

Matthew 24:9-22 The Day of Antichrist

If you've ever taken a tour to Israel – SHOW OF HANDS: Going again - October 4-15 2018

A) One of my favorite parts of the trip is when we are coming into Jerusalem and we stop at the MT of Olives

B) Overlooking the city – starring at the Eastern gate – Jesus is going to come through at his 2nd coming.

C) It is on top of this spot that Jesus gives the message recorded for us in Matthew 24

1) End times/ last days –

At that time, there wasn't a golden dome called The Dome of the Rock,

A) there was a Jewish temple that stood, overlooking from the eastern side across the Kidron Valley.

B) They were looking over the City of Jerusalem packed with millions of people who had been there and were there for the Passover Season

C) Recall what prompted this sermon: V.1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. {Interesting the Disciples – were ENAMORED with the Temple- Look at this Lord –

The temple was a site to behold

A) Construction began in 20 BC AND WAS COMPLETED IN 64 AD – so at this time it wasn't even finished – Still spectacular

B) Sat on 36 acre parcel of ground – center of the Jerusalem

1) It took over 18,000 workers 80 yrs to build.

C) The temple was made of white marble – with a solid gold cap on the top of it – that according to Josephus.....

1) The reflection was so bright that when the sun shone on it – couldn't look upon it –

D) Symbol of the glory of God!

The Babylonian Talmud says, "He who has never seen Herod's Temple has never seen a beautiful temple." It was absolutely magnificent.

In some of the rabbinical writings known as the Midrash, there's a saying that goes like this, "The Land of Israel is at the center of the world. Jerusalem is at the center of the Land of Israel and the temple is at the center of Jerusalem."

In other words, it was the rabbinical way of saying the very center of the earth, the center of God's program on the earth is the temple in the City of Jerusalem, in the Land of Israel.

Now, let me give you sort of a fourfold or four-pointed outline of the city itself.

#1 Jerusalem is the geographic center of the earth biblically speaking ,

A) Now, I know we grew up in American schools and so we thought America was the center of the world.

B) That's what the map shows. When you see a world map, America is right in the middle.

But the Prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel Chapter 5 Verse 5, God speaking, God says, "See, I have set Jerusalem in the midst of all of the nations roundabout."

C) God said it's the center. It's the center of the earth biblically, the geographic center.

#2 it's the salvation center of the world spiritually.

A) There's no other place in the world where God purchased the salvation for the world.

B) Jesus died there to pay the price.....

#3 Jerusalem is the storm center of the earth prophetically.

The Prophet Zechariah says Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in

pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. Zechariah 12:2,3

#4 Jerusalem is the glory center of the earth ultimately.

A) Isaiah the Prophet in the second chapter of his book said, Isaiah 2:1-2

"It will come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house, (the Temple Mount) will be established above all of the mountains, all of the nations, and all nations will flow into it for out of Zion will go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

So the Disciples are admiring the temple – when Jesus blows their minds

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."

They walk 2 miles from the temple to the MT of Olives and the Disciples are pondering that statement: prompted this question: 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?"

Boy, am I glad the disciples asked that question because the answer to that question is the 24th chapter

We are in Jewish ground in Matthew 24.

A) We have to see it through a Jewish lens, not a Baptist lens, not a Presbyterian lens, not a Calvary lens, a Jewish lens.

B) He speaks of Judea, the Sabbath, the inhabitants of the city.

1) It's all about what is going on in Judea, Jerusalem and the Land of Israel.

C) It is called the Olivet Discourse simply because it was given on the Mount of Olives,

D) He is speaking of the future, the future of Jerusalem, the future of the Jews,

1) the future of the world and His future coming.

They said, "What is the sign of your coming?"

A) You see the word coming. It's the Greek word Parousia.

B) It means your appearing, your personal presence.

This will help you understand why they would react this way:

A) The Jewish people had an eschatology – word that means a scenario of last days events

B) What would be the events that lead up to the culmination of the end of everything? That's eschatology.

