



Class 3, Wednesday, April 12, 2023

“Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” Matthew 24:4-6, NIV

1. We need to study God’s word diligently so that we are not deceived. The Bible is our only source and is more important than a theory, tradition, creed, or statement of faith.
2. We need to remind ourselves that we shouldn’t be alarmed by all the bad news. Jesus is in control.
3. We need to recognize that there are many different theories within the orthodox Bible Believing Christian community.

Most Important Part of the Class. Direct Bible Study!

Matthew 24 (Continued)

Matthew 24 is a key passage (Luke 21 is a parallel passage we will get to soon on a Sunday) to understanding a timeline for several reasons: (1) It’s the closest thing to a timeline in the Bible. (2) It’s from Jesus. (3) Jesus uses literal rather than symbolic language.

Here are the events He gives us:

1. **Destruction of Jerusalem.** 24: 1-3. (70 ad.) After a Jewish revolt, the Romans destroyed the city, killing 1,000,000 Jews and taking 95,000 captives (including Josephus.) According to Eusebius, many Christians knew of Jesus’ prophecy and fled.

2. **Tough Times.** 24:4-14. Jesus gives examples of the things that will characterize the church age and will lead to the end. None—except the last—is a sign of the return of Jesus.
 - a. **False religions.** 24:4-5
 - b. **Wars.** 24:6-7.
 - c. **Natural Disasters.** 24:7-8.
 - d. **Persecution of Believers.** 24:9.
 - e. **Spiritual Apathy** (among believers) 24:10-13.
 - f. **Gospel Success.** 24:14.

NOTE: No-one seriously disagrees with the above, but from this point on, there are disagreements in the order of events. Many insert the **r** here, but it doesn’t appear in the text until after the tribulation, the same as in Luke 21. Those who believe in a **p** **r** do so based on other passages.

3. **T**. (A great intensification of all the above resulting from God’s judgment.) 24:15-25. Notes:
 - We get the name for this period in verse 21 in the KJV.
 - Believers (“elect”) in verse 22 live during this period.
 - Armageddon isn’t mentioned in this passage, but it fits with the context—so many place it here.
4. **The S** **C**. (24:26-31)
 - He mentions what we call the **G** **A** in 24:26-27.
 - And He mentions what we call the **R** in 24:28-31.
 - And He mentions them in that order!
5. There is no mention here of the **M**. That comes mostly from the Book of Revelation.
6. He does reference the **F** **J** and **E** in chapter 25.



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