

REDISCOVERING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PART 40: MATTHEW 24:36-51; 25:1-13

"TELL US," THE DISCIPLES SAID, "WHEN WILL THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE HAPPEN, AND WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR COMING AND OF THE END OF THE AGE?"

JESUS ANSWERED FIRST ABOUT HIS COMING:

"Don't be deceived. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes.

YOU WILL BE HANDED OVER TO BE PERSECUTED AND PUT TO DEATH, AND YOU WILL BE HATED BY ALL NATIONS BECAUSE OF ME. MANY WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE FAITH AND WILL BETRAY AND HATE EACH OTHER, AND MANY FALSE PROPHETS WILL APPEAR AND DECEIVE MANY PEOPLE.

AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN THE WHOLE WORLD AS A TESTIMONY TO ALL NATIONS."

"BUT THESE ARE NOT THE SIGNS OF THE END."

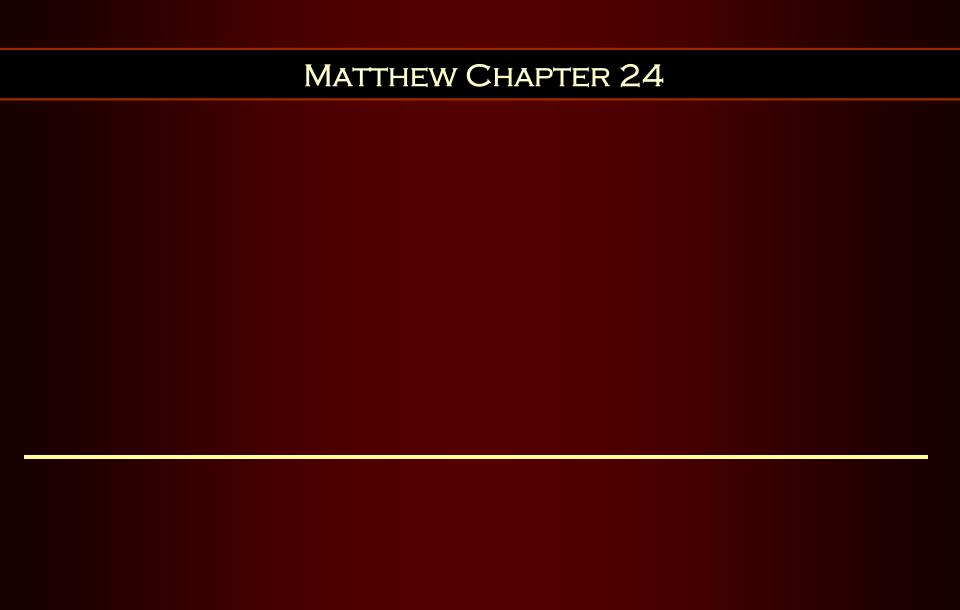
THEN JESUS RESPONDED TO THEIR QUESTION ABOUT THE TEMPLE: "WHEN YOU SEE STANDING IN THE HOLY PLACE 'THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION,' SPOKEN OF THROUGH THE PROPHET DANIEL, LET THOSE WHO ARE IN JUDEA FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS. DON'T EVEN GO BACK TO THE HOUSE TO TAKE ANYTHING. DON'T GO BACK FOR YOUR CLOAK. THOSE DAYS WILL BE DREADFUL FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND NURSING MOTHERS! PRAY THAT YOUR FLIGHT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN WINTER OR ON THE SABBATH."

"AND THEN, AT SOME FUTURE TIME AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE, THERE WILL BE GREAT DISTRESS, UNEQUALED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL NOW — AND NEVER TO BE EQUALED AGAIN. PEOPLE WILL SAY, "LOOK, HERE IS THE CHRIST!" OR, 'THERE HE IS!' DO NOT BELIEVE IT. THE SON OF MAN WILL APPEAR IN THE SKY AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH WILL MOURN. THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY, WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. AND HE WILL SEND HIS ANGELS AND THEY WILL GATHER HIS ELECT FROM ONE END OF THE HEAVENS TO THE OTHER."

"I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THIS GENERATION WILL CERTAINLY NOT PASS AWAY UNTIL ALL THE THINGS THAT MUST HAPPEN BEFORE THE END CAN COME HAVE HAPPENED. [THEY WILL ALL HAVE HAPPENED BY THE TIME THE TEMPLE IS DESTROYED.]

HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY,

BUT MY WORDS WILL NEVER PASS AWAY."



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Kingdom against kingdom.
Famines and earthquakes.
Persecution / Hated
False Prophets
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The temple will be destroyed when you see the abomination...