C) The disciples had a fixed eschatology. Certain things that were on their prophetic timeline

#1 on the list, there would be a time of turmoil in the Jewish nation. Which they saw that as already fulfilled by a Roman occupation.

D) The Romans were in control. **Check,** world is in turmoil, especially our world.

#2 on their list, a forerunner, a herald, an Elijah like person will come heralding, predicting, announcing the coming of a Messiah.

A) This is the reason people had flocked to the Jordan River to hear and see John the Baptist. **Check,** the forerunner had come.

#3 the Messiah will appear defeating his enemies.

#4 the scattered Jews from around the world will return to Israel

A) Jerusalem will be set up. The kingdom will be brought in geocentrically from the City of Jerusalem.

B) The disciples were thinking We are somewhere in between number two and number three.

1) Turmoil has happened, the forerunner has come. We're waiting for the Messiah to set up his kingdom.

C) So when Jesus says makes this prediction about the temple– they are thinking – this is all going to come down soon! –

1) Something is on the Horizon – they were thinking PRESENT – not 2,000 plus yrs into the future

D) So the focus of Matthew 24 is not the rapture, but the Second Coming

1) The events leading up to it

We have noted that Jesus begins in V.4-7 by giving them some signs to watch for.

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. 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.

Key Phrase in V.8 The Beginning of Sorrows

A) Sorrows = Birth pangs

B) Now it is interesting that Jesus is describing what happens at the beginning of the Tribulation period in Revelation 6

4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse

1st rider White horse: Antichrist – Conquering and to Conquer

2nd rider Red horse: War – Take peace from the earth – Killing

3rd rider Black horse: Famine – Often follows war

4th rider Pale horse: Pestilence – ¼ of the earth's population is killed

A) All of that is followed by Revelation 6:12 a Massive Earthquake -

B) But here is what we need to understand – Rev. 6 describes when the world is going to be **in full blown labor** –

C) So when We hear of these sort of events going on right now – we need to understand –

1) **THESE ARE BIRTH PANGS**

D) Revelation Judgments:

1) Seven seals, Seven trumpets, Seven bowls

D) The Battle of Armageddon – Jesus comes back

The Days of the Antichrist V.9-22

⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

At the point Jesus begins to give some insight into the coming of the Antichrist and what will transpire during the Tribulation time

Verse 9, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

Now, I have a question for you. When Jesus says in Verse 9,

A) "They will deliver you up to tribulation," who is the "you" that He is speaking about?

B) It can't be the disciples. He can't refer at all to the disciples because they never were around to see the things Jesus speaks about in Matthew 24.

C) They don't see for example, "Enduring through the end of the age of the tribulation," Verse 13.

D) The disciples that Jesus was addressing at this moment, they never saw a worldwide evangelization as mentioned in Verse 14.

E)The disciples that Jesus was speaking to never saw the abomination of desolation predicted in Verse 15.

F)Those disciples that heard this message, they never saw the stars fall out of heaven and the sun lose its light and the heavens go dark as predicted in Verse 29.

So when He says you, he's not speaking to those disciples,

A)He's referring to the end time believers who will see the events in the tribulation period.

B)After the Rapture – many will come to Christ – many people will realize – they were right – Left behind movies etc

C)It might be the greatest REVIVAL THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!

D)But it will also be a time of great turmoil –

1)Millions of people missing – Houses/ businesses looted

E)USA will be crippled –

I personally believe that the Bible of Ezk 38 could take place right after – Russia – Iran – Turkey

A)Destroyed – a death blow to Islam

B)The USA is weak – why we are not a factor in end times prophecy

1)Russia is gone – Islam severely weakened

C)Perfect timing for the Anti-Christ to rise into power

He will have answers to the worlds Problems

A)He will come up with a plan to unite the world

B)**Looks of a George Clooney** – Charisma of a Tony Robbins – Political strategiest of a Ronald Reagan

1)Eventually set up a one world govt – new world order

2)One world religious system

3)One world monetary system – Mark of the beast

C)But not everyone will be on Board with him

1)Those who turn to Christ will resist him

V.10-13 describes the turmoil

¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved

Now, that doesn't mean that if a person endures the tribulation that he'll earn heaven,

A)Or that by enduring the hardship of the tribulation that he'll be saved. It doesn't mean that.

