

**Matthew 24:14-25:** And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, & then the end will come. <sup>15</sup> "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> & let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant & for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, & never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs & false prophets will arise & perform great signs & wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand.

**Intro:** In Matthew 24, Jesus is lovingly warning His sheep of God's future judgment in the destruction of God's temple & God's future judgment in the return of Christ at the end of the age. Jesus main concern in this chapter is to teach His disciples how to live faithful lives & continue to trust & obey Him during these great times of judgment & destruction. (Faithfulness song!) **Last week:** Jesus warns us that hard times are coming, but keep fighting to trust, obey, & follow Jesus, & you will be saved! I'm arguing for a "double prophecy fulfillment" view:

**Daniel Doriani:** As we will soon see, all that Jesus foretold did occur – at least provisionally – within a generation. The switch to the last day occurs in 24:36, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." So then, Jesus promised that certain things would happen in that generation, & they did happen in that generation. Nonetheless, as often happens with prophecies, some of Jesus's prophecies point beyond His generation. Prophecy often has a double fulfillment. [2 Samuel 7, the prophet Nathan told David his offspring would have an everlasting kingdom: 2 Samuel 7:12-14: "When your days are fulfilled & you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, & I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, & I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, & he shall be to me a son." This refers to Solomon at the present time & to Jesus in the future! **Hebrews 1:5:** "I will be to Him a father, & He shall be to me a Son"?] . . . the prophecies [of Jesus in Matthew 24] [tells of] events leading up to the fall of Jerusalem . . . this section [Matthew 24:1-14] answers the disciples' first question, which asked when the temple would be thrown down (24:3). That said, we must add that this prophecy seems to invite us to look for a double fulfillment. It describes God's judgment on Jerusalem & on the generation that (by & large) rejected Jesus. But some of the language, as we will see, breaks the bonds of first-century events & points toward the last day . . . In this passage, Jesus [tells of] specific events that will occur between His resurrection & Rome's sack of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. But the same [prophecies] appear to point beyond that period & to describe the days before Christ returns. This makes sense if the fall of Jerusalem foreshadows or pre-figures the last day. Or we could call the fall of Jerusalem a prototype of the last day. A dress rehearsal resembles a play yet it is not quite the play. With costumes complete, lines memorized, & the director almost silent, the dress rehearsal is much like the play. The fall of Jerusalem was a major event in itself, yet it also rehearses for & foreshadows another event, the last day. Therefore, even though Jesus is telling His disciples about the fall of Jerusalem, His terms also seem to fit the end of this world as we know it. To be more precise, the fall of Jerusalem was the last day for many who then lived in Judea, yet it is also a template for the cataclysmic day of Christ's return & teaches us to be ready for that day . . . Matthew 24:4-14 was a prophecy with a dual fulfillment, one before A.D. 70, & one before the return of Christ. The last phrase in 24:14 – "then the end will come" – spoke first to the fall of Jerusalem. In 24:15-20, the focus on the fall of Jerusalem intensifies & secondary references recede. These verses are urgent & require decisive action.

Proclaim the Gospel wherever you go, prepare for suffering, hold fast to Christ & His Word, & you shall be saved!

### **1. Jesus Says The Gospel Will Be Preached In All The World & Then The End Will Come**

**Matthew 24:14:** And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, & then the end will come. **GOSPEL!**

**a. In a sense, the Gospel was proclaimed throughout the whole world in the disciples' lifetime before 70 AD:**

- **Luke 2:1:** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- **Acts 11:28:** Agabus stood up & foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world
- **Acts 2:5:** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.
- **Daniel Doriani:** When Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch, he addressed a man from a land that Homer & Herodotus called "the end of the earth" (Acts 8).
- **Colossians 1:5-6:** the Gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit & growing
- **Colossians 1:23:** the hope of the Gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven
- **Romans 1:8:** your faith is proclaimed in all the world
- **Romans 10:18:** But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." **What Jesus says happens!**

And so the end that would come at 70 AD was the end of Old Covenant era, the end of the temple & sacrifices, the end of Jerusalem, the end of life as they knew it, & the end of many of the lives of the Jews living in Jerusalem.

**b. But in another sense, the Gospel must still be proclaimed throughout the whole world: Romans 15:20-21:**

thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, & those who have never heard will understand."

- **Matthew 28:18-20:** Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." [**Brooks Buser:** There are roughly 3,100 language groups who still have yet to hear the name of Christ.]

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## **2. Jesus Warns His Disciples To Get Ready For God's Judgment**

**Matthew 24:15-25:** So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),<sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.<sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,<sup>18</sup> & let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.<sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant & for those who are nursing infants in those days!<sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, & never will be.<sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.<sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it.<sup>24</sup> For false christs & false prophets will arise & perform great signs & wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.<sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand.

