

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

LESSON 9: MATTHEW 24



AUGUST 24, 2014

REVIEW

- 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)

MATTHEW 24:4-14

- 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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