



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 the Bible diligently so we are not deceived.
2. We need not be alarmed by 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 (Review from last week)

Matthew 24 has the only real timeline in the Bible. Jesus uses literal (not symbolic) language. Here are the events He gives us:

1. **Destruction of Jerusalem.**
2. **Tough Times.**
 - 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.
3. **Tribulation.**
4. **Second Coming.** *Glorious Appearing and Rapture.* (24:26-31)

Matthew 24 (New For This Class)

Jesus then gives us a p_____ (24:34) that this generation (or mankind itself) will not pass away before He returns. He also gives us the t_____ (24:36f) that no one knows ahead of time, so we must be ready. After a few parables, He continues with His timeline:

5. **F_____ J_____.** (25:31-45)
6. **E_____.** (25:46)

Another Key Passage: 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Truths from 1 Thessalonians (4:13-5:11)

The Thessalonians were puzzled. Some had died and they wondered if they had missed the return of Jesus. Paul gave them these truths:

1. We don't need to grieve like those who have no hope.
2. Dead believers are raised first and will return with Jesus.
3. We will meet them and Jesus and be together forever.
4. Jesus' return will be like a "thief in the night"—a surprise.
5. Believers need to be ready and not be surprised.
6. Believers will receive salvation instead of God's wrath.
7. We need to encourage each other with these words.

Truths from 2 Thessalonians (2:1 - 12)

1. Don't be alarmed by false teachings. Jesus has not returned.
2. Before Jesus returns, a "man of lawlessness" will be revealed.
3. Paul says, "you know what is holding him back." This power will "continue to do so till he is taken out of the way."
 - a. Some see this as a reference to the rapture.
 - b. Some think the Holy Spirit will no longer restrain him.
4. This "man of lawlessness" will use signs and wonders and will deceive many people.
5. We are called to stand firm in our faith in Jesus.



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