down. Jesus was speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple that would come in 70 A.D. by a Roman general, Titus. And this is what He’s talking about. It’s going to be destroyed. Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down. When those stones tumbled, tradition tells us, or history tells us, Josephus tells us, that there was gold between those stones. And they pried those stones apart to get that

gold. And it says, **“As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives....”**
(**Matthew 24:3**) Now, the Mount of Olives is opposite the Eastern Gate. It’s opposite the Temple Mount. And what separates them is the Kidron Valley. Well, **“As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen...?’”** When will these stones be torn down? **“...What will be the sign of Your coming, and...the end of the age?”** (**Matthew 24:3**) Now, He’s not going to answer the first question. It’s answered in Luke, but it’s not answered in Matthew because it does not serve His purpose. Because Matthew, is pointing you to the King, Matthew is pointing you to the kingdom of heaven. So the “end of the age,” and the “sign of His coming” all have to do with the kingdom and the King “coming.” You want to mark it by putting a blue cloud around “coming,” every reference to “His coming.” Then I color the inside blue and the very center yellow. Now, the reason that you’re marking that, and marking it that way, is so that when you look at your Bible, you can see every reference to the “coming” of the Lord. And then you make a list. What do you learn from marking that text about the coming of the Lord? Well, they’ve asked Him, **“...What will be the sign of Your coming...?”**
(**Matthew 24:3**) And that word “sign of Your coming” is very important. And we’re going to see that, but not in this program. We’re going to see it in the next one. **“...And of the end of the age?”** (**Matthew 24:3**) Now, what I do as I mark the “end of the age,” I just color it red. So every reference to the “end,” you want to mark in red. So what Jesus is going to do now, is He’s going to answer the last question, “What is the sign of the end of the age?” **“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am...Christ,’ and will mislead many.’ ”** (**Matthew 24:4-5**) The other day I was sitting in the Jewish quarter with my friend Moshe, he’s an orthodox Jew, he’s a teacher of the Word. And we were sitting there, and we were discussing Daniel 9:24-27, and what they believe, and what I believe, and how do we

handle those scriptures? And he was telling me, he says, “Look over there.” And there was a woman coming through. He says, “She’s the second one that is saying that she is the Messiah.” He said, “A week ago, a woman came into the square there of the Jewish quarter riding on a donkey and screaming that she was the Messiah.” Well, He says, “**...See to it that no one misleads you...many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ....’**”

(Matthew 24:4-5) The Christ is synonymous with Messiah, as you know by now, “**...and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for [these] things must take place, but that is not yet the end.**” **(Matthew 24:5-6)** So you want to mark

“the end” again because He says, that’s not yet “the end,” that He’s dealing with that last question: What is the sign of the end of the age? Because it’s at the “end of the age” that Messiah comes. You are going to hear of rumors of wars. And these things are inevitable because men don’t know God. They’re inevitable because we don’t understand and acknowledge the one and only true God, because we have not bowed the knee to Him and said, “You are God and You have a right to rule.” Then, we are living in a world that is governed by the prince of this world. First John chapter 5, verse 19, says that “**...The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**” **(1 John 5:19)** So, wars and rumors of wars are inevitable because men and women are power hungry. They’re interested in themselves. They’re not interested in others.

They’re not walking as Jesus said, summarizing the commandments of loving God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind, and their neighbor as their self. (See Matthew 22:37) No, it’s all about “moi.” It’s all about me. And so there’s wars and there’s powers and there’s nations coming against nations. “**...But that is not yet the end.**” **(Matthew 24:6)** And He says, “**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all of these...are merely....**” He says, “**...the beginning of birth pangs.**” **(Matthew 24:7-8)** It’s like a woman who is going to

deliver a child. Everything is fine and then all of a sudden she has pain. And it's the beginning of the birth pains. But the beginning of the birth pains are nothing to be compared with the final delivery of that child which is great pain. Beloved, what I am sharing with you today is so essential for you to know, so that you won't be misled. Why? Because we're approaching "the end of the days." And you need to know what Jesus had to say about this. We'll talk about it in just a moment.

