

01 – SETTING THE STAGE

- ✓ The most significant thing about **Matt. 24-25** is that it **looks at end time events in chronological order**. (That's not true of the Book of Revelation. In Revelation, John looks at the Tribulation from six different vantage points.)
- ✓ Revelation is not chronological, but Matt. 24-25 is. We know that by the words “when” and “then”. Throughout the two chapters, John repeatedly says, “When *this*, then *this*. When *this*, then *this* ...”) He's walking us through the Tribulation chronologically,

Breakdown of the Chapter

A. **v. 4-8** – Signs That the Tribulation is About to Begin

B. **v. 9-14** – The First Half of the Tribulation

*“Then they shall deliver you up to be afflicted” (v. 9 KJV). The Greek says, “Then shall they deliver you **into tribulation**.”*

C. **v. 15-26** – The Second Half of the Tribulation

*“For then shall be **great tribulation** ...” (v. 21)*

D. **v. 27-30** – The Second Coming

*“As the lightning comes out of the East and shines even unto the West. so shall **the Coming** of the Son of Man be ...” (v. 27)*

E. **24:31 - Chapter 25** – What Happens After the Tribulation

- ✓ From 24:31, all the way to the end of Chapter 25, describes the things that happen on earth after the Second Coming.

*“Immediately after the **tribulation** ...”*

Background (Chapter 24)

- ✓ Jesus and His disciples are in Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. During the day, Jesus would teach in the synagogue. Then at night, they'd go back to the Mount of Olives to sleep.
- ✓ As we pick up the account in 24:1, Jesus is leaving the Temple after chewing out the Scribes and Pharisees (Ch. 23). His rebuke was so sharp that, somewhere along the line, the disciples slipped away. When Jesus leaves the Temple after the confrontation, His disciples rejoin Him.

*Matthew 24:1-2 – “Jesus went out of the Temple and was walking away when his disciples came to Him and drew his attention to the buildings of the Temple. “You see all these?” replied Jesus. “I tell you every stone will be thrown down until there is **not one stone left standing upon another**.”*

- ✓ You have to understand how that sounded to the disciples! All their lives, they'd been waiting for a Military Messiah who would overthrow Rome, tear down Herod's Temple, build the Millennial Temple and set up the Kingdom. When Jesus said this, they must have thought, “This is it!” So, they zipped their lips. But, when they got back to the Mount of Olives, they exploded on Him with questions.

The Disciples' Questions – (v. 3)

- 1.) When Shall “These Things” Be? (When shall what things be? When will the buildings of the Temple be torn down?) This was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when Titus, the Roman General, came in and leveled them.
- ✓ Note: When they set the Temple on fire, the heat caused some of the gold to melt and flow into the cracks between the stones. They weren't willing to leave it behind, so they literally pulled down every stone.
 - ✓ Sometimes people ask about “the Western Wall” where many Jews pray today. If “not one stone” would be left upon another, as Jesus prophesied, how is there a Western Wall? The Western Wall wasn't

part of the Temple. It was part of the retaining wall that surrounded the Temple complex.

2.) What Will Be the Sign of Your “Coming”?

- ✓ We’ve discussed before, how there are two phases of the Lord’s return – the **Rapture** (at the *beginning* of the Trib.) and the **Second Coming** (at the *end* of the Trib). Which one do you think the disciples were asking about?
- ✓ It couldn’t be the Rapture! They didn’t know the Rapture existed. It was a “mystery” hidden in God. (The word mystery – “Mysterion” – refers to something that was hidden in the Old Testament but is now revealed in the new.)
- ✓ The disciples *couldn’t* ask about the Rapture, because they didn’t know such a thing existed. The only “Coming” the disciples knew of was the 2nd Coming (to set up the Kingdom). That’s what they *asked* about, so that’s what Jesus *answered*. Understand This: The Rapture is not discussed AT ALL in Matthew 24-25. They didn’t *ask* about it, and Jesus didn’t bring it up.

