

ISRAEL
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WEEK 2 (#911334)
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SERIES: Israel

TITLE: Program 8 – The Signs Of The Coming Of The Son Of Man

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

The end of the world is coming, Beloved, the end of the world as we know it, the end of the nations warring against one another. The end of famines, the end of earthquakes is coming. The end of pain and sorrow and death is coming. But before it comes there is going to come a time of tribulation such as this world has never seen, a time of tribulation upon all nations and a time of tribulation upon the nation of Israel. Jesus wanted to make sure that His disciples that His followers, would know what was going to take place before the end came.

PART ONE

In Matthew, chapter 24, it says, “[And] Jesus came out from the Temple and was going away when His disciples came...to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said, ‘Do you...see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone...[shall] be left...on another, [but all] will...be torn down.’” (Matthew 24:1-2) I am standing in the midst of the fulfillment of that

prophesy. We've been looking at Luke 21. We've been looking at the signs of the end. And as Jesus answered those questions, He wanted them to know and understand that before the end ever came, this temple would be destroyed and Jerusalem would be destroyed and the Jews would be scattered throughout all the nations until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And I'm standing here amidst the rubble from that time, from 70 A.D. Can you imagine? Oh how I wish you were here with me. You don't want to miss coming to Israel. And I want you to know that although you hear all these things in the news, that if we ever come, we will not come if it is not safe. But this is where it all took place. I'm standing next to these humongous stones from Herod's time. And you can tell that they're from Herod's time because they were built so large. Now, if you would come along this wall and you would look up with me, you would see a green tree up there. Now, they believe at one time, that this wall was as tall as that green tree, from the very top of that green tree all the way down here, only a couple of more feet lower. I'm walking on the very pavement that was from the time of Jesus, from the time of Herod the Great, from the time before Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. And as I walk along these stones, I'm sinking down into the pavement. I'm sinking down into the pavement where these stones would be thrown down, one stone upon another, until not a stone was left. And what I want to do is I want to take you now to Matthew 24. And Matthew 24 is a parallel passage with Luke, chapter 21. And when you take them and put them together, you can see that Matthew emphasizes one thing and then Luke emphasizes another. And Luke tells about the destruction of this Temple. Jesus mentions that when He talks about there's a time coming when one stone will not be left upon another. Now as Jesus says that, He's the master teacher. It provokes questions from His disciples. And He takes them from here and takes them to the Mount of Olives. And there He sits on the Mount of Olives and he answers their questions, questions that came up from their time as they walked around this Temple Mount area. And it says, "[And] As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things [be]...?'"(Matthew 24:3a) Now remember I want you to mark time phrases because they're crucial in understanding prophesy. And if you want to make

sure that you understand what the time of the end will be like, then you need to very carefully watch every time phrase. And this is what He says. [“When will these things be? When will these stones be cast down and thrown down?”](PARAPHRASE 24:3) And that’s what Jesus answers in Luke, chapter 21. And then he says, “...and what will be the sign of Your coming...?”(24:3b) What will show us that You’re going to come again, that You’re going to come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and establish Your kingdom? “...and [what will be the sign] of the end of the age?”(24:3c) Now if you really want to understand Matthew 24, you have to follow the key repeated words very carefully. And I would suggest once again that you get a red coloring pencil and you mark every reference to the end in red. And you will see that from verse 4, all the way through verse 14, He tells you about what’s going to happen before the end comes and when the end is going to come. So it’s so typical about the way the Word of God is written. He gives you the broad view. So that you could understand, so that you could put yourself in context and then He comes along and He fills in the details. So the first thing He’s going to answer to them is: What is the sign of the end? “And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See...that no one misleads you.’”(24:4) And this is a key phrase. And I colored it orange. “See that no one misleads you.” And I want you to know, Beloved, if you will stick with me, if you will study with me, precept upon precept, if you will learn to study your Bible inductively then, Precious One, you will not be misled. Because this is truth, this is pure unadulterated truth. “And [then] you...know the truth, and the truth will [set] you free.”(John 8:32) And, [“You will not be carried about by every wind of doctrine and cunning craftiness of men, by which they lie in wait to deceive.”] (PARAPHRASE Ephesians 4:14) What happens? They’re misled because they do not know the Word of God, because they don’t understand it, because they don’t follow it carefully. So I’m going to move you through it carefully so that you can understand. And He says, “...many will come in My name, saying ‘I am the Christ...’”(Matthew 24:5a) And when they say ‘I am the Christ,’ they’re saying ‘I am Messiah. I am the Anointed One. I am the Promised One.’ And He says, “...and [they] will mislead many.”(24:5b) He says, “[And] You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars...,” He says,

