

Introduction to Matthew 24

Sermon 68 in the Matthew Series

Today we begin what is known as “The Olivet Discourse”.

You find very helpful additions to what we find in Matthew in Mark 13 and Luke 21.

I. Principles of Prophecy

- 1.** Understand that prophecy often contains a mixture of literal and allegorical meanings within the same context.
- 2.** Any prophecy will not be fully and perfectly understood until it is fulfilled. This is because God is more concerned with glorifying His Name and fulfilling His purposes than satisfying our curiosity.
- 3.** When interpreting prophecy – always go from the familiar to the unfamiliar – from the easy to understand to the difficult – from the plain to the allegorical.
- 4.** Prophecy has an evangelical purpose. 2 Peter 3

II. Introduction to the Olivet Discourse

A. The Importance of Matthew 23:34-39

- 1.** This Generation -- v. 36
- 2.** The compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ for His kinsmen

B. The Disciples Awestruck 24:1-2

The glory had departed – Ezekiel chapters 8-11

A New Covenant Promise -- Ezekiel 11:19-20.

¹⁹Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

C. The Disciples Question v. 3

Are they asking 3 questions or 2?

Matthew 24-25 contains a message directed to them and to us.

The destruction of the Temple is a type of the destruction that we read about in 2 Peter 3. But the anti-type is always greater – which is why we went to 2 Peter 3.

D. What is the Real Issue in Understanding Prophecy?

Are there two separate entities?

The separation of church and Israel.

The dividing of the people of God.

We share a lot of moral principles with serious and sincere Jews.

What we don't share is what is most important of all – Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I believe much of chapter 24 deals with 70AD as the reality and the type –

But some of chapter 24 also deals with the anti-type – the end of the age .

We see the Second Coming – **24:30-31**

Looking at Luke 21 helps to unlock Matthew 24.

Titus 2:11-15

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

Expanded Paraphrase of Romans 8:28-39

28 -- We assuredly know that God causes every single thing that happens to be part of His wise master plan, and that it all works together for the benefit of those who love God and these are the ones who have been called according to His eternal purpose.

29 -- Because, those who have been loved by Him before time began, have also been predestinated to be molded and shaped into the image of His Son, for His Son, Jesus Christ, is the pre-eminent one and we have the privilege to be his brothers and sisters.

30 -- But these predestinated ones are also called, and these called ones have also been justified, and these justified ones can also be said to have already been glorified.

31 -- What shall we say to these thing? This is what we shall say:
If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 -- Indeed, God did not spare his own son, but on our behalf, God delivered Him up for all of us – since God willingly gave us Christ, won't He also freely and graciously give us everything else?

33 -- Who dares to bring an accusation against the elect ones of God? God won't do it, because He is the One who has justified us.

34 -- Who then is able to condemn us? Jesus Christ won't do it, because He died for us, and He has been raised up from the dead. Right now He is sitting at the right hand of God, in the place of the highest honor in all the universe, and he is making intercession for us.

35 -- Can anyone ever separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall troubles, or calamity, or religious persecution?
How about while going hungry, or being absolutely destitute, or in great danger, or while suffering governmental persecution.

36 -- The Scriptures tell us to expect these kinds of problems, for in the Psalms it says, "For your sake we are being killed every day. We are being slaughtered like sheep."

37 -- NO!!! In spite of all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 -- For I am persuaded beyond a doubt, that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can't do it, and neither can life. The angels can't and the demons can't. The fears we fight today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the mightiest powers that exist are not able to keep God's love away.

39 -- It doesn't matter if we are as high as the heavens, or in the deepest part of the earth, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.