

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
DECEMBER 23, 2020
MATTHEW 24:5-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. Persecution of God's messengers resulted in the fall of Jerusalem. (Matt. 23.35,36; 24.1,2)
2. In response to the questions posed by the disciples, Jesus offers two answers. (Matt. 24.3)
 - a) The destruction of Jerusalem will be escapable indicated by signs. (Matt. 24.4-35)
 - b) The final day of judgment will be unescapable with no indications. (Matt. 24.36-51)
3. Several signs will be seen giving warning of the coming destruction.
 - a) A PREDICTION: A series of events before the destruction of Jerusalem. (Matt. 24.4-14)
 - b) A PLEA: Jesus pleads with the faithful to flee from Jerusalem. (Matt. 24.15-26)
 - c) A PROMISE: Jesus promises that His judgment will be swift. (Matt. 24.27-31)
 - d) A PARABLE: These signs will help them to know that destruction is near. (Matt. 24.32-35)

I. INTRODUCING THE TEXT

- A. **MATTHEW 24.6:** *"for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*
 1. There would be a series of events that would happen before the fall of Jerusalem.
 - a) **LUKE 21.9:** *"for these things must come to pass first"*
 - b) What is the end? (Matt. 24.1,2,34)
 2. **MATTHEW 24.8:** *"All these are the beginning of sorrows."*
 - a) "Sorrows" (odin): Literally, the pangs of childbirth. (cf. 1 Thess. 5.3)
 - b) Just as labor pains precede birth, so these things will precede judgment.
- B. **MATTHEW 24.14:** *"and then the end will come."* Jesus is predicting a series of events that will take place first and prior to the fall of Jerusalem.

II. A PERIOD OF UNREST

- A. There would be spiritual unrest.
 1. **MATTHEW 24.4:** *"I am the Christ' and will deceive many."* (cf. Jer. 6.14; 23.17)
 2. They were told not to be deceived. (Matt. 24.5)
- B. There would be civil unrest.
 1. **MATTHEW 24.7:** *"For nation will rise against nation."*
 2. They were told not to be troubled. (Matt. 24.6)
- C. There would be geological unrest.
 1. **MATTHEW 24.7:** *"famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."*
 2. These things would happen in "this generation" (Matt. 24.34; Acts 11.27,28)
 3. Tacitus and Josephus both record frequent and significant earthquakes.
- D. There would be social unrest.
 1. **MATTHEW 24.9,10:** *"you will be hated by all...many will betray one another"*
 2. Great tribulation arose in the first century. (Acts 8.1; 11.19; 2 Tim. 1.3,4,7,8)

III. BE FAITHFUL

- A. Two things will result in these times of unrest.
 1. **MATTHEW 24.11:** *"the love of many will grow cold."* There was a negative outcome.
 2. **MATTHEW 24.14:** *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations"* There was a positive outcome. (Col. 1.6,23; Acts 8.4)
- B. **MATTHEW 24.13:** *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*