

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

**Intro Question:**

1. What's one prediction you have for the future?

**Pray:** for God's help to interpret the Bible well.

**Read:** Matthew 24

**Questions about the passage:**

1. What questions do the disciples ask? What might they be assuming will happen when the temple falls?
2. When did the temple in Jerusalem get destroyed? How might some of Jesus' answer refer to the fall of Jerusalem?
3. Can you identify when Jesus begins describing his return? Could there be a relationship between the fall of Jerusalem & Jesus' return?
4. What warnings does Jesus give to his disciples regarding the end of the age? How literal/symbolic could some of Jesus' words be?

**Questions for us:**

- How does this passage make you feel? Do you worry about 'signs of the end of the age'? Why should we/shouldn't we? Consider Matthew 6:24.
- How does knowing Jesus will return change how we live? What are some examples of decisions it might change in life?
- What's one thing you are looking forward to at Christ's return?

**Pray:** for us to worry about the right things

**Homework:** listen to Church Camp talks (again or for first time)

**Remind:** Alive Young Adults event 21<sup>st</sup> of March.

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For the next bunch of weeks, until Easter, we will be working through the end of Matthew's gospel (starting at chapter 17) as Jesus continues his ministry up to it's final endpoint - his death & resurrection.

This week, Jesus answers a question about when the temple in Jerusalem will fall, and when the end of the age will come.

#### Questions about the passage:

- *What questions do the disciples ask? What might they be assuming will happen when the temple falls?*

The disciples assume that the destruction of the temple and Jesus return + 'end of the age' will all happen at the same time.

- *When did the temple in Jerusalem get destroyed? How might some of Jesus' answer refer to the fall of Jerusalem?*

The temple was destroyed by A Roman General Titus (on the orders of Vespasian) in 70 A.D. It certainly seems that some (certainly v15-21) of Jesus' words are referring to this moment.

- *Can you identify when Jesus begins describing his return? Could there be a relationship between the fall of Jerusalem & Jesus' return?*

Similar to what we see across the Bible. Jesus may also be employing a form of partial/complete fulfillment. The tribulation of believers leading up to 70 A.D. points towards the ongoing experience of believers. The destruction/end of Jerusalem and the Temple points forward to the end of this age.

- *What warnings does Jesus give to his disciples regarding the end of the age? How literal/symbolic could some of Jesus' words be?*

Go through the passage and consider the warnings. What might they look like today? Consider if some of Jesus words could be symbolic like in verse 29 (why do we take this literally?)

SEE BELOW - I've included a piece from D.A. Carson's Commentary on Matthew 24.

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In my understanding of the Olivet Discourse, the disciples think of Jerusalem's destruction and the eschatological end as a single complex web of events. This accounts for the form of their questions. Jesus warns that there will be delay before the End — a delay characterized by persecution and tribulation for his followers (vv. 4–28), but with one particularly violent display of judgment in the Fall of Jerusalem (vv. 15–21; Mark 13:14–20; Luke 21:20–24). Immediately after the days of that sustained persecution characterizing the interadvent period comes the Second Advent (Mt 24:29–31; cf. Guthrie, *NT Theology*, pp. 795–96). The warning in vv. 32–35 describes the whole tribulation period, from the Ascension to the Second Advent. The tribulation period will certainly come, and the generation to which Jesus is speaking will experience all its features that point to the Lord's return. But the exact time of that return no one but the Father knows (vv. 36–44). This structure works out in all three Synoptics (though with significant differences in emphasis), and the main themes developed have important ties with other NT books. The disciples' questions are answered, and the reader is exhorted to look forward to the Lord's return and meanwhile to live responsibly, faithfully, compassionately, and courageously while the Master is away (24:45–25:46).

D. A. Carson, "Matthew," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 495.

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#### Questions for us:

- How does this passage make you feel? Do you worry about 'signs of the end of the age'? Why should we/shouldn't we? Consider Matthew 6:24.

Encourage people from Matthew 6 - I don't think we are meant to worry about the signs too much. The Bible doesn't actually speak that often about Jesus' return - it's clearly taught, but it's not something Christians should dwell on all the time.

- How does knowing Jesus will return change how we live? What are some examples of decisions it might change in life?

Encourage people to consider decisions about how we use our time and money. If Jesus was coming back in 6 months, what would you do differently?

- What's one thing you are looking forward to at Christ's return?

Reflect on what we have to look forward to in Christ's return.