



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Future!

Matthew 24:1-14

Message #66 of 80 – S1101

Sermon given on June 16, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Future!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 24**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Future!**
- Chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew are focused on the future.
- One of the many things that makes the Bible so remarkable is that it tells us what will happen in the future.
- In fact, that is what makes God unique – He knows the future – no one else does. (**Isaiah 46:9-10**)

Remember the former things of old, for I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure...

- It is estimated that 25 to 33% of the Bible is prophetic.
- Many of the prophecies were fulfilled at some point after the prophet was inspired to give them.
- A lot of them were fulfilled when Jesus came in His first advent.
- The rest will be fulfilled when He comes back again.
- Jesus has spent the day at the temple dealing with the hypocritical religious establishment.
- Chapter 23 ended with Jesus saying the house of the religious leaders would be desolate.
- We know what Jesus meant – the temple would be destroyed.
- It doesn't seem the disciples got that.
- **Matthew 24:1**
- Based on the historical descriptions of the temple in Jerusalem it may have been one of the most beautiful buildings in existence at that time.
- It was made with the purest white stone overlaid with a large amount of gold and was decorated very ornately.

- On one wall was a huge grapevine with a cluster of grapes the size of a man made of precious stones.
- The disciples comment to Jesus on this and I can imagine Him glancing at it and shrugging.
- Jesus from eternity past has dwelt in the glory of heaven.
- It would be hard to be impressed with anything man has built after being in the presence of Almighty God and seeing His glory.
- Jesus knew the fate of this amazing temple.
- **Matthew 24:2**
- Roman General Titus laying siege to Jerusalem, destroyed whole city, killed 1 million Jews.
- Ordered that the temple spared.
- Somehow caught fire “accidentally” – to reclaim tons of gold they pushed every stone off temple mount.
- The Jewish religious system that had operated for 1,500 years ended that day in 70AD won’t be resumed until some day in the future, during a time we know as the Tribulation Period.
- Dropping a bombshell like that leaves the disciples with questions.
- **Matthew 24:3**
- The disciples have three questions: When will the temple be destroyed? What will be the sign or indication marking Christ’s return to set up His kingdom? And when will the current age or era end?
- Jesus responds, not by answering their questions but with a warning.
- **Matthew 24:4-5**
- ‘Take heed’ = pay attention to what is going on.
- Jesus is talking to His disciples and warning them about false messiahs coming in His name
- And after Jesus died, raised, and ascended there were many people claiming to be the Messiah – several of these people are mentioned in the NT – Peter talked about this **2 Peter 2:1-3**

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;

for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

- History is littered with the carnage of false messiahs.
- David Koresh founded the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, and claimed to be Christ.
- Marshall Applewhite – Heaven’s Gate - claimed to be the reincarnated Christ and that people were being called to achieve the next level of human evolution by meeting the aliens who were in a spacecraft following the Hale-Bopp comet that was passing by the earth.
- In 1997 he deceived/convincing 38 people to commit ritual suicide believing they would be transported up to the alien spacecraft.
- Satan has been deceiving mankind since the Garden of Eden.
- He will continue to raise up false Christs and he will seduce people to want false teachers (**2 Timothy 4:1-4**).

I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

- One of the signs or indicators of the end times, the times that precede the Second Coming are the increase of false Christs and false teachers and of people who choose to follow them.
- The next sign is relevant to our day.
- **Matthew 24:6-7**
- Someone is always at war with someone.
- Today (2024) it is Russia with Ukraine and Israel with Hamas and Hezbollah.
- But notice how Jesus, almost two thousand years ago, told us to feel about those wars.
- ‘See that you are not troubled...’ – Or alarmed or distressed.
- Don’t be freaked out – these things must come to pass...
- War is horrible! But no matter how terrible the war is, it is nothing compared to what will happen when Jesus comes back.
- **Matthew 24:8**
- ‘beginnings of sorrows’ – birth/labor pains.

- God is going to birth a new kingdom – one where Jesus is King of kings.
- Will come through pain much like a child is born.
- But Jesus saying that these signs are just the beginning.
- We look around and say, ‘Can’t get worse than this!’
- Oh yes, it can, it will! Signs will increase, just like labor pains increase.
- And then Jesus gives more signs.
- **Matthew 24:9-13**
- All the things we see going on in the world are just the beginning of the process of what God is going to do to prepare the world for Jesus to come back.
- ‘lawlessness will abound’ - Lawlessness is living as if the laws don’t exist or that they don’t apply to you.
- It is hard not to see these things as we look into our culture.
- The riots in 2020 and the Anti-Israel encampments on college campuses (2024) are a couple of obvious examples.
- As Christ-followers, we are to follow Christ no matter how hard it might get.
- We are to endure or persevere to the end.
- We are to stand up under the pressure until Jesus comes to get us.
- I am so thankful that Jesus plans to save us, or deliver us, from the Tribulation to come.
- We are already experiencing the birth pains of the delivery of Christ’s Kingdom.
- But because we are Christ’s we will not have to endure the really bad stuff.
- That brings us to a verse that has confused some people.
- **Matthew 24:14**
- Some say that Jesus won’t come back until gospel is preached to the whole world.
- In case you are wondering about that, God is not waiting for us to get busy – He has a plan to accomplish this.

- The book of Revelation describes three things God does to get the gospel out.
- 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7) - 2 witnesses in Jerusalem (Revelation 11 - And an angel (**Revelation 14:6-7**)).

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

- God doesn’t need us to reach the whole world.
- But He does expect us to try (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.

- God wants us to do our best to reach every person on the planet before He comes back, but He has already set the date.
- God doesn’t sit in heaven waiting for us to do things.
- God doesn’t depend upon us – He needs nothing from us.
- One of the things that stands out to me in this text is in verse six, “See that you are not troubled...”
- That seems like an impossible thing Jesus is telling us.
- In our own strength and abilities, it is impossible.
- But with God all things are possible.
- The harder things get in this life, the more tightly we need to cling to our Savior, Christ Jesus.
- The weirder and more bizarre people become around us, the more we need to our eyes fixed on our Holy God in heaven.
- The more helpless we feel in the face of temptation, persecution, and spiritual attacks, the more we need to trust the Holy Spirit to help us to persevere to the end.
- The end is coming, but we don’t know when it will be.
- We need to be busy about the work of living out the glorious gospel into a dark and wicked world.
- A glorious future awaits us – let’s live like we believe that!
- **Pray!** Worship Team plays the last song!