

## Matthew 24:1-25:13

### What Did Jesus Say about the Last Days?

#### - Red Letters Series -

**Did you know that there is a font type that many newspapers use for astounding events that called Second Coming type.**

A) These large block letters have announced the surrender of Germany and Japan in World War II AND the assassination of President Kennedy.

B) And one of these days, newspapers will use it for what it was meant for: **the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

C) Though we might not have that banner headline on our front pages quite yet,

1) there are certainly many signs that his coming is drawing near

D) As so many Bible prophecies are literally being fulfilled before our eyes.

E) Here in Matthew 24 Jesus gives us signs leading up to his coming

**Opening verses set the scene**

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

2 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.”

**The words of Jesus can be trusted**

- Jesus predicted the Destruction of the temple and it happened in AD 70
- Jesus predicted his crucifixion and Resurrection and it happened
- Jesus predicts the events leading up to His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – and they are going to happen

**They are happening already!**

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? **And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**”

**CONTEXT**

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in

My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. False prophets – false Christ 6 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.** 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

**Beginning of sorrows = birth pangs – contractions**

A) When a woman is pregnant – starts getting closer to her due what happens to those contractions?

**B) More frequent and more intense**

1) What we are seeing right now in our world are some major contractions

**Signs Wars and Rumors of Wars –**

A) Headline from the JP – “**Turkey and Iran work together on Iraq and Libya, is Israel next?**”

B) What is interesting about that is Ezekiel the prophet prophesied in Ezekiel 38 –

1) In the last days a federation of nations would come against Israel

C) The federation would be Made up of biggies - Russia, Iran, Turkey coming against Israel

1) Included in that list was Libya –

**Why Libya ?– small insignificant barely have their own army – didn’t seem to fit**

A) But now Iran and Turkey have joined together in Libya

B) The stage is being set – major Battle where – God is going to intervene on Israel’s behalf

1) and these nations are going to be destroyed

2) So This new alliance – another contraction

C) Iran and Turkey have great animosity against Israel – Russia is drawn to Israel’s natural resources

1) World leader in Natural gas, fossil fuels, industrial minerals and Gem stones – Technology / 8,550 sq mi

**Wars and rumors of War – contraction**

A) Another sign - Famine –

**B)Famine is not something that we think about much here in the West – restaurants on every corner**

“Today, the **world** stands on the brink of unprecedented **famines**. About 30 million people are experiencing alarming hunger, severe levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in north-eastern Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. 10 million of them are facing emergency and **famine** conditions.”  
OX Fam International

**C)Pestilences** – we might call them infectious diseases – COVID 19

1)Global pandemic - that shut down the entire world – major contraction – unprecedented

**D) Preview of coming attractions**

**See Matthew 24 is describing the events leading up to great Tribulation – Contractions**

**A)But the Tribulation is when the world is in Full blown labor –**

**B)God’s wrath will be poured out on a world that has rejected Jesus**

**REV - Ch. 6 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse**

**1<sup>st</sup> rider white horse: Anti-Christ** – Conquering and to Conquer

**2<sup>nd</sup> rider red horse: War** – Take peace from the earth

**3<sup>rd</sup> rider black horse: Famine** – Often follows war

**4<sup>th</sup> rider pale horse: Pestilence** – ¼ of the earth’s population is killed – 8 Billion / 2 billion pp

**C)So when We hear of these sort of events going on right now –increasing in frequency. –**

1)we need to understand – these are BIRTH PANGS

**D)AND THEY ARE Getting stronger**

**Another sign – lawlessness**

**12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**

**All the riots – protest - happening all over the world**

**A)Growing in frequency and intensity – Predicting Anarchy – Lawlessness**

**B)Love of many will grow cold – Love of people in general? Or the church? Both**

1)People are getting more self-focused – less interested in helping others

**C)So the Love of people in general is growing cold**

**D)But also the church – 1 Timothy 4:1 – Last days some will depart from the faith**

**E)We are living in a time when people who used to walk with Jesus are not anymore.**

**V.36 LIKE THE DAYS OF NOAH**

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 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, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