“...[But] See that you[‘re] not frightened, [don’t be frightened,] for those things must take place....”(24:6a) In other words, [“when you hear of the wars and when you hear of the rumors of wars, don’t be be frightened. In a sense, be excited. Why? Because this is a fulfillment of prophesy. All of this is leading up to the coming of the King of Kings. All of this is leading up to a rebuilding of the Temple. It’s going to be so exciting.”](PARAPHRASE 24:6) He says, “...[But these] things must take place, [and yet] that is not yet the end.”(24:6b) So once again you want to color that red. He says, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes....” He says, “But all these things, [all these things] are merely the beginning of birth pangs.”(24:7-8) Have you seen a woman when all of a sudden she grabs her abdomen and she knows, she knows that her child is about to be born? Because all of a sudden she’s in labor, all of a sudden there’s birth pains. And He’s saying to us, [“Now listen, that’s just the beginning of birth pains. There’s a time now of labor, a time before the child is brought forth.”](PARAPHRASE 24:8) And then He says this, “Then...,” then, after all this, you want to mark the “then” again as I showed you how with that green clock. “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, ...”(24:9a) Who’s the you? He’s talking to the Jews. And He’s talking about a time of tribulation that is going to come to the Jews. Now listen, that time of tribulation is mentioned in Daniel, chapter 12. That time of tribulation is mentioned in Daniel, chapter 9. That time of tribulation is mentioned here in Matthew and it’s mentioned in Mark. And what He says is, there will come a time of tribulation and, “...they...will kill you, and you [you, Jews] will be hated [of] all nations [on account] of My name.”(Matthew 24:9) On account of the fact that you are united with Me, you’re going to be hated by all nations. He says, “[And] At that time many will fall away....”(24:10a) Now when He talks about them falling away, He’s talking about a time of apostasy. We’re going to look at that later. Because it has to do with Matthew 24 and it has to do with 2 Thessalonians. And it is a sign, a sign that Jesus will be here in three and one half years after that. You see there are some dates that we can set, that we can know about because God has set them. But we’re not to set any date that God hasn’t set. And this is what He says. He says, “At that time many will fall

away and [deliver up] one another and hate one another. [And] Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.”(24:10-11) And I want you to know that even today, Precious One, there are many false prophets. There are many false prophets. You can turn on television and if you don’t know the Word of God, you can be misled. There are many that are talking about prosperity. And there are many that are talking about plenty. And there are many that are talking about ease and yet Jesus talks about a cross. Jesus talks about suffering. And what does He say? He says, “[And] lawlessness [will increase], and most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he [shall] be saved. [And] This gospel of the kingdom [must] be preached in the whole world [for a witness] to all the nations, and then the end will come.”(24:12-14) And what marks the beginning of the end? How are we going to know it if we’re here? And will we be here if we’re the church? We’ll talk about that when we come back in just a minute.

PART TWO

Remember I told you that from Matthew 24, verse 4 all the way through verse 14, what He’s giving us is a panorama of the time of the end. Then He wants to make sure that they understand and that they have some signs so that they can know when the end is coming. So in Matthew 24, in verse 4 through verse 14, you hear Him saying in verse 9, “Then they will deliver you to tribulation....”(24:9a) He’s talking to Jews. He’s talking to Jews that are followers of Him, that believe that He is the Christ, the Messiah. And so when you come down to verse 15, He says, “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation....”(24:15a) He takes you from 4 to 14 and shows you what’s going to happen when the end comes, how they’re going to be delivered to tribulation, how false prophets are going to come, how there’s going to be an apostasy and how the gospel of the kingdom is going to be preached to all the world and then the end shall come. He says, “Therefore....” When you see a “therefore” find out what the therefore is there for. So He says, “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation...standing in the holy place....”(24:15) Now I’m standing on the southern side of the Temple Mount. And you can know, in that day, that