**a. The abomination of desolation has come, is coming soon, & will come right before Christ returns:**

**Sam Storms:** In the Old Testament, "abomination" referred to an object of disgust or hatred, something that causes revulsion; an idolatrous offense or affront to the true worship of God. [Desolation: Utter destruction]

**1) It has come:** Daniel refers to this 4 times. A more immediate fulfillment: Antiochus Epiphanes, in 168 B.C., slaughtered 40,000 Jews, plundered the temple, sacrificed a pig on altar of burnt offering, sprinkled pig broth all over, & set up an image of Zeus above the altar.

**2) It will come soon: Sam Storms:** It would appear that Jesus envisioned something of a repeat performance in his day of what happened in 168 B.C., under Antiochus . . . The most likely identification is Titus & the armies of Rome [who destroyed the temple in 70 A.D.]. While the city of Jerusalem was still burning, the soldiers brought their legionary standards into the temple precincts and offered sacrifices there, declaring Titus to be victor. The idolatrous representations of Caesar and the Roman eagle on the standards would have constituted the worst imaginable blasphemy to the Jewish people. **What Jesus says happens!**

**3) It will come right before Christ returns: 1 John 2:18:** Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come.

- **James Edwards:** The abomination that causes desolation alludes to the destruction of the temple in AD 70, but it is not exhausted by it. The “abomination” is a mysterious double referent, a historical medium that anticipates an ultimate fulfillment in the advent of the Antichrist and the final tribulation before the return of the Son of Man.

**b. Those in Judea must flee to the mountains in a hurry (Vs. 16-20):** That’s the point of not getting what’s in your house, if you’re in the field, don’t get your cloak, how bad it will be for pregnant women & those nursing, & pray that it will not be in the winter or on the Sabbath – all this focuses on the need to flee in a hurry!

- **Luke 21:20-22:** But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.  
<sup>21</sup> Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, & let those who are inside the city depart, & let not those who are out in the country enter it, <sup>22</sup> for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.

**Sam Storms:** These instructions were in fact followed by Christians in Judea & Jerusalem. Some point to the fact that, in late 66 A.D., the Christian community, under the leadership of Symeon (a cousin of Jesus), withdrew to the village of Pella in Perea, a mountainous region east of the Sea of Galilee. History records that the commander Cestius inexplicably & without warning ordered his troops to withdraw. This gave the Jewish believers an opportunity to flee the city in accordance with Jesus' [warning]. According to Josephus, after Cestius’s siege & retreat the Jews left Jerusalem like swimmers from a sinking ship. By all accounts, no Christian died in the holocaust that engulfed Jerusalem shortly thereafter. William Whitson, Josephus’s best-known English translator, writes: “There may be another very important, & very providential, reason be here assigned for this strange & foolish retreat of Cestius; which, if Josephus had been now a Christian, he might probably have taken notice of also; & that is, the affording the Jewish Christians in the city an opportunity of calling to mind the prediction & caution given them by Christ about thirty-three years and a half before, that ‘when they should see the abomination of desolation’ [the idolatrous Roman armies, with the images of their idols in their ensigns, ready to lay Jerusalem desolate], ‘stand where it ought not;’ or, ‘in the holy place;’ or, ‘when they should see Jerusalem encompassed with armies,’ they should then ‘flee to the mountains.’ By complying with which those Jewish Christians fled to the mountains of Perea, & escaped of Cestius, this destruction”. **What Jesus says happens!**

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**c. There will be great tribulation like there never has been & never will be (Vs. 19-21): Exodus 11:6:** There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

- **Joel 2:2:** a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

- **Ezekiel 5:9:** And because of all your abominations I will do with you what I have never yet done, and the like of which I will never do again. [Refers to the impending Babylonian captivity]

**D. A. Carson:** I think, brothers and sisters in Christ, we have confused the great tribulation with the end of the age, when there are two great tribulations. There’s a great tribulation in density & concentration that is now behind us. And there is a final outbreak of evil before the Lord returns at the end.

**d. The days will be so bad, even the elect would not be saved unless God cut those days short (V. 22):**

**1) 70 A.D. was really bad: D. A. Carson:** The Warsaw Jews in WWII were just about wiped out, but a few thousand escaped. Nazi Germany was really bad! Millions of Jews murdered! But some Jews escaped Aushwitz; Stalin was merciless, but millions of believers did escape. When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, no one escaped. Mothers ate their own children. They ate their own defecation.

**Sam Storms:** When Jerusalem fell in 70 AD & the temple was destroyed, everyone was either killed or sold into slavery. Approximations are that 1,100,000 people were killed & 100,000 were enslaved. Before the final

destruction, the Roman armies surrounded the city; the cities granaries & storehouses were burned & the water reservoirs were polluted. Famine set in. People sold their homes & their own children to obtain food. People would go outside the city to find food & get captured & were crucified on crosses, sometimes 500 per day so that all could see! **What Jesus says happens!**

Josephus told of one woman who killed her son, roasted his body, ate half of him & hid the remaining half. When the smell drew others desperate for food, she offered to share his body, [causing] horror among the multitudes.