**A)Jesus said the climate of the time prior to His return would be similar to the DAYS OF NOAH**

**B)In Noah’s day, two sins were predominant: excessive violence and sexual perversion.**

**WE LIVE IN a day and age of Extreme Violence**

**A)Terrorism –terrorist attacks** is regular word in our vocabulary since 911

**B)Double-digit increase in Homicides in 36 of the 50 biggest cities in America – during this pandemic**

- In Milwaukee, homicides have jumped 95%
- In the first week of June alone, the Los Angeles Police Department reported that [homicides increased 250%](#)

**C)Shooting incidents in Philadelphia are up 57% from last year,**

- New York City has seen a 44% spike in shootings this year

**D)Ask Police Domestic Violence is on the rise all over the world**

## So one of the signs of Days of Noah Extreme Violence

A) Another one is Sexual perversion - Porn industry – \$15 billion dollar a year industry

B) Human trafficking is a estimated \$150 billion dollar a year industry

C) Right now over 20 million people worldwide that are victims of Human trafficking –

1) Forced labor – and sexual exploitation

Genesis 6:5, speaking of the days of Noah “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.”

We could sum of the Days of Noah in this way – it was a time that was marked by godlessness

A) the people had forgotten God - Ignored God – Pushed God out of their culture

B) Isn't that exactly what we are seeing happen in our culture all over the world.

C) God has been trying to get the world's attention for sometime –

1) Mankind just keeps ignoring HIM – moving further and further away from him

D) Our world is becoming more and more godless

E) The Signs are in Place – AND Contractions are getting stronger

This week we saw the Signing of an Historic Peace deal between Israel UAE – Bahrain

A) That is a good thing right ? Peace to the region

B) Talk that more Arab countries will join this peace pact – that is good – pray for the peace of Jerusalem

C) Is this a another preview of coming attractions

1) Daniel 9:27 – Anti-Christ comes on the scene – Peace with many of a seven year period

D) Peace with Israel – Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5 watch out – when they says peace and safety

1) SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMES

WE know that there will never be true peace in Jerusalem until Jesus comes back

A) And Jesus said – Luke 21 when you see these things beginning to happen – freak out – stress out – go buy guns and ammo – no look up your redemption draws near.

B) See prior the Great Tribulation and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus is an event known as the rapture of the church

1) Trumpet sounds – shout – the Church caught up 1 Thessalonians 4

C) We here at CV believe the Rapture will take place prior to the Great Tribulation

D) Many reasons – don't have time to go into today

1) but that will be a part of our conversation this afternoon – Sunday + program

But we strongly believe that rapture is the next event on the prophetic Calendar –

A) Where Jesus comes FOR HIS CHURCH

B) and believers from all over the world are caught up to meet him in the air – heaven

1) Seven year wedding feast – while the world is going through 7 years of hell on earth

C) Contrast the Rapture from the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming  
Sometimes there is confusion

Rapture:

- Jesus comes before judgment
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is when he returns with judgment

Rapture

- Jesus comes as a thief – unseen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – every eye will see him

Rapture

- Jesus comes for his people – the church
- 2<sup>nd</sup> coming Jesus comes with his people – the church

White horses

Preacher who got a horse and used different giddy up and woe commands

So we see these signs – happening – contractions – signaling -Rapture is drawing close

**A)What is the Hold up ?**

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

**B)Repent – people turn from their Sin – and turn to Jesus who died for their sins –**

1)Took the Wrath for you on the Cross/ Turn to him

**C)Waiting for that last person – could be YOU!**

**SO Like the days of Noah – interesting -it took Noah 120 years to build the ark**

A)During that time 2 Peter 2:5 tells us that Noah was a preacher of righteousness

**B)120 YRS – BUILDING AND PREACHING  
Warning people of the coming Judgment**

**C)People just IGNORED HIM – CRAZY NOAH**

D)V.38 they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark

**In other words – just business as usual – idea – just doing what always done**

A) We are in this season – in life – COVID –

**B)What is the #1 concern on everyone’s heart – when are things going to get back to normal?**

1)When is it going to get back to business as usual

**C)Maybe it is not supposed to – maybe – God is saying to this world – Wake up**

1)Time is short

**D)For the most part the world continues to Ignore him**

**Here is something that is interesting to note about the days of Noah –**

A)After the Ark was built – Noah and his family entered the ark

**B)For one week 7 days – God drew all the animals to the ark – DOORS WERE OPEN**

1)people are watching – they could come/ no one did

**C)Noah left the door open for seven days.**

1)Now that is a little different than the story in the recent film, NOAH

**D)where Noah, played by Russell Crowe, was killing people who tried to get on the ark.**

**That didn’t happen. The door was open, but no one came – until it started raining, that is.**

A)Then it was too late. The door was closed

**B)Don’t make that same mistake – You today respond to Jesus**

C)NOW For those of us who are believers - 3 things that we should be doing in light of the reality that we are living in the last days

