

Matthew 24.15-28

“A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall”

Channel SURFING stumbled upon Movied >> WHITE HOUSE DOWN

Not Enduring CLASSIC > Just saw END of It > White House BOMBED

I hope LIFE does Not IMMITATE ART in this Case – during Trump Presidency

American, my View of My Nation be Radically Altered if White House Down

Imagine the FAMOUS, POWERFUL Locations your Nation > Gone!

Hard to Believe – Jesus’ Disciples were Similarly INCREDULOUS!

Massive TEMPLE of HEROD DOWN!?! Not One Stone left on Another?

Matthew 24 revolves around Double Question in verse 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?*”  
 Matthew 24.3

## 1. Warnings of Desolation

v. 15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)

RABBI Jesus was Teaching and WARNING His DISCIPLES

Jesus says we should READ the Book of DANIEL with UNDERSTANDING

NOT Easy to DO! > Matthew is Significantly INFLUENCED by DANIEL

	Daniel	Matthew
Destruction of Temple	And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. 9.26	“Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” 24.2
Rumors of War	news from the east and the north shall alarm 11.44	“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed” 24.6
Tribulation	there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time 12.1	“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.” 24.21
Son of Man on Clouds	behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man 7.13	“I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 26.64
Abomination	Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. 11.31, 8.13, 9.27, 12.11	“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) 24.15

4 Times Daniel describes this ABOMINATION of Desolation

a. Then

FIRST Usage of Word in Bible > Derogatory Reference about ISRAELITES

When Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth.. for *every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.*’ Genesis 46.33,34

Joseph to Father > Dad, don’t EMBARRASS me Here! Like my Son’s say!

These EGYPTIANS think Shepherds like YOU are an ABOMINATION!

Disgusting, Detestable, Abhorrent, Repugnant, Unclean – Generally YUCKY!

LAW of God calls Couple DOZEN BIG TIME Sins ABOMINATIONS...

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. Leviticus 18.22

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD Proverbs 12.22

Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD. Proverbs 20.10

Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD Proverbs 16.5

YIKES! Got ME with THAT ONE!

The PARTICULAR Abomination in OUR TEXT Occurred in the TEMPLE

Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. Daniel 11.31

Jesus says EXPECT Something SIMILAR to what Daniel told them to Expect

NATURAL to ASK WHEN > because at THAT TIME you BETTER RUN!

167 BC Syrian King Antiochus IV Statue of Zeus poured PIG'S Blood on Altar  
 39 A.D. Roman Emp CALIGULA – Declared Self DIVINE > IMAGE in Temple  
 66 A.D. ZEALOTS shed Blood of PRIESTS in the Temple  
 68 A.D. Clown PHANNI was INVESTED as HIGH PRIEST  
 70 A.D. Roman General TITUS DESTROYED TEMPLE

“It would have been far better for me to have died before I had seen the house of God laden with *such abominations* and its' unapproachable and hallowed places crowded with the feet of murderers.” Retired High Priest Ananus, 69 AD

When the TEMPLE is IRREPRABLY DESECRATED it will be DOOMED

Jesus' warning must apply to the earlier rather than the final desecration, because shortly after the Romans surrounded Jerusalem escape was almost impossible.

Craig Keener

POINT of Jesus warning is to URGE His Followers to FLEE the Suffering

v. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

It is hard to overestimate the horror of the siege of Jerusalem... People died slowly and painfully of starvation after being reduced to eating rats, cow dung, leather, and grass. The living were eventually too weak to bury the dead, so the city became a foul, stinking mess of rotting corpses and disease... One refugee from the city who was captured by the Romans reported that he had been in charge of *one gate* out of which 115,880 corpses were carried.

ZGC Small Group Study Notes, Miriam Fisher

There have been greater number of deaths – 6 million in Nazi death camps, 20 million under Stalin – but never so high a percentage of a great city's population so thoroughly and painfully exterminated and enslaved as during the Fall of Jerusalem.

