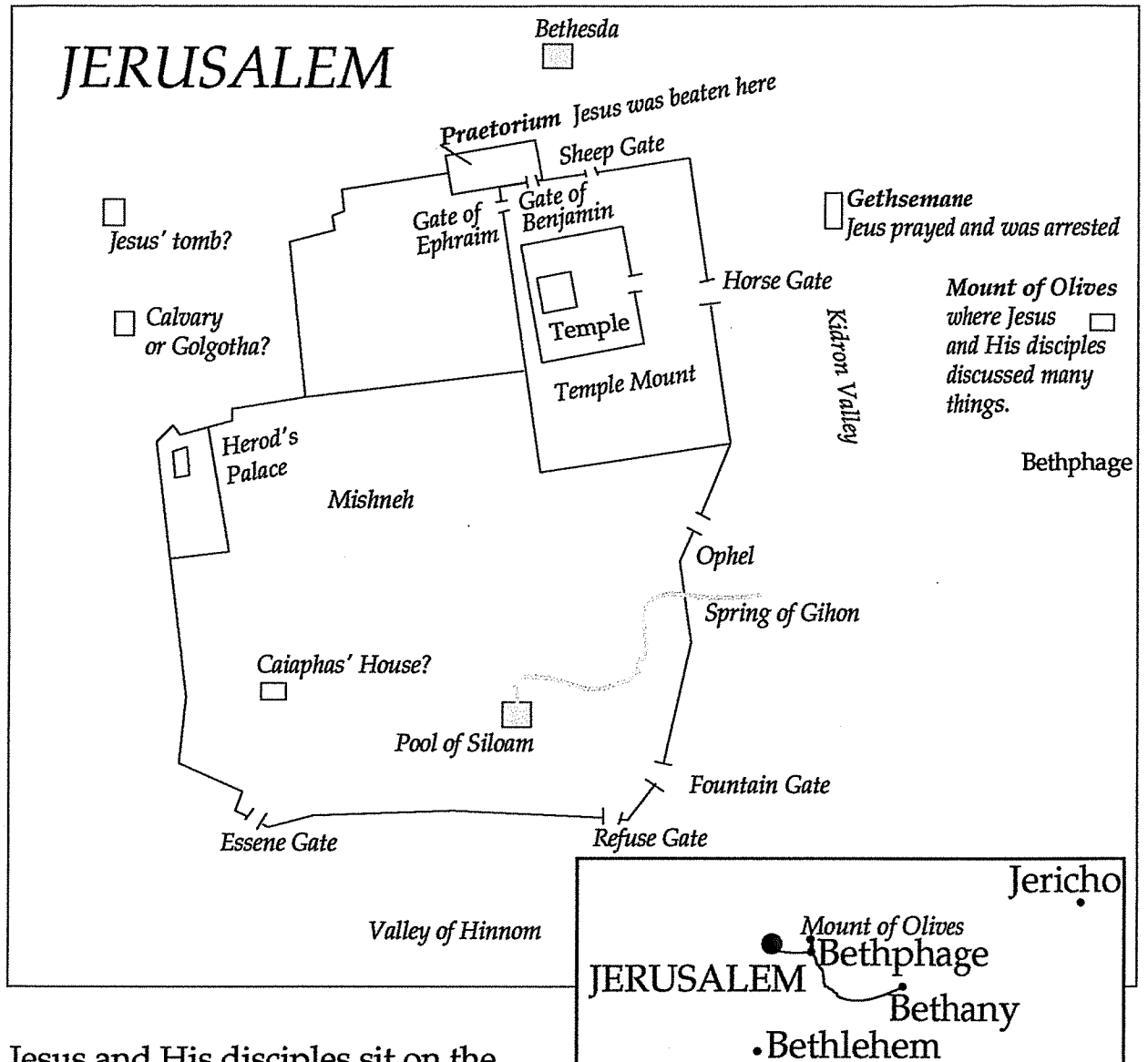


Apply Within for Kids- Matthew 24-28



Jesus and His disciples sit on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and discuss the destruction of the temple and the end of the age.

