

The Last Week Of Jesus' Life - Matthew 24, Pt 2 - The End Of This Age

Sunday PM 06/02/19

Introduction:

In our last lesson we studied the first part of this chapter. Jesus goes out and looks at the temple. He proclaims that not one stone will be left on top of another (v.2). In response the disciples ask two questions: When will this happen? What will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age? (v. 3). There are two questions and two different events under discussion here. *Verses 4 - 35* Jesus speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem, from *verses 36 on* into the next chapter Jesus speaks of the end of this age.

I) Is There A Change of Subject? How Can One Tell?

A) Difference between days and day.

1. Jesus used the singular day on other occasions to refer to the Day of Judgment. *Matthew 7.22; 11.22,24*
 - a. Days used in *Matthew 24.19, 22, 29*
 - b. Day used in *Matthew 24.36, 50* the second coming will not occur over a period of days but in one day.

B) The word "days" is different from the term "last days" referring to the current dispensation. *Hebrews 1.1.2; Acts 2.16,17*

1. We are currently living in the last days.
2. This is the last dispensation, the Christian age.

C) Abnormal events vs. normal events

1. Wars, famines, pestilence would occur before the destruction of Jerusalem
2. Normal events would be taking place when Christ returns.

D) Regional event vs. world wide event

1. They are told to leave Jerusalem, flee Judea, and head to the mountains. *Vv. 16-18*
 - a. They are also told to hope this event would not happen on the Sabbath or during the winter.
 - b. Pregnant child or women with young children would be hindered.
2. The second coming of Christ will be universal
 - a. No one will escape or need to run to the mountains

II) Contrast Between the First & 2nd Section

- A) The first section limits the judgment to Palestine, the second embraces all nations**
- B) The first section the saints are told to flee, in the second section the saints are taken up**
- C) The first second deals with judgment on earth, the second judgment in heaven**

III. When Jesus Returns

- A) The time of His return: No one knows, *verse 36***

1. Does Jesus know? Can man figure out when He will come? Are there secret signs given to us in the Bible?
2. How can we know when the Son of God, Himself does not know? *Mark 13.32*

B) It will be as in the days of Noah, verses 37-39

1. The coming of the flood was certain, *Genesis 6*
 - a. The way of escape or safety was also certain.
 - b. The timing of the flood was uncertain.
2. So, it is with the 2nd coming of Jesus
 - a. Jesus will return, *1 Corinthians 11.26*
 - b. The way of safety is known through preaching of the Gospel
 - c. The timing is uncertain

C) He will come quickly, *verses 40-41*

1. There will be an order to the resurrection and ascension, *1 Corinthians 15.23-24*.
 - a. *1 Thess. 4.16-17* the dead in Christ will raise first, and then those alive that are faithful.
 - b. All will be raised, *John 5.28-29*

D) The admonition to be ready, *verse 42*

1. *Mark 13.33* take heed and be ready
2. Are you ready to face God in judgment?

IV) The Thief In the Night, *verses 43-44*

A) Comes without warning

B) Jesus will come at an unexpected time.

V) The Master Returns To Judge His Servants, *vv. 45-51*

A) He leaves for a limited time

1. The servants have a purpose and resources to accomplish that purpose.
2. The faithful will be blessed and the wicked punished.

B) The only way to be prepared is to be doing the will of God every day, *Mark 13.35-37*

Conclusion:

What can we say for certain about the 2nd coming of Christ? He will return, we are going to face God in judgment, the standard will be the word of God, and we will spend eternity somewhere. What is uncertain about the 2nd coming of Christ? We know neither the day nor the hour, whether or not we will be ready is up to us. Whether or not we have lived according to God's word is up to us, where we will spend eternity is depending on our faithfulness to God.