

Studies in the Life of Christ

N.T. Survey Lesson 43--Matthew 24

Introduction: Perhaps no chapter of the gospels has been subject to more misinterpretation than Matthew twenty-four. The hasty association of the idea of a coming of the Lord with the second coming has led to all kinds of prophetic speculation about the future. It seems best to understand Matthew 24 as a treatment of the figurative coming of Jesus against the wicked nation of Israel in the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. The language of this chapter is not strange to students of O.T. prophesy, who find similar words repeatedly used against evil nations in declaring God's judgment against them.

Lesson aim: To show how Jesus made provision for His disciples to escape the day of wrath to come upon the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem--Matthew 24:1-2

1. What did the disciples point out to Jesus as they left the temple?
2. What prediction did Jesus make about those temple buildings?

Events to transpire before the "end"--Matthew 24:1-14

1. Would it be correct to say that the disciples in their question of v. 3 understood at this point that Jesus would die, go to heaven, and come back again at a future time? What is it that they want to know more about?
2. What did Jesus say would arise and mislead many?
3. Jerusalem would be destroyed in a war with the Romans. But what did Jesus say would proceed this war?
4. What things did Jesus say were the beginning of "birth pangs"?
5. Make a list of things Jesus said would happen to disciples of Christ? Who would be saved? From what (in this context)?
6. What must happen first before the "end" comes? Why?

7. Of what "end" is the Lord thinking?

Jesus gives the sign that signals the destruction of Jerusalem-- Matthew 24:15-51

1. What was the sign? What prophet had spoken of it? What is the abomination of desolation? (Compare Luke 21:20)
2. What were disciples of Jesus to do and not to do when they saw the sign?
3. For whom did Jesus express special concern? For what were saints urged to pray?
4. What would the appearing of the sign bring about? Had the time of this war not been cut short what would have happened to every citizen of Jerusalem? For whose sake were the days shortened?
5. To what danger would Christians be subjected as they waited for the "sign" to appear? (v. 24-28) How did Jesus indicate his coming would be? To what did Jesus liken the false prophets who preyed upon the decadent city?
6. To what tribulation is Jesus referring in v. 29, the one upon the Jews in v. 21 or the one upon Christians in v. 9?
7. The figurative language of v. 29-31 implies both the destruction of some and the salvation of others. Who are those who mourn at the coming of the Son of Man? Who are those gathered together?
8. What are the "things" that will point to the fact that Jesus is "at the door"?
9. In what time frame would the events heretofore described take place?
10. Would anyone know the day or hour when this judgment would take place? Did Jesus or the angels?
11. What did Jesus say would be the state of affairs on earth when the destruction of Jerusalem took place?

12. What does this mean--"one shall be taken, another left"? Is this referring to the second coming or the destruction of Jerusalem?
13. What then did each disciple need to do?
14. What do the parables at the end of this chapter urge disciples to do in view of the Lord's coming?