Jesus was sad that Jerusalem did not recognize the day of their visitation. Destruction would come in A.D. 70, when the Romans would destroy the temple and Israel would cease to be a nation.

After Jesus told them about the destruction of the temple and the end of the age, He and the disciples went to Bethany. A woman there put fragrant oil on His body for His burial (Matthew 26:12). Judas betrayed Jesus at this time. They returned to Jerusalem to eat together at the Passover, and then went to the Mount of Olives and sung a hymn together (Matthew 26:30).

Later they went to Gethsemane to pray, but of course, the disciples slept! Judas and the chief priests came to arrest Him there. That same night He was beaten and the next morning He was handed over to Pontius Pilate, the governor (Matthew 27:1). Judas then hung himself.

Jesus was taken to the Praetorium and He was beaten and mocked by the soldiers of the governor (Matthew 27:27-31). Jesus was then sent to Golgotha, where He was crucified. Jesus died and was put into the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a rich man who became a disciple of Jesus' (Matthew 27:57).

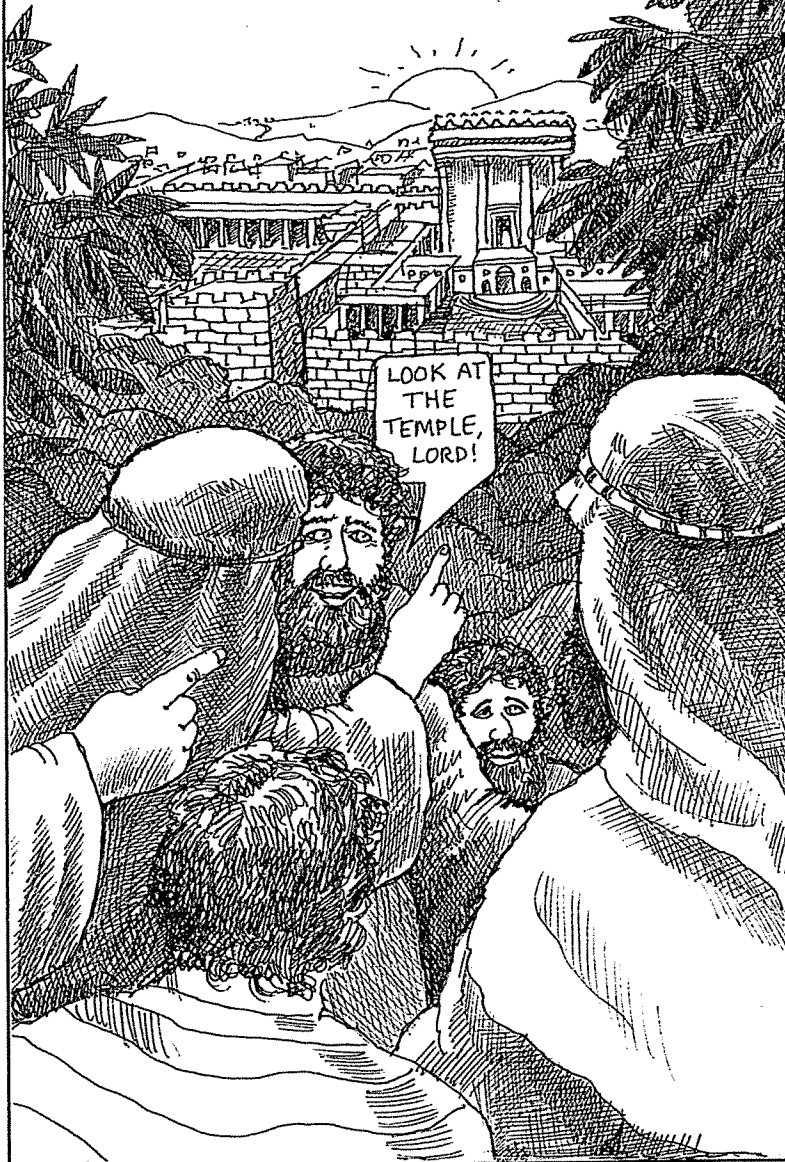
A guard was set over Jesus' tomb because of His prophecy. They had been told that He would rise from the dead in three days (remember the sign of the prophet Jonah).

