

Jesus Said What?

Second Coming of Jesus

(Part Four)

(Matthew 24-25)

- Introduction:
1. For many years, there have been “date-setters” for the return of Jesus.
 2. However, at the end of the day, all these speculations have failed.
 3. Dispensational premillennialism is embraced by many and according to this theory, the end is near.
 4. Much of the confusion concerning Jesus’ return is due to misunderstanding the words of Jesus in Matthew 24.
 5. Therefore, these words would qualify as “hard sayings of Jesus.”

I. The Disciples Ask Some Questions

- A. (Matthew 24:24:1-3).
- B. Before addressing Matthew 24, do not miss the context of what Jesus said as he closed out chapter 23:37-39.
- C. Following this statement, Jesus was with his disciples when he predicted the destruction of Jerusalem.
- D. The disciples then asked two questions:
 1. When will these things be and what will be the sign of your coming?
 2. What will be the sign of the end of the age?
- E. It seems to me that while they asked two questions, they probably didn’t realize it because they were thinking it was all going to happen at the same time.

II. Jesus’ Answer To Their Questions

- A. (Matthew 24:1-35).
 1. In this section Jesus answers the question concerning “when Jerusalem would be destroyed.”
 2. Some of the signs given (wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, great tribulation, false prophets, love will grow cold, persecution, and the gospel will be preached to the world .
 3. The culminating sign - the abomination of desolation (Luke 21:20).
 4. His advice – flee to the mountains, leave the city, woe to those with children, pray that it not be in the winter or on the Sabbath (24:15-20).
 5. This destruction of Jerusalem is a divine judgment and is referred to as such by the apocalyptic language in (24:29-31).
 - a. This is apocalyptic literature.
 - b. It is used in Scripture to denote the fall of a great nation.

- 1) (Isaiah 13:10) – Fall of Babylon. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.
 - 2) (Isaiah 19:1) – Fall of Egypt. Behold the Lord rides on a swift cloud...
 - 3) (Joel 2:31; Acts 2:17-21) Fall of Judaism.
6. Don't miss this – (Matthew 24:35) Everything spoken of so far would come to pass before "this generation passed away."
- B. (Matthew 24:36-42).
1. In this section, Jesus answers the question concerning his final return.
 2. No one knows the time of his return (24:36).
 3. It will come as a surprise (24:37-41).
 4. Therefore, be ready!
 - a. Example of the Servants (24:45-51).
 - b. Example of the Virgins (25:1-13).
 - c. Example of the Talents (25:14-30).
 5. The reason to be ready is that there is a day of judgment (25:31-46).
- Conclusion:
1. I believe that while this passage has often been misunderstood, if we slow down and consider the context, it can be understood.
 2. Since we do not know when the Lord will return, we need to be watchful (24:42).