

Matthew 24.1-14 Confident, but Sometimes Confused, in our Risen King  
Horoscopes, Fortune-Tellers, Séances, Tarot Cards: People Like to Know Future

Some like to know it Out of Fear. - Avoid Life's Difficulties or Tragedies

Some like to Plan for it Successfully – What will Stock Market do Next Year?

Matthew 24 about FUTURE – One of MOST DEBATED Chapters in Bible!

Christians WONDER: WHAT is Jesus talking about? WHEN will it Happen?

Is this JUST about the FIRST Century, OR JUST about the FINAL Century?

OR does this Message REFER to EVERY Century of the Christian Church?

Spend COUPLE SUNDAYS on this INTERESTING Chapter – Come Back!!

EASTER SUNDAY 2016 > 14 verses TO US Gathered to Worship RISEN Jesus

Matt 24 NOT about Calendar DATES but about DISCIPLESHIP Commitment

If CONSIDERING Following Jesus OR if CONTINUING your Long Walk

What should you EXPECT if you Follow Jesus? What's EXPECTED of You?

END of 2<sup>nd</sup> full day HOLY WEEK in Jerusalem / Passover almost 2000 yrs ago

SETTING of Chapter > Jesus VISIT and TEACHING about TEMPLE of God

### 1. Trusting in Symbols?

v. 1 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.

Disciples from GALILEE IMPRESSED with Herod's MAGNIFICENT Temple  
BEIJING See VILLAGE People visit > FAMILY PHOTOS Historic Buildings

Herod's Temple 1 of ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS of the ROMAN WORLD  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Jewish Temple > TWICE the Size of 1<sup>st</sup> Temple built by SOLOMON

v. 2 Jesus: "You see all these, do you not?" > HOW Could they MISS IT!!

NEVER SEEN a More FANTASTIC STRUCTURE!

Stones > 15 meters long and 2 ½ meters wide; they weighed 420 to 600 tons

Destruction HEROD's Magnificent TEMPLE Inconceivable to Village Galileans  
 Was their Gibraltar – Red Fort – Angkor Wat – Eifel Tower – Redeemer over Rio  
 SADLY TODAY'S Age of TERROR – Destruction Not TOO Hard to Imagine!

Jesus Homeboys from Galilee Impossible to IMAGINE MASSIVE Temple Gone  
 NOT Surprising JEWS TRUST shifted from GOD of Temple to Temple ITSELF

SYMBOL Substituted for SUBSTANCE > FORM Replaced FUNCTION

For Many when SYMBOL Destroyed > their FAITH was SNUFFED OUT

LOVE CHURCH more than INVISIBLE GOD who is PRESENT Among US

LOVE BIBLE more than VOICE of GOD that can be HEARD through IT

Love Traditions more> God our HELP in AGES Past & Hope for Yrs to Come

Just when we LOVE GINKO Hall – God says "How about Crystals on Easter?"

SOMEDAY, Sooner or Later, ALL SYMBOLS, Traditions, & Substitutes GONE

Heaven and earth will pass away...

Matthew 24.35

## 2. Teaching of Swindlers?

TRUE Redeemer will be REMOVED from World by a SHAMEFUL CROSS

MANY Come forward trying to FILL His PLACE > Come in HIS NAME

vs. 4,5 And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.

**Do NOT TRUST in RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS or RELIGIOUS LEADERS!**

v. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

"A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way."

Jeremiah 5.30

**HISTORY is FILLED with SAD stories of FALSE Messiahs, Prophets, Pastors**

**SIGNS & MIRACLES are NOT always PROOF of TRUTH from GOD**

**SATAN himself can APPEAR as an ANGEL OF LIGHT**

I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. 2 Corinthians 11.3,4

### 3. Turmoil in Society and Space?

Disciples Thought DESTRUCTION of Temple = END of Age / 2<sup>nd</sup> COMING

v. 3 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?”

2 Questions – End of Temple / End of World

#### a. Conflict of Nations

vs. 6,7 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom

The temple could not fall without shaking the whole world. John Calvin

Soon the PAX ROMANA (Peace of Rome) would be BROKEN FOREVER  
(UNIQUE Global Peace, Travel, Language created to SPREAD GOSPEL?)  
CHURCH would expand thru times of FRACTURED Nations and Tribes

BIRTH PANGS - Bad things Will Happen - Not in themselves Signs of End

The point is that false teachers, natural disasters, persecutions, forsaking of the faith by many, and false teachers will characterize history. We will always have these things...they are not signs that the end of the world is near. James Boice