Three days later, an angel of the Lord came and rolled back the stone from the tomb and all the Roman soldiers who stood guard fainted! Mary and Mary Magdalene were the first to see Jesus. Jesus told them to go and tell His brethren to go to Galilee and there they would see Him.

The eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. They worshiped Him, but some doubted. He gave them important instructions that we share too. (Read Matthew 28:18-20!)

Jesus Predicts The Destruction Of The Temple

"Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 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.'" -Matthew 24:1-2



Judgment was coming. In Matthew 23:36, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."

What things will come upon them?

"...that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar." - Matthew 23:35 Jesus was sending judgment on that generation for the blood shed on earth, from A to Z. Which generation? The one that rejected Him, their Messiah.

In 70 A.D., under Titus, the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem. Judgment came and not one of those huge stones of the temple was left on top of another. The stones in the temple were 20' X 20' X 40', and they were all cut two miles away from Jerusalem so that no noise would be heard at the temple. After Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, their house was left desolate, just as Jesus had predicted in Matthew 23:38.

Earlier, Jesus had told the parable of the wicked vinedressers, and in Matthew 21:42-43, He said, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone that the builders rejected. When we are broken physically or in heart, we come to Jesus and fall at His feet. But if we are prideful and we reject Jesus, refusing to repent, judgment will fall on us, and we will be destroyed just like the temple.

“Tell Us, When Will These Things Be?”

“Now as He sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be?’ ... -Matthew 24:3

Question Number One: When Will The Temple Be Destroyed?

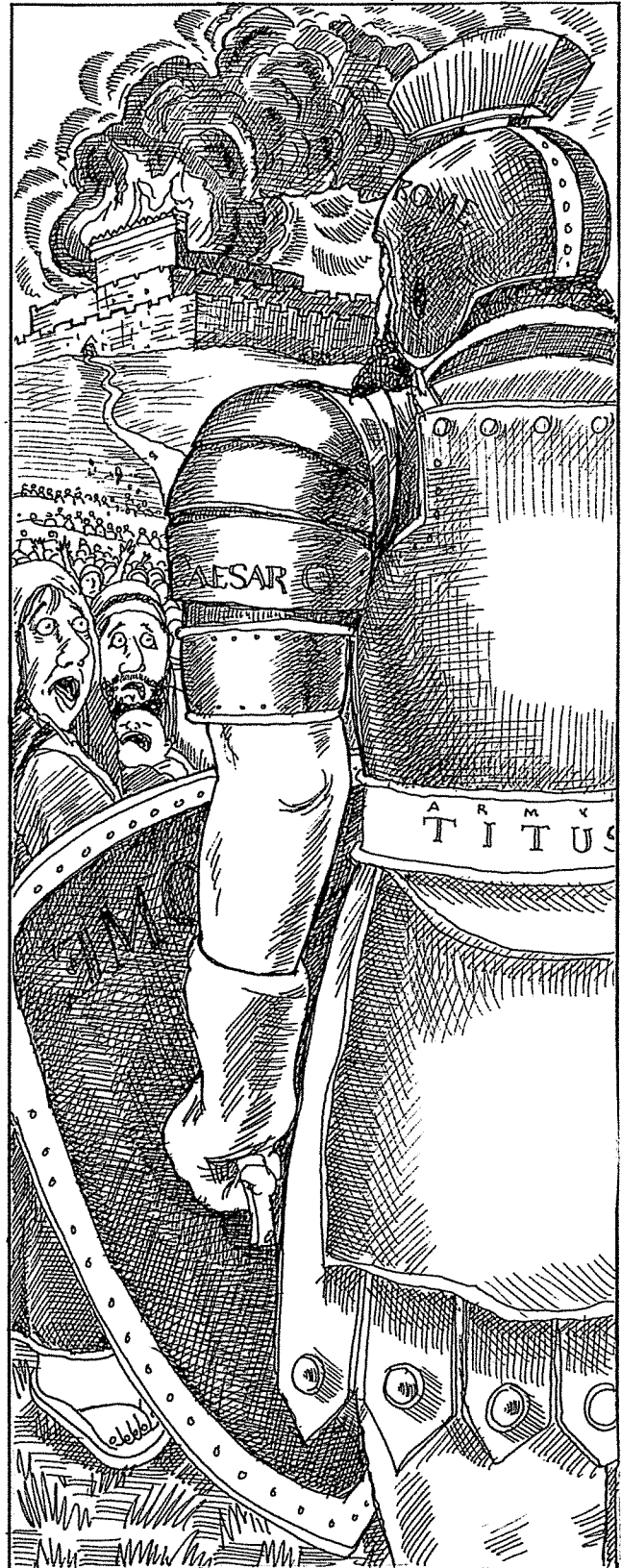
Jesus answers this question for us in the Book of Luke.

