

The Place of Matthew 24 in Prophecy

There are many approaches. The best approach is exegetical, but takes the Bible as a whole, with a systematic approach to Eschatology. The interpretation here is from the A-Millennial perspective and owes much to the work of Professor John Murray.

We will not take a pure futurist view or a “double-fulfillment” view.

Matt. 23:34-36 – the key words “*this generation*” means they are ones that will be judged. Verses **37-39** conclusively show that Christ is speaking of 70AD.

Three prophetic “Cycles” in Matt. 24 take us from 70AD to the end of the world

“Cycles” repeat history, but add further details

Cycle 1 – Matt. 24:1-14

Cycle 2 – Matt. 24:15-31

Cycle 3 – Matt. 24:32-25:46

The Disciples Questions: Matt. 24:1-3 – 2 (or 3) questions:

1. The destruction of the Temple (an unthinkable horror to a Jewish mind).
2. The second coming and the end of the world

The First Cycle -- Matthew 24:4-14

4-8 – True as long as the world endures, but focuses on 70AD (v. 6 - *the end is not yet*)

9-13 – that current generation up to 70AD

14 -- “*and then the end will come*” – completes the first cycle.

The Second Cycle – Matthew 24:15-31

15-26 refer to the present generation culminating in 70AD

27-28 – Do not be deceived – His coming will be sudden and visible to all (not secret)

Compare **Luke 21:20-24** – proof this is 70 AD

Luke 21:24b – “*the times of the Gentiles*” – we see there will be a period of time between 70AD and the second coming

Matt. 24:29-31 -- “*immediately*” (after 70AD) -- the next thing (in eschatology)

Parallels the second coming as given in 1 Cor. 15:51-57 and 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11

The Third Cycle -- Matt 24:32-25:46

24:32-35 (parallel passage Luke 21:29-33) -- “*this generation shall not pass away.*”

Verses 32-35 refer to 70 AD

1947 – Is it relevant when Israel was regathered as a state?

How long is a Biblical generation? 30, 40, 70 years?

Is “*this generation*” date setting? Yes – for 70AD (fulfilled).

24:36-25:46 – The Second Coming and the Final Judgment Explained

24:36 -- rules out all date setting for the second coming

The theme of this large block of Scripture is “Be Ready”

24:45-51; 25:1-11; 25:14-30

The Final Judgment is pictured in 25:31-46 (esp. 31-34, 41, 46)