

**MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM**

The Beginning...The End
Matthew 24:1-14

1

Introduction: Overview/context

- The nature of prophetic oracles
- Cyclical diversity
- Chronological compression
- Poetic ambiguity
- There is a needed humility in hearing prophetic Word, recognizing that its very nature makes the center clearer while leaving the edges fuzzy
- Note: most prophetic oracles are seen more clearly after their fulfillment, in often surprising ways

2

A Provocative Prophecy - v.1-2

Jesus left the temple
and was going away,
when his disciples came to point out to him
the buildings of the temple.

But he answered them,
“You see all these, do you not?
Truly, I say to you,
there will not be left here
one stone upon another
that will not be thrown down.”

3

A Multi-Fold Question - v.3

As he sat on the Mount of Olives,
the disciples came to him privately, saying,
“Tell us, *when* will these things be,
and *what* will be the **sign**
of your coming
and of *the end* of the age?”

4

An Vital Warning - v.4

And Jesus answered them,
“See that no one leads you astray.

5

A 7-Fold Temptation - v.4-12

1. False Saviors

For many will come in my name,
saying, ‘I am the Christ,’
and they will lead many astray.

6

2. Warfare

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.
See that you are not alarmed,
for this must take place,
but *the end* is not yet.
For nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom,

3. Natural Disasters

and there will be famines and earthquakes
in various places.
All these are but *the beginning* of the birth pains.

7

4. Persecution of the Church

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation
and put you to death,
and you will be hated by all nations
for my name's sake.

5. Abandonment of the Church

And then many will fall away
and betray one another
and hate one another.

8

6. False Prophets in the Church

And many false prophets will arise
and lead many astray.

7. Coldness in the Church

And because lawlessness will be increased,
the love of many will grow cold.

9

Two Great Promises - v.13-14

1. The Reward for Fortitude

But the one who endures to *the end*
will be saved.

What does fortitude look like?

- Holding the light in the midst of the darkness
- Clinging to Jesus as our only hope
- Realizing the nature of fallen man (wars) and corrupt creation (disasters)
- Living in faith despite persecution
- Staying with the Church, faithful to the Church, loving the Church
- Listening to the Word and pushing against competing voices
- Stoking the fires of our love to keep it from growing cold

10

Two Great Promises - v.13-14

2. The Victory of the Gospel

And this gospel of the kingdom
will be proclaimed throughout the whole world
as a testimony to all nations,
and then *the end* will come.

11