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” -Luke 21:20-24

Judgment fell upon Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Jewish people were scattered into all nations of the world. There they have been hated and persecuted until this very day. In 1948, Israel became a nation again, against all odds. God is not finished with the Jewish people. Remember the parable of the fig tree? It represented Israel. It bore no fruit, so Jesus caused it to wither.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14, gives Israel a list of blessings that the Lord had promised for obedience. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 gives a list of curses that will come upon them for disobedience. Deuteronomy 28:64, says,

“Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.” Read all of Deuteronomy 28.



Question Number Two:
What Shall Be The Sign
Of Your Coming? -Matthew 24:3

"And Jesus answered and said to them:
"Take heed that no one deceives you."

*"For many will come in My Name, saying,
'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.
See that you are not troubled; for all these
things must come to pass, but the end
is not yet."* -Matthew 24:4-6

This is regarding Jesus' second coming. Before there can be a counterfeit, the real one must be made known. Jesus, the Messiah, came and now there are many counterfeit "Christs." Many New Age people claim to be God. Many say that we are all God!

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." -Matthew 24:7-8

There will be conflicts among nations, and conflicts among kingdoms (large groups of nations), such as seen in the history of World War I, and World War II. There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

People are starving in various places right now. There are unusual diseases now such as AIDS. Earthquakes are happening every day around the world. All these events have increased in strength and frequency. Jesus told us that it would be like birth pangs (which increase in strength and frequency), until Jesus comes again.



Matthew

Chapter 24:4-8

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:4-5. Does Jesus' warning to His disciples have relevance to today's world? Discuss.
2. Read Matt. 24:6. Is vs. 6 being fulfilled in our lifetime?

What is the "end" referring to?

3. Read Matt 24:7-8. Read the front of the lesson. The conflicts, pestilences, and earthly disasters are in place and intensifying today. Is this the 'beginning' or the 'ending' of sorrows? (See Phil. 4:6-7.)