TIMELESS TROUBLES will Extend from the FIRST to the FINAL Century

v. 7 and there will be famines > WAR is often FOLLOWED by FAMINE

John saw 4 HORSEMEN of Apocalypse race Across Earth > 1<sup>st</sup> to Final Century

Conquest, Bloodshed, Famine, Death

NOTHING NEW > Story of Fallen Humanity > from Cain and Abel in Eden

WHITE Horse of WAR – Followed by RED Horse of BLOODSHED

– then BLACK Horse of FAMINE – followed by PALE Horse of DEATH

b. Crisis in Nature JEWISH Idea > TEMPLE is CENTER of CREATION

DESTRUCTION of Temple brings DEMISE of ENTIRE CREATED ORDER

vs. 7,8 and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Thus says the Lord GOD: “Clap your hands and stamp your foot and say, Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.” Ezekiel 6.11

LABOR Pains mean the BIRTH is COMING > but NO ONE knows WHEN!

We must not allow ourselves to be led into panic by a wrong diagnosis of the  
‘contractions’ in the universe. Sinclair Ferguson

Old Testament prophecies blended together events according to the kind of event rather than the time they would occur, Jesus likely means that the end would follow the temple’s destruction and the ensuing tribulation; hence the end remains imminent. Craig S. Keener

CURSE was Spoken by God way back in GARDEN of EDEN

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. Romans 8.22

#### 4. Terrified by Suffering?

v. 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.

Followers of Jesus Faced INCREASING OPPOSITION and PERSECUTION  
PERSECUTION > BEGINS LOCAL and goes GLOBAL

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted  
2 Timothy 3.12

OFFICIAL Persecution is PAINFUL > MOST Painful from OWN FAMILY

Even FAMILY and FRIENDS would TURN AGAINST Believers and Gospel

v. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

v. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

True FAITH is seen in Tested FAITHFULNESS  
REAL CAUSE of Persecution > HATRED of Jesus

Jesus: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15.20

God Perseveres with Us – but if we're Truly His We Must Persevere with HIM

work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure Philippians 2.12.13

He is encouraging us to keep on keeping on, since there is no promise of salvation for those who abandon the faith or deny Christ. James Boice

**Are you Trusting in Symbols? Harassed by Teaching of Swindlers?  
Fearing Turmoil in Space and Society? - Terrified by Suffering?**

### 5. Trust in the Son!

a. Wisdom of God the Prophet KNOWS what NO ONE Else CAN KNOW

WE have NO IDEA what will HAPPEN during LUNCH > Can't WAIT for IT!!

v. 2 Jesus: "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Who Could IMAGINE MASSIVE Temple GONE: Only True & Final Temple

v. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

GENERATION about 40 Years > Jesus spoke about 30, Temple Destroyed 70

Every description of the end time is also an exhortation to the church. E. Schweizer

v. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Not only did Jesus – Great Prophet of God – See 40 years into FUTURE  
 Jesus saw US Gathered here on EASTER Sunday in Beijing in 2016  
 He is HERE singing the Praises of God as we GATHER in His NAME

Progress Report: EASTER of 2016 Gospel reached every POLITICAL State  
 Whole Church is Praying & Working Good News Reach every PEOPLE Group  
 When THAT Happens NOTHING Preventing GLORIOUS COMING of Christ

WEAPONS of Man Cannot TOUCH the KINGDOM of God

Political Events – Should NOT make us Overly EXCITED or AFRAID  
 City of God is Distinct from Man's City and Will Continue FOREVER

## b. Compassion of our Great King

Very ENCOURAGING for Matthew's Readers who were Facing Persecution  
 GREAT News for ALL the People of God in ALL TIMES and ALL PLACES

As our MASTER shows by Example > CROSS leads to the CROWN

FINAL Prophet of God sees Christian History is story of CROSS-BEARING

We multiply whenever we are mown down by you. The blood of Christians is seed.  
 Tertullian to his persecutors

This chapter does not hold out great encouragement for 'triumphalism' or 'prosperity' versions of Christianity. The descriptions chill the spine...  
 Persecution, false teachers, natural disasters are not elements of a future age, they happen now.  
 Donald English

Being FOLLOWER of Jesus means KNOWING God as our Father in Heaven  
 EVENTS – Big Ones that Shake Nations, Little Ones that Trouble our Hearts

Not ACCIDENTS, CHANCE, LUCK, KARMA, or COINCIDENCE

ORDAINED by GOD > Not just PERMISSIVE WILL but PERFECT PLAN

Please UNDERSTAND the Real Meaning of Christian Faith

NOT JUST about Getting GOOD THINGS from GRACIOUS GOD & KING

There are a great many of you who appear to have a large stock of faith, but it is only because you are in very good health and your business in prospering. If you happened to get a disordered liver, or your business should fail, I should not be surprised if nine parts out of ten of your wonderful faith should evaporate.

