

Enduring unto the End

Our Bible study today centers on these two verses: **Matthew 24:13-14**. Today, in most churches, it is a common belief that the “**end**” spoken of in these verses is the end of the planet Earth.

It is being taught that this end will come when Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom. In **Matthew 24:3**, the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to tell them the sign of His coming and the end of the world. We read in **Matthew 24:4** that Jesus answered their question and said to them: “**Take heed that no man deceive you.**”

Beginning in **Matthew 24:5**, Jesus began telling the disciples all the things that would be happening in their lifetime, in **their generation**. After listing several signs and events for the disciples to look for, Jesus made a very clear statement: that first century generation whom He was addressing, would not pass away before all the events of **Matthew 24** had been fulfilled. (**Matthew 24:34**)

Another important note is this: the word “**world**” used in **Matthew 24:3** does not mean “**planet Earth**”. The word “**world**” in this verse comes from the Greek word “**aion**” (**Strongs G#165**) which means “**Age**”. It was the Old Covenant Age that God had established with the twelve tribes of Israel at Mt. Sinai 1,500 years earlier after He had delivered them from Egyptian bondage. (**Exodus 19:4-6,8, Leviticus 26:15, 17**) The disciples knew and understood about this covenant. They knew that the end was near. They lived in that last-days generation from AD 30-AD 70.

The judgment of God was coming. Jesus said, “**... for judgment I am come into this world...**” (**John 9:39**) Jesus made it clear to the religious leaders of His day that the Kingdom of God would be taken away from them and given to a people who would produce the fruit of it. (**Matthew 21:43, 45**) Their generation would experience this Kingdom transfer. For them, it was their end.

The Apostle Paul confirmed this realization in his letter to the first century church at Corinth. Paul said that the ends of the world (ages) had come upon them. (**1 Corinthians 10:11**) The Apostle Peter said that “**the end of all things was at hand**”. (**1 Peter 4:7**)

The things that were coming to an end were the things relevant to the Old Covenant, to the priesthood, and to the Temple. It was the priesthood that taught all the people about God’s covenant with them.

Many people do not understand that the Gospel of Jesus Christ **WAS** preached in all the world by AD 70 of the first century. (**Matthew 24:14**) Remember, the Scriptures in **Matthew 24:34**, in **Mark 13:30**, and in **Luke 21:32** all said, “**This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled**”.

The word **“world”** used in **Matthew 24:14** comes from the Greek word **“oikoumene”** (Strong's G#3625) which means **“the inhabited world”**. This Greek word was used to refer to the entirety of the Roman Empire. This Greek word **“oikoumene”** is used in **Luke 2:1** where it speaks of the whole **“world”** being taxed by Caesar.

In **Acts 2:5**, it speaks of devout men out of every Nation that had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. In **Colossians 1:5-6**, it says that the Gospel had gone out into all the world.

Colossians 1:23 says that the Gospel was preached to every creature under heaven. The faith of the Romans was spoken of throughout the whole world. (**Romans 1:8**) **Romans 10:18** says that their words went into all the earth and unto the ends of the world. **Romans 16:25-26** tells us that the preaching of Jesus was made known to all nations.

Jesus said in **Luke 21:20**, when **YOU** see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know its desolation or destruction is nigh, near, at hand. Jesus said in **Mark 13:14** - when **YOU** see the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, flee the city. (**Daniel 9:26**)

The armies of Rome came and besieged the City of Jerusalem which culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple in AD 70. This brought about the end of God's Covenant with the twelve tribes of Israel which He made with them at Mt. Sinai.

In **Matthew 24:21**, we read how this siege of Rome was the fulfillment of the Great Tribulation. This marked *the “time of trouble such as never was before nor would ever be again”*.

It was the Last Day of the Last Days.

The Scripture tells us that those first century believers were also expecting the resurrection to happen **on that Last Day**. (**John 11:24**) The Last Day of the Last Days was not the End of Time but was the Time of the End. (**Daniel 12:1-2, 4, 9**)

All of these events fulfilled the prophecy given about the destruction of the Nation of Israel in **Deuteronomy 28:49-58**. Israel broke God's Everlasting Covenant. (**Isaiah 24:5**)

The Old Covenant came to an end in AD 70. When the Holy city of Jerusalem and its Temple were destroyed, this marked their End. Those who were faithful until the end were saved. Their redemption was drawing nigh. Those who remained faithful until the end received their redemption. (**Luke 21:28**)

Those who remained faithful until the end received the end of their faith which was the salvation of their souls. **(1 Peter 1:5,9)**

Conclusion

The end spoken of in **Matthew 24:13** was **NOT** the end of planet Earth but was the end of the Old Covenant. Those born-again believers who endured through the tribulation of that first century were saved.

Jesus Himself said that He would return before **that first century generation passed away**. **(Matthew 10:23, 16:27-28, 26:64)** Many people have been deceived and misled by their church leaders. Many people are being told that Jesus is coming back very soon in our future. This goes against what Jesus and the Apostles all taught.

The Apostles were eyewitnesses and preached and taught the words of Jesus. The soon coming of Jesus in our future is a fable, a cunningly devised fable. **(2 Peter 1:16)**

Remember the words of Jesus: ***“Take heed that no man deceive you.”***

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