Memory Verse

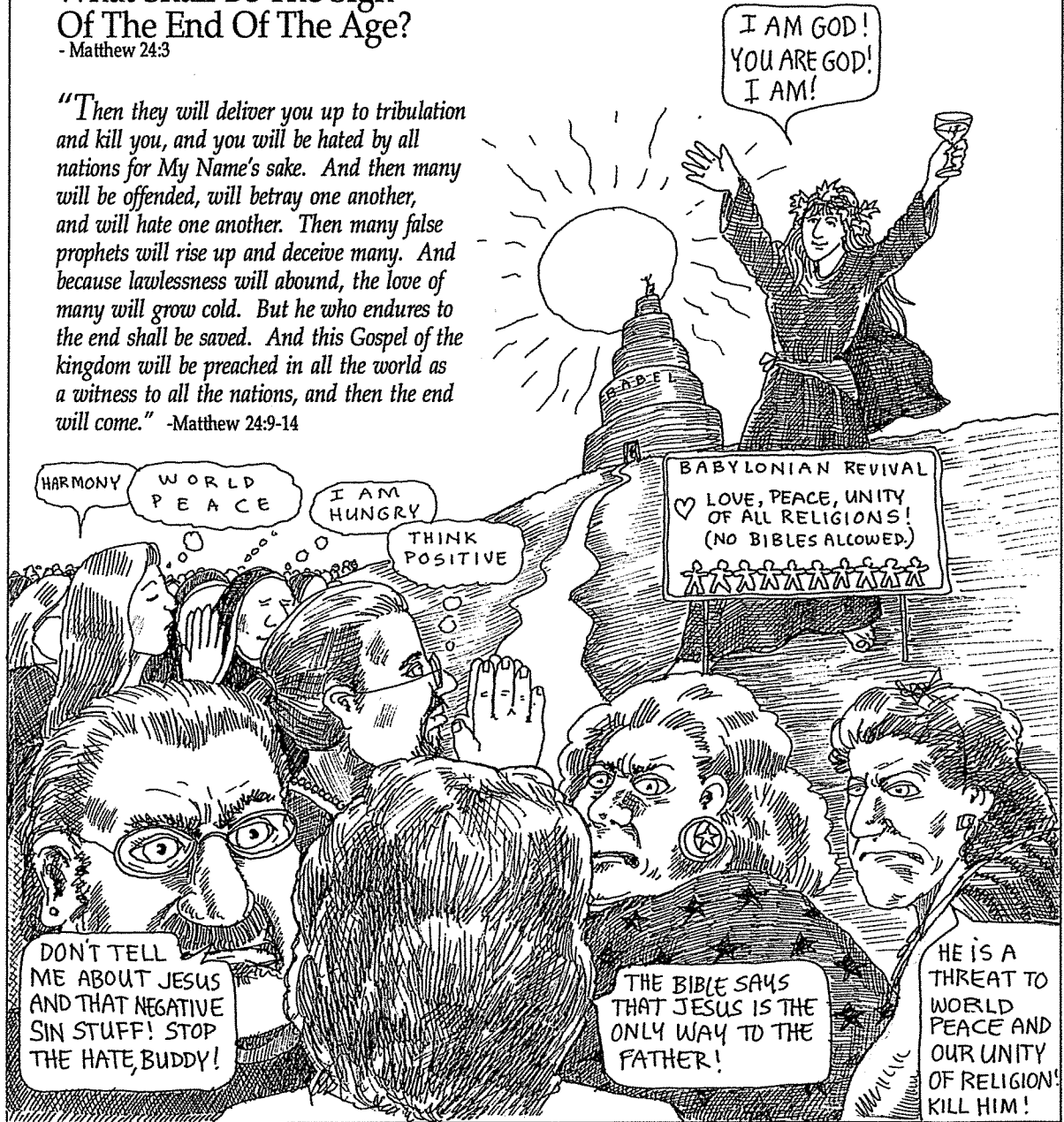
"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

HOW IT COULD BE...

Question Number Three:
What Shall Be The Sign
Of The End Of The Age?
- Matthew 24:3

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My Name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." -Matthew 24:9-14



Remember Jesus is speaking to His disciples, and they were Jews (who were born again). The disciples were delivered up, beaten, put in prison, crucified up-side-down. And then in 70 A.D., Titus killed many and burned Jerusalem. The Jews were destroyed as a nation and they were scattered all over the world. They have been persecuted everywhere they have lived for almost 2000 years. Hitler killed millions of Jews, and the Antichrist will kill many more.

The Gospel will be preached to all the world as a witness before Jesus returns. God gives everyone a chance. Lawlessness will increase after the rapture of the church, but God will send 144,000 Jewish men to be witnesses during the Great Tribulation. (See Revelation 7:4-8 & Revelation 14:1-5.) Then God will send two witnesses to proclaim the Gospel. (See Revelation 11:3-12.) The Lord will also send an angel to proclaim the Gospel. (See Revelation 14:6-7.) God is so merciful that He will not leave this world without a witness.

Matthew

Chapter 24:9-14

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:9-11. Do you think the disciples understand that Jesus is talking about them?

Do you think that Jesus was also referring to our times - the "beginning of sorrows"?

2. Read Matt. 24:12. Jesus predicts that the world will become so corrupt that despair will turn many to unbelief. Do we see this happening today?
3. Read Matt. 24:13. What promises does Jesus give to those who proclaim Him as their personal Savior? (Matt. 10:22.)
4. Read Matt. 24:14. In the midst of the horrors and trials, what does Jesus promise concerning the Gospel? (See Matt. 4:23; Matt. 28:19-20; Romans 10:18.)

