



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King's Second Coming!**

**Matthew 24:15-36**

Message #67 of 80 – S1102

**Sermon given on June 23, 2024**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The King's Second Coming!

*Matthew 24:15-36*

## 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 Second Coming!**
- Chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew are focused on the future.
- The term for studying end times things is eschatology.
- Eschatology is based on the reality that all human history is moving toward a predetermined end.
- That end was determined by God and then shared with humanity through God's messengers, the prophets.
- Eschatology is an area where many people have differing opinions.
- One of the reasons for that is because God gives us enough information to know something is coming but not enough to be dogmatic about the details of how that prophecy is to be fulfilled.
- Sometimes the only way to fully understand a prophecy is to study it after it has been fulfilled.
- Eschatology is a study in hope.
- Mankind was hopelessly lost in sin.
- Sin has ravaged humanity and this world since the Fall in the Garden of Eden.
- God established a plan to redeem mankind back to Himself.
- He did that by sending His Son, Jesus to die on the cross to make a way for us to be saved from the eternal penalty for sin.
- God's plan will not be complete until He has dealt with sin permanently.
- Most of unfulfilled prophecy is focused on that.
- Keep your finger in Matthew 24 and turn to **Luke 19**

- Eschatology is a study in hope because through it we see God's warnings to people to repent and be saved and to escape the coming judgment.
- The main message for believers is to be ready and help others get ready.
- In the first fourteen verses of this chapter Jesus told His disciples that judgment was coming upon the nation of Israel including the destruction of Jerusalem.
- **Luke 19:41-44**
- Most Jews, and especially the religious establishment, rejected Christ Jesus as their Messiah.
- The consequence of that rejection was going to be destruction of the temple and dispersion of the Jewish people.
- That happened in 70 AD.
- Turn back to **Matthew 24**
- The disciples wanted more information about the coming of Christ's kingdom on the earth.
- **Matthew 24:15**
- Jesus then told them what signs to watch out for.
- We are going to put up a chart (**End Times Timeline**).
- We have some copies of this printed out in the back.
- We are in the period known as the church age.
- It began when Jesus ascended to heaven and will end when Jesus comes and raptures the church to be with Him in heaven.
- During the church age there will be wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes.
- Not long after the Rapture of the church, a period known as the Tribulation will begin.
- The Tribulation is a seven-year period of unprecedented judgment as God pours out His accumulated wrath on this wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world.
- During that time a man will come to power who is empowered by Satan to try to control the world and fight against God.

- Jesus is quoting out of Daniel 11 to describe something that will happen at the halfway point of the Tribulation.
- Three and one-half years into the Tribulation an image of the antichrist will be set up in the rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem and the antichrist will demand that he is to be worshipped as god (2 **Thessalonians 2:3-4**).

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- Jesus then tells them what they should do when they see this.
- **Matthew 24:16-21**
- Disasters unlike anything we have ever seen.
- In just the first half of the seven years one-half of world population will die.
- That's about 4 billion people.
- That's like 9/11 happening every 2 minutes for 3 ½ years.
- As bad as the first half of the Tribulation will be, the last three and a half years will be far worse.
- Then Jesus helps us to understand just how bad it will be.
- **Matthew 24:22**
- God, in His grace and mercy will shorten the time.
- Otherwise, all life on earth would be wiped out.
- Then Jesus gives a warning.
- **Matthew 24:23-25**
- Some will come pretending to be Jesus or one of His prophets.
- Their goal is to deceive.
- At this point in Tribulation – God's people are hiding from Antichrist.
- The purpose of the false christs may be to lure them out of hiding.
- As church age believers, we must also be warned against the temptation of looking for Christ to show up in this world.
- We don't need to go looking for Christ – He is going to come for us.
- **Matthew 24:26-28**

- There are some who suggest that it wasn't until the advent of global communication that this became possible.
- We must be so careful that we don't try to force a human explanation on something that is likely to be supernatural.
- God is not waiting for everyone on earth to have a Tik Tok account before Jesus comes back.
- Though it wouldn't surprise if Tik Tok was not one of the tools the Antichrist uses to deceive the world into following him.
- I am convinced this is a supernatural event.
- Everyone instantaneously will know when Jesus comes back.
- When Jesus came the first time – humbly to a poor virgin – very few people on earth were aware of it.
- Suffered as a servant of God in relative obscurity.
- 2nd time – come as a conquering King.
- The whole world will know it and know what it means to them.
- He has come to judge the wicked for their sin.
- And they will realize that it is too late.
- **Matthew 24:29**
- According to Google the sun will burn out in 5 billion years.
- This will not be a natural event.
- **Matthew 24:30-31**
- Turn to **Revelation 19**.
- This is the Second Coming of Christ Jesus!
- It is good news for God's people but very bad news for unbelievers.
- **Revelation 19:11-16**
- Turn back to **Matthew 24**
- God will gather all His people to Christ.
- **Matthew 24:32-33**
- The primary audience of this parable are those who will witness the events of the Tribulation.
- Millions of people will come to faith in Jesus Christ after the church is raptured and the Tribulation period begins.
- They will read the Bibles we leave behind and maybe even watch sermons like this one.

- Some of them might be people we have faithfully shared the gospel with.
- Because they will be seeing the things we can only imagine, they are to read the signs and respond.
- Even so, we also need to be alert and watch for the Lord's return.
- Jesus gave us signs to watch for so that we would remain alert.
- In the next chapter Jesus will give two parables meant to teach us how to live while we wait for His Second Coming.
- To summarize them – stay ready and stay busy.
- There are a couple of verses in this section that are a little difficult to interpret – like this next verse.
- **Matthew 24:34-35**
- Who is 'this generation'?
- One interpretation of this is the generation that first heard these words.
- Many of His disciples would live to the time of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.
- Another interpretation is that Jesus is referring to the future generation who would witness the signs of His second Coming.
- Once they started seeing them, they could understand that Jesus would come back in their generation.
- That would probably be some bit of encouragement during the horrors of the Tribulation.
- Because Jesus said it would happen, it will happen and precisely the way He said it would.
- We might not fully understand how or when things are going to happen.
- Some of the things we read about the end times defy human understanding.
- That's okay – we don't have to understand it.
- Let's look at the **End Times Timeline** chart again
- If you are a believer here this morning, you are living in the Church Age.
- The Church Age ends when Jesus comes and forcibly removes the church from this world to be with Him in heaven.

- We call that event the Rapture of the church.
  - All true believers will be caught up to heaven.
  - You don't even need to understand that.
  - You won't be doing anything – Jesus does everything.
  - Your only part is faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for your sins.
  - The worship Team can start making their way up here.
  - If you are here or watching online and you are not a believer and you are alive when Jesus comes for His church, you will be left behind to face the worst time in human history.
  - God doesn't want you to do that (**2 Peter 3:9**).
- The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**
- You are here or watching this for a reason.
  - God created you and loves you and wants you to be free from your sins and to spend eternity with Him in heaven,
  - But to experience that, you must repent of your sins and receive Christ Jesus as your Savior.
  - I am going to pray and give you a chance to do that.
  - The last verse of our text tells us we shouldn't think we can delay forever.
  - **Matthew 24:36**
  - No one knows when Jesus is coming for His church.
  - It could be any day – it could be today.
  - Open your heart right now and receive Christ!
  - **Pray!** Worship Team plays the last song!