

What Did the Lord Say About His Second Coming?

Matthew 24:1-31

Intro:

1. This passage is the most detailed explanation of the Lord's Second Coming that we have in the Bible.
2. Two questions are asked & both are answered: "when will this happen" and "what will be the sign of your coming?"

I. v4-22 - First Question: "When Will This Happen?"

A. This question was what would happen in their lifetime?

1. **v1-2** - What spurred the question? What do you mean that not one stone in the Temple would be left standing?
2. The answer: Destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70 AD!

B. The General Signs leading up to this event.

1. **v4-5** - **The false teachers.**
 - a. **Act 8:10** - Simon Magus - the sorcerer.
 - b. **Act 13:6-11** - Bar-Jesus of Cyprus.
2. **v6-8** - **The times of world trials.**
 - a. The Romans threatened to invade Palestine 3 times.
 - b. Major earthquakes happened in Crete (46 AD), Phrygia (60 AD) & Pompeii (63 AD).
 - c. In 79 AD Pompeii was completely destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.
 - d. Thousands starved in & around Rome from famine in the 60s.
3. **v9-12** - **The times of specific trials for the church.**
 - a. The death of Stephen in **Acts 7**.
 - b. The death of James in **Acts 12**.
 - c. **v9** - Being hated by all nations (the civilized world) came about through the persecutions of Nero (64-67 AD) & Vespasian (68-75 AD).
4. But how about the gospel being "preached in the whole world"? - **v13-14**
 - a. **Col 1:23** - **This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven . . .**
 - b. So by 63 AD, Paul claimed that the gospel had been preached to the whole civilized world of his day!

C. The Specific Signs leading up to this event.

1. **v15** - What is the "Abomination that causes desolation"?
 - a. **ILL: Antiochus IV of Syria offered pigs on the altar.**
 - b. This was prophesied in **Dan 11:31** - **His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.**
 - c. When General Titus invaded Jerusalem in 70 AD the Zealots used the Temple as a fortress & 8500 people were massacred in the Temple courts!
2. When Christians saw what was happening in the Temple, they remembered the Lord's words here & fled to Pella in the Perea mountains!

D. **v21-22** - The Great Destruction of Israel.

1. **v21** - The Jews were completely wiped out as a nation.
2. **v22** - If God had not shortened the length of time of the invasion everyone in the country would have been killed!

- II. v23-31 - Second Question: What Will Be the Sign of Your Coming?
- A. What are the only things Lord Jesus wants you to know about when He comes again?
1. **v36** - The Lord Himself didn't know the time He would return!
 2. **v23-26** - Before that time some will claim to be the Christ or to be prophets.
 3. **v27-29** - The Second Coming will be obvious! The sky will light up like lightening & His coming will be immediate & sudden.
 4. **v30** - The disobedient & the unfaithful will mourn.
 5. **v31** - The obedient will be gathered together to be with Him!
- B. What is the only essential thing that you need to know? **v13 - . . . but he who stands firm to the end will be saved!**

So - will you be ready?

He could come today!

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