Memory Verse

"And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'"

Acts 1:7 (NKJV)

Jesus Discusses The Great Tribulation

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' Do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together." -Matthew 24:15-28

The abomination of desolation is a two-part event. In 168 BC, Antiochus IV Epiphanes murdered 100,000 Jewish males. Pigs were butchered on the altar of the temple, and an idol of Jupiter was set up. But Jesus is speaking of a future event concerning the Antichrist, who will set up an image of himself (2 Thess. 2:3-4) in the rebuilt temple (yet future). The Jews are to flee immediately upon seeing the setting up of this image to be worshiped. It will be difficult for those with little children, or if it occurs during the winter, or on the Sabbath.

There will be great deception. False christs and prophets will abound. They will deceive many if people do not know the Word of God. When Jesus returns, it will be as the lightning comes from the east to the west. There will be no secret meetings. Every eye shall see Him.

"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen." - Revelation 1:7

God is preparing a great feast for the birds. They will feed upon the bodies of all the people who will gather themselves against Jesus when He returns. (Read Revelation 19:17-21.)



Matthew

Chapter 24:15-28

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:15. What is the act of the 'abomination of desolation' that Jesus is referring to? (Daniel 9:27; Daniel 11:31)

When will this take place? (Also, see front of lesson.)

2. Read Matt. 24:16-20. What is Jesus' warning to the survivors of the three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation?
3. Read Matt. 24:21-22. Why did God put a limit to the duration of the Great Tribulation?
4. Read Matt. 24:23-24. What are some of the methods the false christs and false prophets will use to deceive?
5. Read Matt. 24:25-27. In vs. 25, Jesus is reminding mankind of Jesus' return. Will this be a public or private appearance? Explain.

Memory Verse

"For as lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Matthew 24:27 (NKJV)



The Second Coming Of Jesus At The End Of The Age

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." - Matthew 24:29-31

When will the sun be darkened and the moon not give its light? Immediately after the tribulation of those days. The stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Speaking of the devil, Revelation 12:4, says, "His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth." Revelation 12:7-9, says, "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Jesus will appear then, and as Revelation 1:7, says, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him...." (See Zechariah 12:10-11.) Why do the tribes of the earth mourn? Because they rejected Him.

Jesus will then send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. This event is not the rapture of the church (see description of the rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4:16). At the rapture, the Lord descends with the shout of the archangel. He does not send His angels. At the end of the age, He sends His angels to gather His elect. Remember the parable of the dragnet? "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." - Matthew 13:47-50

Matthew

Chapter 24:29-31

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:29. What will signal the end of the Great Tribulation?
2. Read Matt. 24:30. Describe the event of Jesus' Second Coming. (Daniel 7:13-14)
3. Read Matt. 24:31. When the trumpet sounds at Jesus' Second Coming, what will be the assignment for the angels?

Memory Verse

"And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Matthew 24:31 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Fig Tree

"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." - Matthew 24:32-36



God's Word will not pass away. Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's Word and His promises will stand forever! *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever." - Isaiah 40:8* The Lord will create a new heaven and a new earth! (Read Revelation 21!)

The fig tree represents Israel. After nearly 2000 years of the Jews having been scattered throughout the world and without a nation of their own, they became a nation again in 1948. Who would believe that a nation could be "resurrected" after 2000 years? See Ezekiel 37.

Ezekiel 39: 21-29 says, "I will set my glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward. The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them. Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My Holy Name-- after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, Who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord God."

THE LORD IS NOT DONE WITH ISRAEL

"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.' Concerning the Gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers."

- Romans 11:25-28 (See Genesis 15 & God's promises to Abraham and his descendants). Israel is God's elect.