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MATTHEW CHAPTER 24:36-42

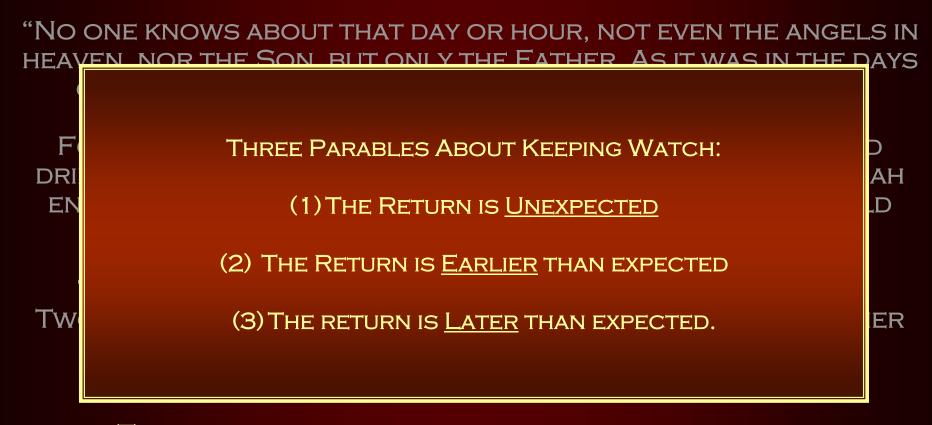
"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

FOR IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE FLOOD, PEOPLE WERE EATING AND DRINKING, MARRYING AND GIVING IN MARRIAGE, UP TO THE DAY NOAH ENTERED THE ARK; AND THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN UNTIL THE FLOOD CAME AND TOOK THEM ALL AWAY.

THAT IS HOW IT WILL BE AT THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN.
TWO MEN WILL BE IN THE FIELD; ONE WILL BE TAKEN AND THE OTHER
LEFT. TWO WOMEN WILL BE GRINDING WITH A HAND MILL;
ONE WILL BE TAKEN AND THE OTHER LEFT.

THEREFORE KEEP WATCH, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT KNOW ON WHAT DAY YOUR LORD WILL COME."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 24:36-42



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MATTHEW CHAPTER 24:43-44

THE RETURN IS **UNEXPECTED**

"BUT UNDERSTAND THIS:

IF THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE HAD KNOWN AT WHAT TIME OF NIGHT THE THIEF WAS COMING, HE WOULD HAVE KEPT WATCH AND WOULD NOT HAVE LET HIS HOUSE BE BROKEN INTO.

SO YOU ALSO MUST BE READY, BECAUSE THE SON OF MAN WILL COME AT AN HOUR WHEN YOU DO NOT EXPECT HIM."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 24:43-51

THE RETURN IS *EARLIER* THAN EXPECTED

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

BUT SUPPOSE THAT SERVANT IS WICKED AND SAYS TO HIMSELF,
'MY MASTER IS STAYING AWAY A LONG TIME,' AND HE THEN BEGINS TO
BEAT HIS FELLOW SERVANTS AND TO EAT AND DRINK WITH DRUNKARDS.
THE MASTER OF THAT SERVANT WILL COME ON A DAY WHEN HE DOES
NOT EXPECT HIM AND AT AN HOUR HE IS NOT AWARE OF. HE WILL CUT
HIM TO PIECES AND ASSIGN HIM A PLACE WITH THE HYPOCRITES,
WHERE THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 25:1-13

THE RETURN IS LATER THAN EXPECTED

"AT THAT TIME THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE TEN VIRGINS WHO TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND WENT OUT TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM. FIVE OF THEM WERE FOOLISH AND FIVE WERE WISE. THE FOOLISH ONES TOOK THEIR LAMPS BUT DID NOT TAKE ANY OIL WITH THEM. THE WISE, HOWEVER, TOOK OIL IN JARS ALONG WITH THEIR LAMPS.

THE BRIDEGROOM WAS A LONG TIME IN COMING, AND THEY ALL BECAME DROWSY AND FELL ASLEEP. AT MIDNIGHT THE CRY RANG OUT: 'HERE'S THE BRIDEGROOM! COME OUT TO MEET HIM!'

"THEN ALL THE VIRGINS WOKE UP AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS.
THE FOOLISH ONES SAID TO THE WISE, 'GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL;
OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.'

'No,' THEY REPLIED, 'THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH FOR BOTH US AND YOU. INSTEAD, GO TO THOSE WHO SELL OIL AND BUY SOME FOR YOURSELVES.'

MATTHEW CHAPTER 25:1-13

THE RETURN IS LATER THAN EXPECTED

"BUT WHILE THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO BUY THE OIL, THE BRIDEGROOM ARRIVED. THE VIRGINS WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING BANQUET. AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.

"LATER THE OTHERS ALSO CAME. 'SIR! SIR!' THEY SAID.

'OPEN THE DOOR FOR US!'

"BUT HE REPLIED, 'I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T KNOW YOU."

"THEREFORE KEEP WATCH, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT KNOW THE DAY OR THE HOUR."

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