there is going to be a Temple up there and in that Temple which will be rebuilt before Jesus Christ comes, before the end comes, the abomination of desolation will walk into that place and stand in the holy place. He will stand in the holy of holies. We're going to look at that in our next program. But let me read to you what's going to take place. He says, "...then [let] those who are in Judea...flee to the mountains."(24:16) It says, "[Let him who] is on the housetop...not go down to get the things...that are in his house...." And it says, "[And let him who] is in the field...not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to those [that] are [with child] and to those who...[nurse babes]...." And He says, "But pray that your flight [may] not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath."(24:17-20) Why not in the winter? Why not on a Sabbath? He says, "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world...nor ever [shall]." (24:21) In other words, there is a period of time that is coming, that is such a great tribulation, that it's like nothing that has happened before and it's like nothing that will ever happen again. It's a unique time in history. And what starts that period of tribulation? What starts that period of tribulation is when the antichrist, the man of lawlessness walks into the Temple and declares himself to be God. Then it's going to be tribulation to the Jews. [Then, the Bible tells us that the antichrist is going to take his throne and he's going to rule over all the earth. Then he's going to overpower the saints of the Highest, then he's going to overpower the Jews.](PARAPHRASE Revelation 13) Then is when Israel is to flee into the wilderness. So he's saying, "...pray that your flight...not be...on the Sabbath."(Matthew 24:20) Why? Because all the orthodox Jews will only walk a certain distance on the Sabbath. They won't go any farther. And so they would maybe just get outside of the very Jewish quarter and then they would be attacked. And so He's saying, ["Pray that it not be on the Sabbath." He says, "Pray that it not be in the winter."](PARAPHRASE 24:20) Why should it not be in the winter? Because in the winter is when the rains come. In the winter is when the floods come. In the winter is when the wadi's that go down into the Judean wilderness all of a sudden fill and people are drowned. And if they're fleeing into the wilderness then they're going to go through those wadis. And they're going to go through those dry water beds, but all of a sudden the water can come crashing down. Now,

they've asked Him, ["What will be the sign of the end and what will be the sign of Your coming?"] (PARAPHRASE 24:3) Well He says, "[That] there will be...tribulation...unless those days [are] cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect." (24:21-22) Now when He talks about the sake of the elect, if you will think of this as a Jewish chapter, it will help a lot. Because I really believe at this point that the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and that the church is out of here. I really believe that when He talks about the elect, He's talking about that chosen nation, that nation of Israel. Remember we saw that the deliverer is going to come out of that heavenly Zion and all Israel is going to be saved because this is the covenant that He made with them when He says, ["I will take away their sins."] (PARAPHRASE Romans 11:27) It's a covenant that you can see in Jeremiah 31:31 and the verses that follow, to the end of the chapter. This is the covenant that He talks about in Ezekiel, chapter 36. But then He says, after the abomination of desolation stands in the holy place, "...if anyone says to you, '...[there's] the Christ'..." (Matthew 24:23a) ["No, no, no, there's the Christ. And they say, 'Go here, go in the inner chambers. Go to that house. Messiah will be there.'"] (PARAPHRASE 24:23) He says, "...do not believe [them]. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and...show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect." (24:23b-24) Even those Jews, even those Jews that know the scriptures, they will come and try and mislead. And so what He's saying is, "You and I have to understand exactly what the scriptures say." Now those that are going to show those false prophets are going to show great signs. They're going to show great wonders. So just beware, Beloved. Everyone that does a sign, everyone that does a miracle, every time you see something happening that looks like a miracle doesn't mean that it's always from God. And we'll see that as we study 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2. But right now, let's go back to Matthew 24, verse 25. He says, "Behold, I have told you in advance...if [therefore] they say to you, '...[He's] in the wilderness,' do not go [forth],... 'Behold, [He's] in the inner rooms,' do not believe them." (24:25-26) ["If they say, 'Oh he's over there in the inner room,' do not believe them."] "For just as the lightening comes from the east...to the west [and flashes to the west], so [shall] the coming of the Son of Man

be.”(24:27) In other words. It will be like a clap of thunder. It will be like lightening, lighting up the skies. And we will look up and we will see the coming of the Son of Man. Now listen to me very, very carefully. We, who have believed in Jesus Christ, we, who down through the ages have followed Him, we, who have been faithful unto death, we who have persevered in the faith, we, who have been saved by faith and grace alone and have received Christ as our Messiah, will be coming with Him. We will be coming with Him in clouds of glory. Now, He goes on to say, “[And] Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. 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....” Listen. “...And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, [they will mourn] and they will see the Son of Man coming [in]...clouds [in] the sky [and] with power and [with] great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and...gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”(24:28-31) This, Beloved, is His promise. That is the end. And what’s going to happen? Well, Luke 21 tells us that: “...[men’s hearts will faint for] fear and [from] the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. [And] Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”(Luke 21:26-27) And He says, “But [when] these things...take place, straighten up...lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”(21:28) Beloved, the signs show us His coming is soon.