**2) See the love of God for His elect: V. 22:** And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

God chose the elect in Christ to be saved from before the foundation of the world! Jesus died for those elect! And the Holy Spirit regenerates the elect & keeps them, & God says He will cause them to fear Him & obey Him!

**Jer. 32:39-41:** I will give them one heart & one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good & the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. & I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, & I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart & all my soul!

- **Phil. 1:6:** I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

- **John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, & whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

- **John 10:28-29:** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, & no one will snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, & no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

**3) God warns us because He loves us & to keep us from falling away:** Acts 27 gives us a great example of how God has unchangeably decreed something (no one on the ship will lose their life) yet God ordains the means (Paul's warning that everyone must stay on the ship to be saved) as well as the end (no one will lose their life):

- **Acts 27:22-25, 30-31:** "Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong & whom I worship, & he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. & behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told' . . . & as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, & had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion & the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

**e. False Christ's & false prophets will come causing great deception: Vs. 23-25:** Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs & false prophets will arise & perform great signs & wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand.

There is only one, true Jesus Christ, & there is only one, true Gospel. Trust in Jesus, & believe His Gospel!

**Galatians 1:8-9:** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Is there anything that could make you turn away from following Jesus Christ? Scientific discoveries (Age of the earth stuff? They claim to have found the bones of Jesus stuff? They claim to have found errors in the Bible stuff?) Supernatural miracles (Dreams? Angels from heaven? Great signs & wonders!)

**Deut 13:1-3:** If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you & gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> & the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, & if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, '& let us serve them,' <sup>3</sup> you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart & with all your soul.

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**What sacrifice did God the Father make to demonstrate His great love for you that will never let you perish? He sacrificed His own Son to redeem you! Abomination:** Intense hatred, detestable; **Desolation:** A state of complete emptiness or destruction. Gloomy, lifeless, shocking abandonment. Anguished misery or loneliness. Synonyms: misery, sadness, unhappiness, sorrow, depression, grief, woe.

**Isaiah 52:14-15:** Just as many were appalled [desolated; made desolate] at You, His appearance was so disfigured that He did not look like a man, & His form did not resemble a human being – so He will sprinkle many nations.

**Isaiah 53:4, 10:** but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted . . . Yet the Lord was pleased to crush Him severely.

Jesus Himself is the temple; He was counted as unclean on that cross; He was cursed by God on the tree!

**Leviticus 18:22:** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

**Proverbs 6:16-19:** There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who breathes out lies, & one who sows discord among brothers.

**Proverbs 28:9:** If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Though He was absolutely loved by His Father on that cross, Jesus became the greatest abomination of desolation ever recorded in the history of mankind on that cross, so that we might be free from all condemnation forever; so that we might be free from all abomination & only received intense love & acceptance, & never face desolation but only enjoy complete fullness of all satisfaction & health, happiness, eternal life, fullness of joy & pleasures forevermore beyond our wildest dreams or imaginations!

**Isaiah 62:3-5:** You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, & a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, & your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, & your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, & your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, & as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

**Jesus Was Made An Abomination; Enduring Utter Desolation; While Facing Our Damnation; Then Rose For Our Justification; To Save Elect From Every Nation!**

All were left desolate by His face so marred  
Couldn't tell He's a man – so bruised and scarred  
He's like a body burnt and charred  
From God's presence He was barred  
And took our curse to wrath discard  
An abomination God would regard  
His only Son He loved yet jarred  
With curse and judgment He'd bombard  
And from His Son turn His face hard  
And yet because He was so marred  
God will always have our guard  
And from His presence we're not barred  
Enjoy pleasures much enlarged  
That come forever supercharged!

On that cross He was made an abomination  
God made Him to be sin Who knew no deviation  
From God's law in full summation  
He's the only perfect man in total consecration  
Yet He took upon Himself all sinful degradation  
And every vile manner of God-abomination  
Then He swallowed condemnation  
And rose in celebration  
So that we could have salvation  
And live for Him as our foundation  
So come and fully trust the God-Man incarnation  
He'll take all your abomination  
That causes desolation  
And be your meditation  
Your "Christ is all!" preoccupation!

Christ Is Preached To Every Nation  
Then The End Will Come Salvation  
By Faith Alone Justification  
But Those Rejecting His Invitation  
God's Wrath Will Punish With Damnation  
The Abomination Of Desolation  
Comes So Flee To Safe Destination  
For Great Will Be The Pain Tribulation  
Yet All God's Elect From All Condemnation  
Shall Be Saved Through Christ's Propitiation  
He Died And Rose And Grants Regeneration  
He's Told Us Before So Fight All Temptation  
And Delight In Him Who's Our Preoccupation  
Eternal Infatuation And Holy Fascination  
Who Causes Extravagant Intoxication  
More Than Anything Else In All Of Creation!