PART TWO

O Beloved, it is such a privilege to stand here on the Mount of Olives with the city of Jerusalem behind me. So that you might understand and catch what was on that day when Jesus came up here on the Mount of Olives and looked with His disciples at the Temple Mount and said that all these things were going to be torn down. They had asked Him, remember, **"...What will be the sign of Your coming...?" (Matthew 24:3)** We're going to deal with that in the next program. But then He asks, **"...What will be the sign...of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3)** How will I know that it's the end of the age? Well, before the break, I was reading Matthew chapter 24, verse 7. He says, **"For nation....,"** verse 7, **"...will rise against nation...kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes." (Matthew 24:8, 7)** Now you're familiar with what's going on in our time right now. You're familiar with these horrible, horrible famines. You're familiar with the earthquakes that are taking place and bringing fear to people's hearts. He says, **"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs." (Matthew 24:8)** He says, **"Then....,"** it's a time phrase, you need to mark it, put a round green circle around it or a clock. In some way mark it. He says, **"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name." (Matthew 24:9)** Now, who is He talking about? Well, if they're hated by all nations and He has just said, [O Jerusalem,

Jerusalem, you are not going to see Me again] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 23:37) “...until you say, ‘**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,**’ ” (Matthew 23:39) He’s talking to His disciples. They are all Jewish. So, primarily, these are Jewish people. They are Jews who in all probability have believed in Jesus Christ. Now, when we study prophecy, we see that in the last days, at the end of the days, that sometime Jesus Christ is going to come and take the church out of here. This is 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 13 through 18. It’s 1 Corinthians 15:51 through 54, where it’s talking about this mortal putting on immortality. This is talking about us being caught up to meet the Lord in the air. And yet after that there will be people that will be saved. God is going to bring Israel to Himself. He’s going to take Israel through the fire. As He takes them through the fire, Zechariah chapter 13 says, two thirds will perish, but one third will survive (Zechariah 13:8). And they will say, “He is my God.” And He will say, “You are My people.” So you’ve got to know that there is going to be persecution of believers, Jews, in the last days. He says, “...**They will deliver you to tribulation ... [they] will kill you ...you will be hated by all nations because of My name.**” (Matthew 24:9) This ought to bring comfort to those that are living at that time because He’s saying [“They will kill you.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:9) He could have stopped it, but He doesn’t. These are the martyrs that you read about in Revelation. And it says, “**At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.**” (Matthew 24:10) So in this end of the age, you are going to see – imagine me turning and holding onto something—because this is what I believe—and then all of a sudden dropping it and turning my back on it. That is apostasy: It means to turn away from something you once held to be true. And so He’s saying, “**At that time many will fall away and [in falling away, they’ll] betray one another...,**” and not only that, it says they will “...**hate one another.**” He says, “**Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased most people’s**

love will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:10-12) When you don’t have the law, when you don’t have something restraining you, then your attitude towards others is really coldness, because it’s all about you. And we’re seeing it now. Look at the nations. Look at what’s going on. Look at our nation, and you see lawlessness increasing and increasing and increasing. He says, **“Because lawlessness is [increasing], most people’s love will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12)** **“But the one who endures to the end...,”** and you want to mark the end, **“...he will be saved.” (Matthew 24:13)** And then He makes a statement, **“[The] gospel of the kingdom shall be preached [in all the world] in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)** Well, if you were to go to Revelation chapter 14, it tells us in verses 6 and 7. Listen to what it says, **“And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the springs of waters.’” (Revelation 14:6-7)** So an eternal gospel is going to go out through the heavens, calling us to worship God. And yet the sad thing, Beloved, is many will not listen. Many will not respond. So He assures us, and this is the heart of God, He doesn’t want anyone to perish, so He says, **“[The] gospel of [this] kingdom [will] be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)** What is going to happen? There is going to be a great apostasy. Before the very last three and one half years. And this is recorded for us in 2 Thessalonians. And you can look it up in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. It says [the day of the Lord cannot come unless the apostasy occurs first.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Thessalonians 2:2, 3) Well, what has He done here? He’s given us an overview. He’s given us a [“What is the sign of the end of the age?”] (PARAPHRASED, Matthew 24:3) And you can review those things and you

can see what the “sign of the end of the age” is. Next, He tells us that in verse 13, **“...the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.” (24:13)** He is not saying that you are saved by “endurance.” But what He’s saying is this: Your endurance in the midst of tribulation, in the midst of affliction, in the midst of the threatening of your life that, “If you don’t deny Jesus Christ, we’ll kill you,” And the fact that then you say, “Well then, you’ll have to kill me” because you know, **“...absent from the body...present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8, KJV)** The fact that you “endure” shows the reality of your faith. And I want to support that by showing you scriptures in the New Testament that shows us the importance of endurance. First of all, in 1 Corinthians 15, where He’s describing the gospel. He says, **“Now I make known to you, brethren...,”** verse 1, **“...the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand...,”** now listen carefully, **“By which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)** He says you’ve got to hold fast the word. In Hebrews chapter 3 and in verse 14, He says, **“For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.” (Hebrews 3:14)** Beloved, perseverance is a sign of your salvation. So when you come to a trial, and you go through that trial, and you don’t deny Jesus Christ, you can know God is saying, “You’re Mine, You’re Mine, You’re Mine.” O Beloved, He is coming, and you and I need to be ready.