

**HE WHO ENDURES
TO THE END
SHALL BE SAVED**

Matthew 24 starts off with almost a comical scenario. It states that the disciples decided to “show” Jesus all of the buildings that were in the Temple area upon the Temple Mount. Little did they realize what Jesus was about to tell them, nor did they realize what would take place in just a couple of days. This entire scenario took place just one or two days before Jesus was going to go through His “passion.”

It almost seems a little comical that we see the disciples showing Jesus the different places of the Temple. Here He was, the Son of God in the flesh, the Son of the Father who literally designed and gave the plans of the Temple to David to give to his son, Solomon, to build this place unto the Lord for the Lord’s purpose.

It is interesting to remember that God, did not really desire David or Solomon to build Him a Temple. (1Chronicles 17:4-5) It was only because of their desire to build Him a Temple that God did allow it to be built. After all, why would God want David or Solomon to build a Temple unto Him that would ultimately be destroyed in just a few hundred years later? That, however, is for another discussion.

However, here we are, with Jesus and His disciples. They are “showing” the Temple to Jesus – the One who along with the Father had designed the temple. It at this time that Jesus immediately tells them, flat out, that this Temple will be shortly destroyed, “*...See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.*” (Matthew 24:2) We know that Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

As mentioned previously, the main purpose why the temple was destroyed was simply because it was never to have been built in the first place. God had relented to David and decided to allow David to design it and his son Solomon to go ahead and build it. We know that God never really had intended for man to “build” Him a permanent dwelling place upon this earth. No, God had and would provide the permanent dwelling place for His Spirit to be among His people. That permanent place would be **within** His people. It would be within the born-again spirit of all those who would believe and truly accept His ultimate perfect sacrifice – Jesus.

Jesus knew this. That is why He, point blankly, told them that this Temple would be destroyed. There would no longer be a need for a Temple because the true Temple of God would be all those who accept and believe on Jesus as the Son of the Living God. As we see, this got the disciples thinking. So when they got to the Mount of Olives they asked Jesus, “*...Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?*” This gave Jesus the opportunity to share with them, and with us, what would be the signs of the “end times.”

We see that the first thing Jesus tells them is the very first thing that each of us needs to be very careful of. He tells them, “*...Take heed that no man deceive you.*” This literally means what it says. There will be a line of those that will come and try to deceive and draw many of His believers away from the truth. We must take this warning very seriously. This is the first thing Jesus tells them. If they don’t hear anything else they would have heard this. Therefore, it is vital that we also hear the “first words” of Jesus as He is going to be telling His disciples concerning the end times.

Let us take a moment to dwell on these first words of Jesus. Unfortunately, we like to hear about all the things that will take place in the end times. However, Jesus purposely tells His disciples that the first thing they must remember is that they are to make sure that they are not deceived by **anyone**. He tells them that many will come in His name, “*...saying I am the Christ.*” Very simply, Jesus is telling His disciples and all of us today, that there will be many who will come and deceive if it were possible even the very elect. Yes, it will happen and it has happened and will continue to happen until the true Jesus returns.

Jesus continues by telling them the things that will take place. The most important aspect of what He tells both the disciples and us today, are not the things that will happen but it is that there will be many false prophets that shall rise and deceive many. This is very important for us to hear and understand.

Yes, there will be harsh times that we will need to endure. These hard times may and will turn many people from their faith in Jesus. However, Jesus always includes the fact that there will be false prophets and false messiahs that will be in the midst of it all who will try to deceive and ultimately will deceive many. This is why in Matthew 24:13, Jesus declares, *“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”* Yes, it is endurance in having and keeping faith in Jesus that will be the saving grace to those who will make it through to the end.

Jesus continues to tell us what will take place. He declares the “abomination of desecration” that will happen as described in Daniel. We read that He implores the hearer and the reader to understand this time. (Matthew 24:15) It will be a harsh, difficult time. Jesus describes many things that will be happening.

However, He again, in Matthew 24:22 tells His disciples, *“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”* He tells us very clearly that it is only because of God’s love for His people that those days will be shortened. Why – so that there will be those that will make it through because of their faith in Jesus and their trust in God. Yes, they will make it through - but it will be very difficult.

Again, He tells them that there will be many who will spread false rumors and teachings about Him and His return. Yes, there will be those who will falsely use the true Messiah’s name and say that He is in the desert or somewhere else. Jesus declares to us not to believe them. If people do follow after them they will only find false prophets and false messiahs. The true Messiah will come from Heaven. He will come, *“...as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* Jesus was saying that His return will be as public and unmistakable as a “blast of lightning” in the sky.

Everyone will see and everyone will know. They will not be left to wonder or need to investigate such as He mentioned previously about people telling others “to go somewhere and find him.” Jesus responds with the proverb in Matthew 24:28, *“For where so ever the carcass is, there will the eagles (vultures) be gathered together.”* Jesus is stating with this proverb, that you cannot hide a fallen body in the open, especially in a wilderness environment, where the presence of vultures circling would quickly give it away.

In using the proverb Jesus is stating that it will be this way when He returns. It will be **obvious** for all to see. There will be **obvious** evidence that Jesus has returned and it will be clear to everyone that He has returned. It will not be a secret. You will not need to try and find Him. You will see Him coming in the clouds for all to see and know that He is returning. It will be a magnificent return from out of heaven for all to see and behold. Wow!!! I can’t wait for that. Anyway, let’s continue.

We see immediately at Jesus return, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. The moon will not be able to give its light because the sun will be darkened. We must remember that the moon gets its light from the sun. No there will be no sun and moon but there will be the true source of light and life. There will be Jesus who will come upon this earth and be the only source of true light and life. He will be that source of light and life for 1000 years.