3.) What Will Be the Sign of the End of the “Age”?

- ✓ Again, I’ll ask the question. What “age” were they asking about? The Church Age? Of course not! They didn’t know *that* was coming either. Their only frame of reference to the “end of the Age” was Daniel’s 70th week, (which you and I know as the Tribulation Period).
- ✓ All of Jesus’ answers are going to center around two events – the Tribulation period and the Second Coming. That’s what the disciples asked about, and that’s what Jesus answered.

v. 4-8 – Signs That the Tribulation is About to Begin

- ✓ Whenever you talk about the Matthew 24 signs, there are people who roll their eyes and say, “How are those ‘signs’? We’ve *always*

had wars, famines and earthquakes. If Jesus wanted to give us signs, you’d *think* He’d give us something more specific!”

- ✓ You can find *lots* of signs in the Bible that are more specific. But specific signs (prophecies) are usually one-time events. (Like Israel becoming a nation. That happened once, and it’ll never happen again. It’s “one and done”.)
- ✓ But the signs Jesus gave us in Matthew 24 have a different purpose. They’re *ongoing signs* that are meant to help us gauge how close we are to the Lord’s return. When Jesus called them “birth pangs”, He was telling us that, as these things increase in frequency and intensity, we can know the time is drawing near.

A “Snapshot” of the World, Just Before the Rapture

Verse 4 – “And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you ...”

- ✓ The word “deceive” means, “to cause to believe a lie”. When a person is “deceived”, he *honestly* believes that a lie is the truth. Think about that! That means: No one who is deceived *knows* they’re deceived! They honestly think they’re right! (That’s scary!)
- ✓ Every deceived person *thinks* they have the truth. That’s why it’s so hard to get them out of deception. They think you’re wrong.
- ✓ It’s easier to stay out of deception than it is to get out. That’s why Jesus told us to guard ourselves. He said, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” The understood subject in that sentence is you. **You** make sure you’re not deceived. (How are you going to do that?)

2 Timothy 3:13 – “But evil men and seducers shall grow worse and worse, **deceiving, and being deceived.** But you! **You continue** in what you have learned and firmly believed.”

- ✓ How do you keep from being deceived in an age of deception?

“Continue”! Stay in the Word, stay in the Word, stay in the Word, stay in the Word.

- ✓ If these statistics are accurate, we’re not doing that! According to a 2023 study by the Bible League of Canada, “3 in 4 Canadians who identify themselves as ‘Christian’ report that they read the Bible ‘seldom or never’. 6% read their Bibles ‘daily’. 6% read ‘a few times a week’. 3% read once a week. 4% read once or twice a month.”
- ✓ There’s something else worth pointing out from this verse. Paul said, “Continue in what you’ve **already learned**.” In other words, don’t look for “new truth” in the last days. Stick with what you’ve “already learned” and have “firmly believed”. (God is telling us that He’s not going to be revealing “new truth” that “corrects” what the church has always believed!) **Ditching established truth is reaching epidemic proportions**! Don’t leave the things you’ve always believed, for “new revelation”! That “new truth” may be deception.

*“Be careful that no one deceives you. For many shall come in my name, saying, **I am Christ**; and shall deceive many.”*

- ✓ There are people who literally claim to be Jesus. (More than you think.) But the word “Christ” also means “anointed”. He may have meant that many would come in His authority, claiming a special anointing! But they’re false. (We see a LOT of that in these days!)

*v. 6 – “And you shall hear of **wars and threats of wars**: (We’ve never seen so many wars and threats of wars!) **see that you are not troubled**.”*

- ✓ The understood subject is still “you”. You see to it that you’re not troubled. How do you keep from being troubled? The same way you kept from being deceived! Stay in the Word!

*“... for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For **nation (Ethnos) shall rise against nation and kingdom (political ideology) against kingdom**, and there shall be **famines (plural) and pestilences** (we’d say “pandemics”) and **earthquakes** in divers places. All these are the beginning of birth pangs.” (v. 6b-7)*