Charles Spurgeon

TRUE FAITH Anchored IN God NOT His Blessings

### c. Salvation from our Gracious Priest

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since *we have a great priest over the house of God*

Hebrews 10.19-21

On that HOLY Week – Great HIGH PRIEST Coming to Rule over House of God

Jesus ENTERED Jerusalem to PRAISES of Crowds on PALM Sunday, then:

Jesus entered Jerusalem and *went to the temple. He looked around at everything*  
Mark 11.11

One Way, STRANGER to Temple, Held NO Formal Position, Titles, Importance

Like a GENERAL Surveying the PLACE of BATTLE > Battle of HIS LIFE!

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”  
Matthew 21.23

Jesus Life & Ministry > ENDED over CONFLICT about the TEMPLE



GOSPEL PASSION Narratives > TEMPLE CONFLICT led to His DEATH

...many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”

Matthew 26.60,61

Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself!..”

Matthew 27.38-39

But *the temple he had spoken of was his body.*

John 2.21

They THOUGHT were ENGINEERING HIS Death > but it was THEIR OWN

v. 2 “Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

JEWES DEFILED It / JESUS DEPARTED from It / ROMANS will DESTROY It

Now called ICHABOD because the GLORY of GOD had DEPARTED

Jesus to Pharisees: “I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.” Matthew 12.6

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

Matthew 21.42

Because THEY REJECTED God’s Stone > No Stone on their Temple will Stand

Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself...Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son.

Hebrews 3.3-6

This EASTER Week is my BIRTHDAY! – BORN Again Easter Week of 1972

44 years of TRYING and FAILING as I FOLLOW the Risen Jesus Christ

44 yrs of MERCY – FAITHFULNESS – FORGIVENESS – Me & My Family

Never in WILDEST Dreams – EASTER Sunday worship Him BEIJING, CHINA  
 Confident, but Sometimes Confused, in our Risen King – My Story  
 Most IMPORTANT Issue > NOT DATE but your FINAL DESTINATION

END Will Come but WHERE will YOU Go?!

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD.  
 Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember  
 mercy. Habakkuk 3.2

Summer of 1939 – TERRIBLE Time in Europe – Nazi Blitzkrieg Advancing  
 WEEPING as Fathers & Brothers went to Fight – Children sent Out of Cities  
 American Preacher Donald Grey Barnhouse – Unexpectedly Caught in Conflict  
 Invited St. Enoch’s the Largest Church BELFAST N. Ireland - Sept 3, 1939  
 Service scheduled to Begin at 11 am – Same Time Prime Minister speak Radio

Nervous Pastor met Barnhouse that AM “Thank God, I do not have to preach”

“The church will be full of lads who will never come back.

I pray God will give you something for them.”

Church was Full, Not One Seat was Empty

Service Began - Sang Hymns - Elder gave Visiting Preacher a Note

“No reply from Hitler. The prime minister has declared war.”

Barnhouse began Sermon said he had changed Text at 4 am – THAT Morning

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for  
 this must take place, but the end is not yet. Matthew 24.6

Tension Mounting in Church - Monstrous Grief was Piled on Agonizing Horror

“These words are either the words of a madman or they are the words of God.”  
 He shook his fist toward heaven and cried, “God, unless Jesus Christ is God,  
 these words are the most horrible that could be spoken to men who have hearts  
 that can weep and bowels that can be gripped by human suffering. Men are dying.  
*Do not be alarmed?* Children are crying in their misery with no beloved face in  
 sight. *Do not be alarmed?* How can Jesus Christ say such a thing?...”

Because Jesus Christ is God - Lord of History - God of Detailed Circumstances  
 In the Midst of this history Jesus Christ is Lord

“...Every person who has believed in him as the Savior will know the power of  
 his resurrection and will learn that events, however terrible, cannot separate us  
 from the love of God.”  
 Donald Grey Barnhouse

Rather than Wondering about Specific Moment when Jesus Will Return,  
 Should be Asking Ourselves if we are Ready for It

As John WESLEY traveled on Horseback from one Preaching Event to Another  
 Asked “What would you DO if you know Jesus was returning tomorrow?”  
 Wesley pulled out DIARY > Showed Tomorrow’s Page > I would DO THIS!  
 He was LIVING EVERY DAY ready for COMING of His MASTER

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MATTHEW 24.<sup>1</sup> Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.<sup>2</sup> But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”<sup>3</sup> 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?”<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray.<sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.<sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.<sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.<sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.<sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.<sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.