Matthew

Chapter 24:32-36

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus taught in parables. What does this mean?
2. Explain some of the signs of the different seasons of the year.
3. Read Matt. 24:32-33. As sure as the seasons occur, we can also recognize the fulfilling of God's Word. In this parable what does the fig tree represent? (See front of lesson and Ezekiel 37:26-28.)
4. Read Matt. 24: 34-35. How positive can we be that these things will take place? (Psalm 119:89 and Psalm 83)
5. Read Matt. 24:36. Who knows when the Son of Man will return? (Zech. 14:7)

Memory Verse

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

**“But As The Days Of Noah
Were, So Also Will The Coming
Of The Son Of Man Be.”**

“For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” - Matthew 24:37-39



**WHAT WERE
THE DAYS OF NOAH LIKE?**

“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.’ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”
- Genesis 6:1-8

1. There was a population explosion in those days. (Genesis 6:1) There were possibly 6 billion people. In our days, there is a population explosion. From the flood to 1867, there were 1 billion people. From 1867 -1935, there were 2 billion. From 1965-1985, there were 6 billion. In 1999 there were 7 billion, and an expected 8.5 billion in 2020. The numbers increase quickly!
2. Unusual sexual relations. Relationships with demons (new age practices being taught now).
3. Wickedness abounding. Increased wickedness.
4. People’s thoughts were evil continually (have you watched TV lately?)
5. Corruption & violence that spoils the earth. The earth is being destroyed by man today.

Noah preached to people and warned them about the coming judgment for 120 years. They scoffed and mocked him right up until the day of the flood and they were swept away.
(See 2 Peter 3:1-9.)

Matthew

Chapter 24:37-39

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:37. To what period of Biblical history is Jesus comparing His Second Coming?
2. Read Matt. 24:38. Does vs. 38 sound familiar to our own days? Explain.
3. Read Matt. 24:39. Do you think that Noah gave the people any warning in the 120 years that it took him to build the ark? Did the flood still take them by surprise? (See Matt. 24:36.)