Don Carson

## b. Now but Not Yet

Destruction of Jerusalem Terrible Example of Birth Pains Jesus is Predicting  
 Time of Unprecedented Suffering—Severity of Jews Rejection of MESSIAH  
 How UNDERSTAND this Complicated chapter of the Bible? Mk 13, Lk 21

SIMILAR to the Descriptions of Judgment in REVELATION

v. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.  
 But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

THOSE DAYS v. 22 – ENTIRE Period from FIRST to FINAL Century

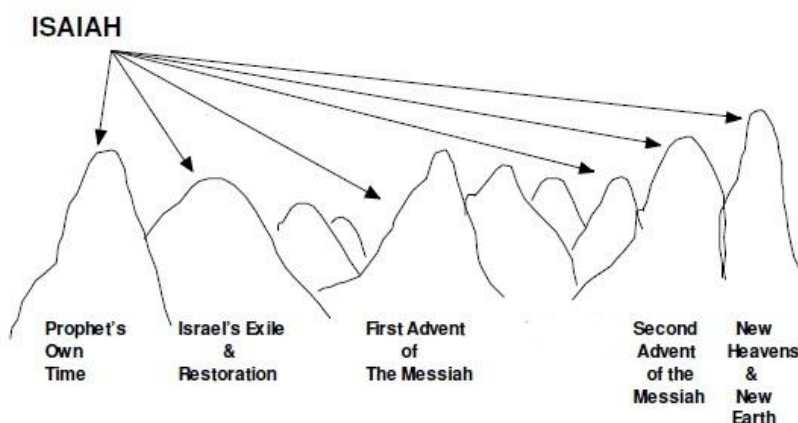
ALL FLESH – HUMANKIND – Not just Citizens of JERUSALEM

Destruction of Jerusalem would be Terrible, but Still not Be the End

“Multi-Perspectival” – the Prophets saw several events in the distant horizon,  
 without knowing the exact time sequences



From VIEWPOINT of Prophets > Mountains FAR in DISTANCE look like ONE  
 When begin WALKING REALIZE its SERIES of HILLS and VALLEYS  
 HIGH-POINTS of Biblical View are GREAT EVENTS of Redemptive History



Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1.10-12

REASON Why John the Baptizer did NOT Recognize 1<sup>st</sup> Coming for Jesus  
 John was FINAL Old Covenant Prophet even tho Described in NEW Testament  
 EXPECTED His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming Judgment FIRE > AX laid to ROOT of TREES  
 John's DOUBTS and QUESTIONS were from his Old Covenant Perspective

OT \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
 "day of the Lord"

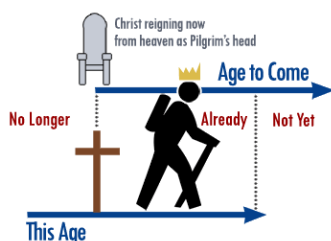
What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. Matthew 11.9

Only in light of NT Fulfillment Understand Multi-Perspectival "Day of the Lord"

NT \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Coming 2016 Second Coming

Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. Matthew 13.16,17

Beloved, we are God's children *now*, and what we will be has *not yet* appeared 1 John 3.2



Matt 24 – Time from 1<sup>st</sup> to Final Cent will be TRIBULATION for the Church

How should I live between the first coming of Jesus and his second coming, whenever that may be?

## 2. Way Out of Disasters

a. Clever – WISDOM to Heed WARNINGS and FLEE

v. 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Like ANGEL of God told LOT to get his FAMILY OUT of SODOM

Jesus WARNS of a Day when FOLLOWERS should FLEE from Jerusalem

The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, *because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.*"

Luke 19.42-44

Warned by Jesus > Christians FLED City & took REFUGE in Pella in Mtns.

“Before the war (of 70 A.D.), the people of the Church of Jerusalem were bidden in an oracle given by revelation to men worthy of it to depart from the city and to dwell in a city...called Pella. To it those who believed in Christ migrated from Jerusalem. Once the holy men had completely left the Jews and all Judea, the justice of God at last overtook them, since they had committed such transgressions against Christ and his apostles. Divine justice completely blotted out that impious generation from among men.”

Eusebius,

4<sup>th</sup> Century Church Historian

v. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house

HouseTOPS FLAT, Used for PRAYER, Drying Food, SLEEP on Hot Nights

v. 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.

WORKER wear COAT to Fields Cold AM > Leave at Field's Edge as Warned

LIFE matters More than BASIC Necessities which can be REPLACED

Jesus URGES Followers to EXPECT Trouble, but TRY to AVOID it

Paul appealed Roman CITIZENSHIP, Lowered Basket over Damascus City Wall

GOD expects us to be WISE – Know His WORD, Understand His WORLD

Next 3 Months of Tuesday Training – FOCUS on Knowing God’s Word

## b. Coincidence

vs. 19,20 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

Pregnant - What normally is a blessing will become a bad situation.

