

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev. Chris Trinhnam

Things to Come. No.5

9th April 2002

What Jesus Taught About End Times

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24

The teaching of Jesus on the coming Kingdom of God as the culmination of the plan of God through the ages is found throughout the four Gospels, but is most concentrated in Matthew 24 and 25, Luke 21 and Mark 13. That it is repeated signifies increased importance and expands our knowledge. The use by Jesus of Daniel's words, points to where that prophecy fits into His teaching on future events. Therefore, the teaching in Daniel was not completely fulfilled by the tribulation suffered by the Jews under Antiochus Epiphanes. Due to space limitations we principally treat Matthew chapter 24 in this study.

The Questions the Disciples Asked;

24.1-3. The disciples' questions are important because they define the nature of the reply they received.

Specifically:

First, **when** shall these things be, i.e. the pulling down of the temple walls.

We know from history that this occurred in AD70 under the Roman general Titus, after a long siege.

Second, **what** would be the sign of the coming again of Jesus, literally, 'thy presence'. (As used in Philippians 2.12)

Third, what would be the sign of the end of the age. The word 'age', translated in the KJV as 'world', means 'a period of time of significant character, an era, the state of things marking an age or era, or the present order of nature, or the natural condition of man or the world.' The current order that occupied the Jewish mind at the time was the Times of the Gentiles, the domination of the Jewish state and land by gentile nations. See Study Notes No.4)

Let us see **when** these things will be.

First, v5-8, Jesus told what was to happen nationally.

Second, v9-14, Jesus told how this

would impact personally.

Third, v15-21, Jesus told what would happen politically and militarily.

Fourth, v22-28, Jesus told what would happen religiously.

Fifth, v29, Jesus told what would happen globally.

Historians writing in the days to AD70 tell us that most things prophesied by Jesus occurred at that time.

Of wars (that happen to you) and rumours of wars (that happen to others) Josephus records wars in Selucia in which 50,000 Jews perished, and others at Caesarea, Seythopolis, Joppa, Ascalon, and Tyre. Philo tells of a conflict between Jews and Greeks at Alexandria under Caligular in AD38.

Earthquakes occurred frequently, Josephus records one in Judea. Tacitus in Crete, Rome, Apamea, Phrygia and Campania. Seneca speaks of them in the Province of Asia, Achaia, Syria and Macedonia.

False Prophets misleading many. Josephus tells us that up to the last minute of the fall of Jerusalem under Titus, men were buoyed by false predictions of deliverance by fanatics and imposters.

Famines, which often follow

upheavals were common, including that famine which Agabus foretold, Acts 11.28, which Suetonius reported extended from Syria to Rome in the ninth year of the reign of Claudius.

Gospel preached in all the world.

'World' means 'all the inhabited world', as in Luke 2.1. By AD70 the Gospel had been preached in almost all Roman provinces, but not in all the geographical world.

The Abomination of Desolation.

Whilst Jerusalem was surrounded, Luke 21.20, in a siege that lasted some 3½ years, Josephus tells us that the Zealots (freedom fighters) took over the temple early in the siege, profaned it and made the Holy Place 'a garrison and stronghold' from which they conducted their tyrannous and lawless rule.

Christians fled the city, mindful of the teaching of Jesus, acting 'on a certain oracle', Eusebius recorded. Josephus confirms this information. See Luke 21.18.

Days cut short. Bad as things were, Titus responded to the influence of Josephus and Bernice and finally tempered his conquest with compassion.

Some things were not fulfilled, as far as we are aware. Therefore, these things remain to be fulfilled.

Other Christs. Remembering the

comment of John in 1 John 2.18 referring to spirits which would take the place of Jesus in our affection, there is no historical record of pretenders to the Messiahship in the period leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem. v5 & 23-28. Jesus has given two instructions by which we today may assess the claims of these pretenders as they appear:

The Lightening Test. When Jesus comes he will do so as described in v27. All others are pretenders.

The Eagle Test. The word of vulture is 'eagle'. Eagles smell death on the wind miles from the corpse, and turn to follow the odour. So it is that these other Christs home in on the death attending the 'dragon'.

Cosmic effects. The word for 'powers' is 'dunamis', the might, the strength, the ability which lies behind the orderly operation of the heavenly bodies will be shaken, literally 'made to rock'.

Let us see **what** are the signs of Jesus Coming in His Kingdom.

The signs of the coming of Jesus is the coming of Jesus. There are no other signs than those which He has given. See Mark 13.28-23. We do not know the day or the hour, but we do know the seasons. These events will happen in less than one generation. Are you ready?

Remember the chorus we used to sing:

Say will you be ready when Jesus comes?

Are you sure you're born again and washed in Jesus blood?

Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?

Say, will you be ready when Jesus comes?

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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