

July 15, 2018

## Matthew 24:1-14

### The Olivet Discourse

- As Jesus and the disciples were leaving the Temple, the disciples commented about the beauty of the Temple complex.
- This temple was the Second Temple, reconstructed after the Babylonian destruction and completed around 516 B.C. under the leadership of Zerubbabel and the prophetic ministry of Haggai.
- Jesus prophesied the total destruction of the Temple.
- The Temple was the centerpiece of God's Old Covenant means of making His people fit for His presence and worship. It represented the Old Covenant work of redemption through the shedding of the blood of innocent animals as mediated by the high priest, culminating on the Day of Atonement (**Lev. 16**).
- But now the time had come for God to fulfill His eternal purpose in the promised Seed of the woman (**Gen. 3:15**) who would destroy the works of the devil (**1 John 3:8**) through the shedding of His own blood (**Gen. 3:21**).
- *Who is this Seed?* **Gen. 12:7; 15:7; 17:7, 9-10**

**Gal. 3:16** Now the promises [Gen. 12:7 et. al.] were made to Abraham and to his offspring [seed]. It does not say, "And to offsprings [seeds]," referring to many, but referring to One, "And to your offspring [Seed]," Who is Christ.

- With the appearance of Jesus in the Temple, God's time of redeeming His people through the Seed of the woman is at hand.
- The Temple and all that it represented had to come to an end because God's True Temple was to be raised up.
- Jesus came into the world to fulfill God's original purpose for His people [Gen.1:26-28] by reversing the effect of Adam's disobedience [Gen.2:17] in His own suffering of death.
- And this would be accomplished as God's own Great High Priest [Heb. 4:14] would mediate the sacrifice of Himself on the Altar of the Cross unto death for the full payment of the sin of His people forever [Jer. 31:31].

**Heb 2:14-15** ...through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery...

- These matters of signs and times need to be put in their proper perspective, in relation of this culmination of God's redemptive purpose for His people in His Son.

**Phil 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body...

- The burden of Jesus' predications is not to date His return, but to state His return.

- In the minds of the disciples, the destruction of the Temple and the return of Jesus will occur simultaneously.
- Jesus gives them **9** events that will precede His return in order to protect them from false teaching.

**1. v. 5.** *For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.*

**2. v.6** *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.*

**3. v. 7a** *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...*

**4. v. 7b** *...and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.*

**5. v. 9** *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.*

**6. v. 10** *And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.*

**7. v. 11** *And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*

**8. v. 12** *And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.*

**v. 13** *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

**9. v. 14** *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

- By the time of 70 A.D., these events had occurred but the end had not occurred. Why? Jesus prophesied these signs and events as the precursors of the same kinds of events that would continue until His return.
- These kinds of events would signal His soon return so that the church would live in readiness, not being deceived or seduced by the events on earth, but looking for the great Event of His visible return.
- This means that we are not to be preoccupied with or fascinated with the times and events that proceed Jesus return but with the fact of His return.
- These signs have been given to us so that when we experience them, we will not be shaken but will remain steadfast knowing that God is working all things to our good [Rom.8:28]. This is the message of Hebrews.
- The definitive sign of Jesus's return: **v. 14.**