Winter - streams swell from the rain, making movement next to impossible

On the Sabbath the city gates might be shut; one could not secure animals for transport...willfully riding horseback on the Sabbath was considered a deathworthy sin. Craig Keener

Seems to be RANDOMNESS to Our Lives – Series of COINCIDENCES

Why are we SECURE in Beijing and Not SKITTISH in BRUSSELS?

Why are we Running for Buses and Not Running from Boko Haram?

Why did you get Great Opportunity to Study in Uni here?

Many of your Friends back home – More Clever – Never had Such a Chance?

Why do we have Health? Freedom to Worship? Food? Running Water?

So Many things we TAKE for GRANTED are just DREAMS to Much of World

1986 to USA after 1st term in Arua, Uganda > Almost 4 yrs of War & Suffering  
Driving LA freeways listening Misguided Preacher on Radio

“Jesus is coming to take us away!! We are not going to suffer! No Tribulation!”

Don’t know WHAT PLANET he was Living ON?? > but here one EARTH

“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.” Matthew 24.9

German Pastor who was hung by the Nazis age 39 -



“Suffering then is the badge of the true Christian. The disciple is not above his master...Discipleship means allegiance to the suffering Christ, and it is not at all surprising that Christians should be called upon to suffer” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945

We dare Not DILLUTE Gospel to make it more SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE  
 More POLITICALLY FAVORABLE More RELIGIOUSLY TOLERANT  
 Do not COMPROMISE the CROSS for the False Peace of THIS WORLD

### c. Chosen

v. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

This age of evangelism and distress – wars, famines, persecution, hatred, false prophets – will become so bad that, if not checked, no one would survive.

Don Carson

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

We LOOK BACK on them and SEE they were DESIGNED for Good & Glory

27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years,



food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

28. Q. What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

A. We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.

The Heidelberg Catechism 1563

What else can we wish for ourselves if not even one hair can fall from our head without His will?

John Calvin

MAYBE WE WISH THE HAIRS WOULD FALL A BIT MORE SLOWLY

No Accidents in Life, No Economic Downturn, Relationship Break-Up,

Job Loss, Oncology Report, Phone Call in the Middle of Night is MISTAKE

Whether it means END of Suffering or EXTENSION of our Suffering

God is FOR Us – Not Against Us – and WITH Us – and will NEVER Leave Us

You can look at providence through the lens of human autonomy and our idolatrous notions of freedom and see a mean God moving tsunamis and kings like chess pieces in some kind of perverse divine playtime. Or you can look at providence through the lens of Scripture and see a loving God counting the hairs on our heads and directing the sparrows in the sky so that we might live life unafraid.

Kevin DeYoung

### 3. Woes of Damnation

If LIVED in Jerusalem in 1<sup>st</sup> C > YOUR World CAME to an END!

Roman General TITUS led ROMAN Armies into Jerusalem 70 AD -

"While the sanctuary was burning...neither pity for age nor respect for rank was shown. On the contrary, children and old people, laity and priests alike were massacred...the (Roman) emperor ordered the entire city and the temple to be

razed to the ground...the city was so completely razed to the ground as to leave future visitors to the spot no reason to believe that the city had ever been inhabited." Josephus - "History of the Jewish War"

BIG PICTURE > Destruction Jerusalem 1<sup>st</sup> C / End of WORLD FINAL Century

What should we EXPECT in this Time of Tribulation we NOW Live in??

#### a. Liars

vs. 23-25 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

Warned against False Christs at Beginning of Chapter > REPEATS Warning

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. 1 John 2.18

Formal Religions, Pray to Statues, Jesus did NOT DIE on CROSS

Government Sanctioned IMMORALITY – US State Department GLOBAL PRIORITY to Promote the Gay and Lesbian Agenda in ALL Nations

LEGAL Abortions, Same-Sex Marriage, Marijuana

GREAT Abominations – Christians who Deny Christ's Love and Truth

Elect will NOT be DECEIVED because Jesus TOLD them All in Advance

SATANIC Deception will CONTINUE to the VERY END

A lie has run around the world while Truth is putting on her shoes. Mark Twain

TRUTH will make us MATURE and UNITED and STABLE in our Faith

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried

about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes  
Ephesians 4.13,14

## b. Lost

v. 26 So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.