All creation shall see the glorious Savior as it tells us in Matthew 24:30. We see in Matthew 24:28 that, the angels will gather His people from all over the earth. These will be those who followed Jesus and stayed true to Him until the end. These will be those people who will live in the 1000 year millennium and then ultimately remain faithful to Jesus and experience true salvation for eternity at the conclusion of the millennial period.

We also see that there will be people on the earth who will “mourn.” Why would they mourn? I believe they will mourn because these will be those who will know and realize that the One they rejected is truly the one who is what He said He is – the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior and Lord of all men. It is interesting that it says that these people will “mourn.” They will literally bewail this ultimate truth – not in grief but in total disgust and total non-belief – still, after everything is revealed.

They still will not receive nor accept Him. They will live out the 1000 year millennial rule. They will live it out in a place where there is no sickness, poverty or death. However, when satan is released for a brief moment at the conclusion of the millennium, these are those who will still reject Jesus and line themselves up with satan and his forces of darkness. Unfortunately, they all will be thrown into the “Lake of Fire” forever and ever.

Jesus continues speaking to His disciples. He is very clear as He tells them that it all will come to pass. That “generation” of when these things begin to take place will most definitely see it **ALL** come to pass. Heaven and earth will pass away but His words will **NEVER** pass away. (Matthew 24:34, 35) In other words Jesus is emphatically telling His disciples and all of us today, that all these things shall and will come to pass.

Jesus goes on to say that only the Father knows the exact time. However, we have some clues such as the Seven Festivals of the Lord. I believe we are very near to the living out of the last three festivals that are still yet to be fulfilled. We know that Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Bikkurim have all been fulfilled. We are presently living in the time of the Feast of Pentecost. However, the last three feasts are getting ever so close to coming to pass – the Feast of Rosh HaShannah, the Feast of Yom Kippur and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Jesus tells the disciples in Matthew 24:42-44, *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”*

Jesus was being very candid to His disciples and to each of us who are truly His today. He is telling us to “watch.” He uses an example of a thief coming and that this thief would not have gotten anything if the “goodman” of the house was looking and ready for whenever the thief would come. He tells us that if the goodman of the house had known and been on watch, the thief would not have been able to steal anything.

Are we being “goodmen” in our own lives? Are we on “watch” waiting for His return? Or are we like the man in the parable that Jesus gives to His disciples in Matthew 24:45-51? When Jesus returns will each of us, who say we are His people, be doing what we need to be doing? Are we watching and waiting and prepared for His return – whenever He decides or chooses to come? We must know without a shadow of a doubt that He will come. He will come either at our last breath or it will be, if we are still here, at His Second Coming. Either way, He will come. Those who believe and have not fallen away will be with Him.

Or will we be like the evil servant who says in his heart that the Lord is not coming yet. (Matthew 24:48, 49) Will we take advantage of others and misuse what God has given to us for our own personal use and our own personal advantage. If this is the case then there will be a swift judgment and recompense for our life. The Lord will come at a time when we are not ready or looking for Him. Actually, that individual would never really be looking for the Lord. Unfortunately, that individual will be, *“... cut him asunder, and appointed his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*(Matthew 24:51)

Jesus ends this time of teaching with the disciples as He continues with the Parable of the Ten Virgins, the Parable of the Talents and His teaching on the Last or Final Judgment. These were some of the last actual teachings of Jesus to His disciples and His followers.

We know that in the Gospel of John, we see that Jesus continued to teach His closest disciples about the soon coming Kingdom – all of His closest disciples were present – all except Judas. He had left to betray Jesus. However, those teachings in John were telling them about what their own lives should and would become. They were personal times of teaching to the disciples who were going to very soon become His Apostles and tell the world about Jesus both at that time and to come.

This time of teaching in Matthew however, was an important time for His disciples as He was preparing them, even though they were not really aware of it, for His leaving them - but He would come again. His second coming meant that He must leave them now but... one day He would return. That fact, the disciples and really no one else truly grasped, nor understood at that time – no one except Jesus.

These are important scriptures for us as His believers in this very hour to grasp and comprehend. The end times are coming – sooner than we may think. Will we be ready for them? Will we heed what he taught His beloved disciples? Difficult times shall and will come. There will be many false prophets and even false messiahs who many will follow. They may even deceive, if possible, the **very elect**. That “if possible” sounds as though the **true believers** will not fall victim to the false messiahs and the anti-Christ that will come.

Nevertheless, Jesus, the Gospel writers along with the writers of the New Testament scriptures continually teach and tell the believer to always be ready and on the alert for the wiles of the enemy. They will be very seductive and even look very much like the true King of kings and Lord of lords. However, no matter what anyone says or does the truth and fact of the matter is that there is only one true King and true Lord of all. That “one” is Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, I write this little essay to encourage the true believer to not only trust in and rely on Jesus and His Word but to also be ready. Hear what Jesus is telling His disciples and the true believers in this hour. The time is drawing near. We need to be as the disciples were. They asked Jesus to tell them and show them what will be. Jesus was faithful and told them the truth.

However, we must be different than those early disciples were. They were not prepared for the difficult time to come. They were only thinking of “good times” for them and Jesus. They never thought it would be as difficult and as tumultuous as it did take place. They were expecting the Kingdom but they were not expecting it to come the way it did come.

In this hour, I believe it is the same for many believers. We are not prepared for the times ahead. We are being told and even lied to concerning these end times and what they will be like by false prophets and false teachers. The only truth we can depend and rely upon is found in the Word of God and which was and is spoken by Jesus and all of the writers of the Bible – both the Old and New Testament. Yes, we can share this truth. We just need to be sure that it is not changed in the slightest way. It must be God’s Word and God’s word **ONLY!!!** We must remember that “...he who endures to the end shall be saved!!!”