B)You're saved by Jesus and Jesus alone. It simply means the endurance of a person during that period is the proof of salvation.

C)In other words, those who are saved will endure to the end.

1)That's the idea. It's the proof of it. "He who endures to the end will be saved."

Verse 14, "And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end will come."

This verse has been butchered by more mission organizations than probably any other verse I have ever heard.

A) I've heard preachers say, "We need to hasten the day of the Lord.

B)We need to get Jesus to come back and we can bring Jesus Christ back."

C)He will not comeback until we make sure the whole world hears the gospel.

That is not what this verse means: This verse is describing the great lengths that God will go to preach the gospel during the Tribulation – How?

A)144K Jewish evangelist

B)Two Witnesses – Moses and Elijah – appear Martyred – 3 day party Rise on National TV

C)Angels – who go to the 4 corners of the Earth

D)God doesn't want anyone to perish but all to come to repentance

1)The Church is gone – the Lord resorts to other means.

E) This is going to happen during the first 3 1/2 yrs of the tribulation time

The tribulation is divided into TWO 3 1/2 YR periods

Why? – Pretty simple.

A) The First 3 1/2 – He is at peace with Israel – He will help them rebuild their temple. {**know Messiah?**}

B) Makes peace – finds a way for everyone to get along on the temple Mt – Rev 11 measure the temple

C) Don't measure the outer court – given to the gentiles – Dome of the Rock Mosque sits today

D) The Anti-Christ is going to solve the problem no one else can solve

But at the 3 1/2 year mark everything changes – that is what Jesus speaks of in V. 15-20

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

The ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” TEMPLE (whoever reads, let him understand), Let the reader understand:

Daniel prophesied of this:

A) Daniel Chapter 9 Prophecy of the 70 weeks of Daniel – 70 – 7 year periods or a period of 490 – yrs

B) The First 483 – From the time that King Artaxerxes made the decree to go and rebuild Jerusalem – until the Messiah came – 69 7 year periods of 483 years

1) Prophesied to the day – Jesus rode into Jerusalem for his triumphal entry April 6th AD 32

C) So there is one 7 year period that is yet to be fulfilled

1) Daniel gives us a hint of what is going to happen during that final seven years

D) Daniel 9:27 in the middle of the Tribulation this happens

E) A Prince who descends from the people who destroyed the temple – Who? Rome AD 70

1) Revelation – Anti-Christ will spring up out of revived Roman empire

Daniel 9:27 But in the middle of the week- (3 1/2 YR MARK)

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

Daniel 11:31

³¹ And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily *sacrifices*, and place *there* the abomination of desolation.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Daniel 12

¹¹ “And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

From that day those who are alive –can start the clock 1,290 days until JESUS SHOWS UP

A) For the 2nd coming!~

B) So we put this all together – Antichrist is going to go into the new temple in Jerusalem

1) in the middle of the Tribulation and demand to be worshipped at God

C) That is what this is referring to

1)The Jewish people are not going to do that – He is going to turn on them with a Vengeance

Now there are those who like to suggest that this event has already happened in Israel

A)After Alexander the great conquered the known world

B)He died, however, at a young age in Babylon. He was drunk that night.

1)He was crying out that he had conquered the world and that there was nothing left for him to conquer and he died.

C)Before he died, a question was posed to Alexander the Great on his deathbed, "To whom shall your kingdom go?" His answer, "Give it to the strong."

D)So the kingdom of Alexander the Great was divided between four of his generals.

One of them was named Seleucus- from him came what was known as the Seleucid Empire

A)Made up of the Asian provinces, including Syria

B)The eight king of the Suleucid Dynasty, the Syrian Dynasty was a guy called Antiochus IV.