Jewish TEACHERS and PROPHETS > Gathered Followers in Forests & Closets

Essenes lived in Desert awaiting the Coming of their Messiah

Possible to Write a History of Church by all Errors that have been Made

Sometimes from Without but More Often from Within

Deceivers Today, we are Warned here Not to be Fooled by Them

Following their WEBSITES and BUYING their Anointed PRAYER Cloths

v. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

VULTURES will Circle ROUND the CORPSES of WICKED SLAIN

HORRIBLE OPPOSITE OF WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war... he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.  
Revelation 19.11-21

Battle Ends History, Over in BLINK of EYE, Been there, Done that...

It's OVER BEFORE it STARTS, X's Armies merely DIGNIFIED OBSERVERS  
Christ's Followers ADD NOTHING to the ACCOMPLISHMENT of His Victory

As QUICKLY as IRON CURTAIN Collapsed /or World Trade Center FELL  
Tornado Strikes – Earthquake Shakes - MH 370 DISAPPEARED

In Final Conflict > No Preference will be Given to Rank or Station of Life

LAST BATTLE is OVER > LAMB is VICTORIOUS > SAINTS Safely HOME  
No Friendly Fire – No Collateral Damage – God Strikes with Pinpoint Precision

“God triumphantly clears the battle field and swallows up his enemies in death.”  
A. Schlatter

c. Lord

Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming will NOT be hidden in Remote Wilderness or a CLOSET

GOD-Man will REVEAL His FULL GLORY > He will LIGHT UP the SKIES

v. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so  
will be the coming of the Son of Man.

NO Secret that could be FABRICATED by FALSE PROPHETS

NO Special SECRET or GIMMICKS Needed to See > ALL WILL SEE

TIME of His Coming is UNKNOWN > FACT of Coming is UNDISPUTABLE

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in  
flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those  
who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of  
eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his  
might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be  
marveled at among all who have believed 2 Thessalonians 1.7-10

UNTOUCHABILITY of Jesus > Never be Controlled by Man

No OPPONENT can OVERTHROW Him or Even SLOW HIS ADVANCE

No OTHER SAVIOR / Jesus is the CHRIST – Way, Truth, Life ALONE

Son of Man will come Suddenly, like Lightning that is Visible from East to West

The word of grace they have rejected becomes the word of judgment by which they are condemned. Tragically, because of their blind folly and hardness of heart, the means of their salvation is transformed into the means of their damnation

Philip E. Hughes

WEST > Quiet SUBURBAN HOMES > Says God could NEVER PUNISH!

Croatian Theologian > His People's Suffering at hands of Serbians > JUSTICE

“To people living in a war zone, whose villages have been plundered and burned, whose daughters and sisters have been raped, and whose fathers and brothers murdered. In this scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, any refusal to accept God's righteous punishing justice will invariably die.” Miroslav Volf

What REALLY IS the ABOMINATION of DESOLATION in the TEMPLE?

LEADERS REJECTION of Jesus put PLAN of FINAL Judgment in MOTION  
THOUGHT they were ENGINEERING HIS Death but it was THEIR OWN

Since Jesus is KEYSTONE of God's True TEMPLE

Nailing Him to CROSS is ULTIMATE ABOMINATION of HOUSE of God

If Jesus is the keystone of God's new temple, then to crucify him is surely the supreme act of temple profanation.

Rikk E. Watts

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

Now called ICHABOD because the GLORY of GOD had DEPARTED

TEARING of Veil > God's SIGN from Heaven that OLD System is DEAD

And what did you hear, my blue-eyed son?

And what did you hear, my darling young one?

I heard the sound of a thunder that roared out a warnin'

Heard the roar of a wave that could drown the whole world

Heard one hundred drummers whose hands were a-blazin'

Heard ten thousand whisperin' and nobody listenin'

Heard one person starve, I heard many people laughin'

Heard the song of a poet who died in the gutter  
Heard the sound of a clown who cried in the alley  
And it's a hard, and it's a hard, it's a hard, it's a hard  
It's a hard rain's a-gonna fall      Bob Dylan, 1962

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Matthew 24.15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.