The Life of Christ

Lesson 9: Matthew 24

August 24, 2014
• Tension between the ruling Jews and Jesus continued to grow higher
• Jesus was in Jerusalem to be betrayed, crucified, and then resurrected (last week)
• Jesus had explicitly condemned the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy
• Jesus had lamented over Jerusalem; it was about to be judged for its disobedience
Today’s Key Takeaways

• Because of the Jews’ disobedience, the kingdom of heaven would be given to others; that event would be punctuated by the total destruction of Jerusalem.

• Matthew 24 contains prophetic language that describes imminent events, but, like many prophecies in the Old Testament, ultimately alludes to the far future.

• We must be ready for judgment at all times.
MATTHEW 24:1-3

- As Jesus was leaving the temple and going away, the disciples began to point out the beauty of the temple and other buildings

- **Jesus told them that they would all be completely destroyed**

- Once on the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem, Peter, Andrew, James, and John asked Jesus privately about his comment
View of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives
MATTHEW 24:4-14

• It is beyond the scope of this class to exhaustively study this chapter
• Points to consider before studying Jesus’ answer to his disciples:
  – These prophecies are often wildly interpreted; remember, they principally deal with the ultimate destruction of Jerusalem
  – The destruction of Jerusalem was a very important event (final rejection of the Jews)
Many signs of the imminent destruction

- False teachers and false “Christs”
- Wars and rumors of wars
- Famines
- Earthquakes

- Persecution of Jesus’ disciples
- Lawlessness increased

The one who endured would be saved
Matthew 24:15-28

- Upon seeing the Abomination of Desolation, it would be time to immediately flee.
- Pray that the destruction does not take place during an inopportune time.
- The length of the tribulation would be cut short for the sake of the elect (Christians).
- False “Christs” will come; do not believe.
- The eagles would gather around the corpse.
Matthew 24:29-31

• Sun, moon, and stars would be darkened or fall from heaven; powers of heaven shaken
  – Consider Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7-9 (judgments against other nations)
  – Consider Joel 2:28-32 (symbol of judgment against Israel, referred to by Peter in Acts 2)
  – Consider Hebrews 12:22-29

• Jesus would judge Jerusalem for its sin
Matthew 24:32-41

- These things would be a sign that the judgment was coming soon
- They would come before that generation had passed away (died)
- The judgment would come just as it did during Noah’s time
  - Everything seemed fine
  - Judgment came suddenly
Matthew 24:42-51

• Jesus compared the judgment to the coming of a thief

• Jesus compared the judgment to the actions of an obedient and disobedient slave while the master was away

• The judgment would come at an unexpected time; be ready always
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