1)Antiochus IV gave a name to himself, Antiochus Epiphanes, the illustrious one or God made manifest.

C)He believed that he was the embodiment of Zeus and he demanded to be worshiped.

Well In 168 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes surrounded Jerusalem and attacked it, killing 80,000 Jews,

A)He sold 40,000 Jews as slaves. He went to the temple. He tore down the altar of sacrifice.

B)He proclaimed this temple as a temple to Zeus. He put an image of Zeus in the temple and demanded he'd be worshiped.

A)He took away the daily sacrifices. He took a pig, a swine, the unclean meat of the Jewish world –

B)NO BACON FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE – thank God for freedom in Christ

C) Antiochus Epiphanes killed a swine, a pig in the temple and spread its juices all over the temple.

When that happened, the Jews of that day thought that is what Daniel predicted

A)That was the abomination that causes the temple to be desolate, desolation.

B)The sacrifices had been replaced with an abomination.

1)They called that the abomination of desolation.

C)they thought it had been fulfilled for a long time

D)But when Jesus comes on the scene – he gives us this insight – JUST A PICTURE

Because Jesus long after 168 BC when that event with Antiochus Epiphanes JESUS says, "When you see the abomination of desolation spoken up by Daniel the Prophet."

In other words Jesus is speaking in the future tense to his Disciples. "When you see "--

A)He is speaking of it as being yet in the future.

B)Now, I have a question for you.

1)Has there ever been since Jesus predicted an abomination of desolation? No there hasn't.

C) Yes, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and destroyed the temple, AD 70

1)but they did not put an idol in it and demand before they destroyed it that the people worship it.

But Jesus predicts that there will stand in the future a temple

A)And the last world ruler according to Daniel will reenact in those temple courts what Antiochus Epiphanes did to the Jews in times past.

B)So we when we hear the buzz in Israel – temple being rebuilt –

1)Artifacts and Utensils recreated – Temple institute

C)They're just waiting for the right time.

1)They already have priest that have been trained for the priesthood.

D)They have the vestments of the priesthood. They have many of the instruments ready to put in the temple made to specifications.

E)They already have a Sanhedrin in place, a Jewish governing body,

1)and they're wanting for the right time for the temple in the future to be built

Listen it is going to happen: Anti-Christ is going to help them do it – 3 1/2 year mark – hell breaks lose

A)Jeremiah referred to it as the time of Jacob's trouble

Then Jesus says, Verse 16, "Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the house top not go down to take anything out of his house. That him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes, but woe into those who are pregnant and those who are nursing babies in those days, pray that your flight may not be in the winter or on Sabbath."

Not on the Sabbath: Jewish

A)Transportation virtually shuts down even today in Israel on the Sabbath.

B)It's not a good day to get around. You notice that the language here is localized; it is geo-specific.

C)It's speaking about Israel, about Judea and about the Sabbath.

1)Ground Zero will be Jerusalem

Jesus says Flee run – don't return home don't take extra clothes

A)Zechariah the prophet speaking of that time tells us that 2/3 who flee will not succeed – mass killings

B)1/3 of them flee to Petra -

For then there **will be great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be

The Great tribulation:

A)So Mid trib Camp says – 1st 3 1/2 yrs is the Trib – the 2nd is the great trib – based on this verse

B)They say: Yes: Not appointed unto wrath - but

1)The Church could be here –during the 1st 3 1/2 yrs – God's wrath isn't poured out until 2nd 3 1/2 yrs

C)I don't buy that Argument and here is why say:

Revelation 6:15-17 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Wrath of the lamb different from the Wrath of God?

A)There is a lot of death and blood shed in the first 3 years – everything is orchestrating from Heaven

B)The heat gets turned up against Israel in the 2nd 3 1/2 yrs and more Cataclysmic things take place after that

²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

C)Who is the elect? – Come back next week

Us today: real Christ or the instead of Christ ?

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Our choices

Our attitudes

Our priorities