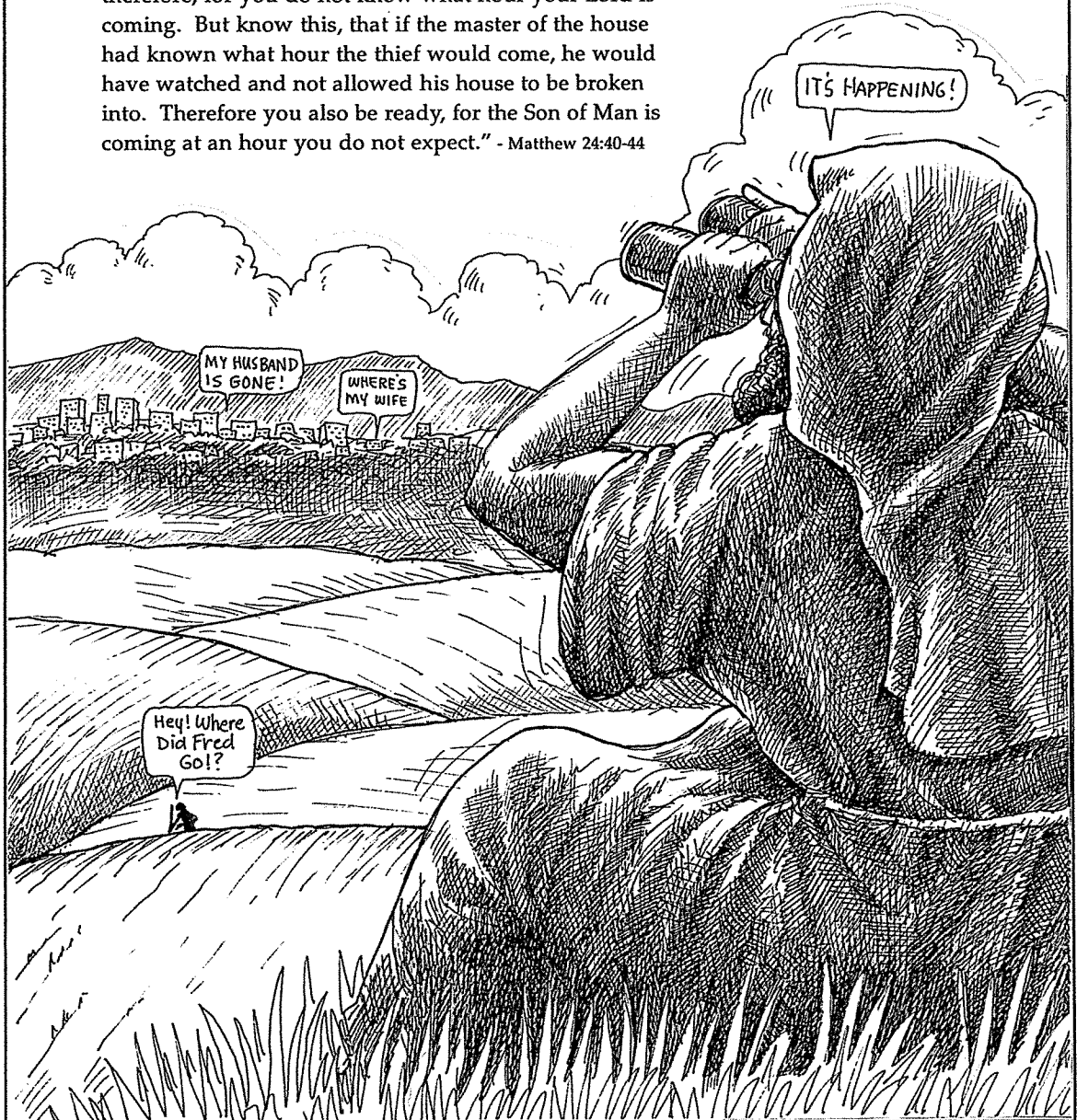
Memory Verse

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

Watch Therefore!

"Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." - Matthew 24:40-44



Again, we are discussing the Second Coming, not the Rapture. (See verse 29.) 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11, says, "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk

at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

(For more information, read 2 Peter 3:10-13.)

Matthew
Chapter 24:40-44

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:40-41. Explain what is happening here. Compare this to the Rapture of the Church.
2. Read Matt. 24:42-44. To whom are these verses addressed to?

Memory Verse

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Faithful Servant And The Evil Servant

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Matthew 24:45-51



The Faithful Servant



WATCH!

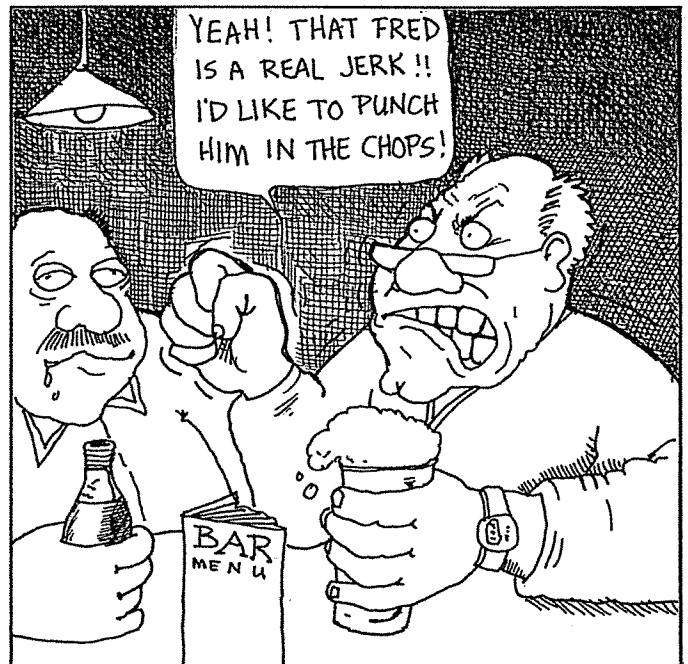
Jesus said, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." - Matthew 24:42-44



IF HE'S YOUR MASTER, OBEY HIM.

Jesus said, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

- Luke 6:46-49



The Evil Servant

Jesus loves us so much that He laid down His life for us, so we can be forgiven of our sins, and have everlasting life. While He is away, we want to spend our time doing things that please Him. When He returns, we want Him to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." - Matthew 25:21

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."

- Luke 16:10

Matthew

Chapter 24:45-51

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 24:45,48-49. Compare the two types of servants described in these verses.
2. Read Matt. 24:46-47. What is the good servant doing? What is his reward?
3. Read Matt. 24:48-51. What are the consequences for the evil servant?

Memory Verse

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)