**#1 Watching v. 40-44**

40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 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. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**Jesus said his coming would be like a thief in the night**

A)Jesus is giving us a hint of the rapture right here

**B)In V.39 Jesus describes how the flood came and took them all away.**

1)The work took there in the original language is airo = means to be taken to judgment to kill –

C)But in V. 40, 41 he uses an entirely different word when he says – two men in the field and two women grinding – one taken the other left

**D)The Word taken in the greek is paralombano**

**Note where else this word Paralombano is used**

A)Matthew 1:20 Joseph took Mary - taking a bride

B)Luke 9:10 Jesus took his disciples to rest – taking to rest

- Matthew 17 Jesus took..... MT of transfiguration – taking to see glory
- John 14 - Taking to heaven

**Watch – don't be asleep be aware – the thief is coming -watch**

A)The rapture is going to take the world off guard but it shouldn't take you off guard

**#2 Working v.45-51**

45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

**The wise servant who is watching and working**

A)When the Master returns he finds him – so doing

About the Business

B)Parable of the talents – two guys used theirs – reward – one guy buried his

C)Talents are what God has put into your hands – 1)your gifts, talents, resources – areas of influence – your opportunities – sphere of influence

**Are you using what the Lord has given you?**

A)That is the wise servant – that is the Christian who realizes I am here for a purpose – ON MISSION

B)IMPACT PEOPLE FOR JESUS

1)TELL OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS

**GREAT NEWS – But it is a secret – can't tell? – Frustrating that is**

A)Recently happened to me – can't tell – so hard

B)How many of been there – how many of you told someone

C)Guys we have the greatest news in the world – Jesus says – NOT A SECRET – TELL EVERYONE

1)MANY OF US DON'T TELL ANYONE – something is wrong with that picture

D)Great news – Share it that is what the Wise & faithful servant does

48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 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, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**E)The evil servant says – Jesus isn't coming back soon – been hearing that for years – So he doesn't work – use his talents – waste his time**

A)Compromise and worldly pursuits

B)The Lord comes and he is taken off guard – His end is not pretty

So Watching / Working / #3 Waiting

**Waiting - Expectation**

**Marriage By arrangements – When Young.....**

A) They were actually ENGAGED -

B)Now when the Kids came of age where they could actually be married – **Betrothed for a year.**

**The year of Betrothal was about Preparation**

A)One thing that needed to take place first was home prepared {**Often adjacent to HIS parents**

B)So the Young man - bridegroom would begin to build a dwelling place for he and his bride  
1)the wedding couldn't take place until it was finished!

C)Now **Who determined when it was finished?** - His Father {That was good – roof & walls /

D)So all during that year – the Bridegroom is working on the home – share with his bride.

**See as bridegroom would be working on the house**

A)**The bride would get reports** from friends – relatives Foundation is laid

B)Walls are up / roof is on / windows in / front door is up/ Flowers - **it could be any day now!** – finished

1)The Bride and her bridesmaids had to be ready

**C)The bridegroom would come with his groomsmen**

**D)Became a tradition to come in the middle of the night or early in the morning –**

1)Groomsmen trumpet – Behold the Bride groom comes

**E)People would hear the sound – commotion – THE WEDDING IS GOING TO BE TODAY!**

**That is what the parable of the ten virgins is about**

**A)5 of the bridesmaids were ready – waiting expectantly with oil in their lamps –**

**B)But 5 were not ready – missed out**

**C)Jesus is trying to get something across here – My coming is going to be unexpected –**

**D)You will see the signs – the contractions and you need to be ready – Here is how**

1)**Waiting – working – watching – are You?**

**E)Jesus is being very clear - I don't want you to miss out**