

# Signs Before the Second Coming

## Matthew 24:1-28

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Kingdom Come! (Gospel of Matthew Series)

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Sunday, September 18, 2016, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

**livinghopechurch.net**

“This present world which is passing away<sup>1</sup> is like an old man's face, full of wrinkles, and foul with weeping: we are waiting when Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, and shall come and wipe the old man's face.”

~ **Samuel Rutherford**

Open your Bible to **Matthew 24**. We are getting back to our series in the book of Matthew entitled “Kingdom Come.” This morning we are looking at a message entitled: “Life Before the Second Coming.”

**Proposition:** We need to be on the alert and be ready for Jesus to come at any time.

### Painting Slide

You might be wondering about the illustration in the sermon slide. This is a painting of the early Christians meeting the fate of sure death, simply for believing that Jesus is the only true Lord of all.

For this, they were put to death publicly in the Roman coliseum. They were given to hungry lions. This painting is really characteristic of the time of the New Covenant era. That's what we are in. We are New Covenant believers.

And Jesus, in our passage in Matthew 24, calls the time period between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, a time of “great trouble.”

I'm not sure any of us are ready for what Jesus teaches us in **Matthew 24**. Nonetheless, we need to get ready. During this age of grace, we must remember the teaching of **Acts 14:22**. Paul had just got stoned at Lystra. You know what happens when you get stoned right? You die under a pile of rocks. People don't survive that. In spite of Paul's death by stoning, Paul (for all intents) comes back from the dead. And what does he do? If it were you or I we'd get as far away from Lystra as possible. But no. Paul marches straight back to Lystra after coming back from the dead, and what does he do? He grabs Barnabas and they start “strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying [exhorting them] that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

As a believer, are you ready for your faith to be tested?

### Training to Fly

I can remember when I was a young person of fourteen (14) years of age, I wasn't ready for anything! I got in trouble with the law, and the judge ordered community service. One of our kind

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 7:31, “...the present form of this world is passing away.”

neighbors, Mr. John Downs, stepped up. He was a business owner. He owned the New Orleans Aircraft Propeller shop near the Louis Armstrong International Airport. I was sweeping floors there for (I think) \$2.65 an hour. I was just glad to be out of trouble.

One day Mr. Downs' friend pulled up in a restored WWII fighter plane. Mr. Downs asked me "do you want a ride?" The pilot took me high into the sky. He asked me "do you want to 'roll'?" I had just seen the movie Top Gun, and of course I said YES!!! There I was flying upside down, suspended in the air above the outskirts of New Orleans.

From that time forward I wanted to be a pilot. I was so disappointed to find out because of poor eyesight I could never attain that. But if I was to learn how to fly, I would need training.

Aren't you glad that the pilots you have flown with have gotten training?

### Ten (10) Characteristics of Life Before Jesus Comes

If you are going to fly, **you need training** – lots of it! You need to be aware of all the circumstances and environments you are going to encounter so you can be ready!!

In Matthew 24, Jesus gives a **different kind of training**. He tells his disciples training exercises for life before His Second coming. The first section of Matthew 24 (vs 1-28) are all about being ready for life before Jesus comes. Jesus explains that there are **10 tests** of being ready for Christ's return. It's a period time that is described in verse 29 as "the tribulation of those days" or that time period, that age. This age of grace, this age of the New Covenant in Christ is very tumultuous. Jesus is giving training for all of us here today. Listen closely so that we can live godly!

### Structure of the Passage

So before we read, I want you to see the structure of the passage. Three words: living, appearing, and waiting for the Second Coming.

- **LIVING**. In **verses 4-28**, **Jesus lists 10 CHARACTERISTICS** of life before He comes again.
- **APPEARING**. And then **verses 29-31** describe Jesus' Second coming, the glorious **APPEARING** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **WAITING**. Then in the rest of **Mt 24:45-51 and all of Mt 25** we have 3 three parables and a prophecy of the final judgement that tell us **HOW TO WAIT** for the Second Coming.

### "These Days," Last Days, New Covenant Days

Also, there is a key "word marker in this passage that will help you understand. Jesus talks about "these days" and he's talking about the entire New Covenant period. So when we read this passage lets be aware of that.

This is one of the most exciting passages of Scripture in Jesus' teaching. I'm excited and ready to read it, aren't you? Let's read it now!

### Holy Scripture

Matthew 24:1-31, "Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup>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."

<sup>3</sup> 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?"

<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the **Christ**,' and **they will lead many astray.** <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> "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. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in **those days!** <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

<sup>22</sup> And if **those days** had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect **those days** will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

<sup>29</sup> "**Immediately after the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

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## THE SHOCKING PREDICTION

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### The Context

Mt 23:1-2, "Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> 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."

## Jesus Left the Temple

“Jesus had spent all day Tuesday of Passover week in **the temple**, giving His last public teaching and pronouncing His final and most intense judgment on the false religious leaders and on the nation of Israel. Now He **was going away** to the Mount of Olives to be alone with **His disciples**.”<sup>2</sup>

## Jesus’ Final Ichabod – the Glory has Departed!

Jesus’ *leaving the temple* seems to symbolize the final “ichabod” on the Old Testament system. This is the signal, the harbinger, that the old covenant is (as Hebrews says): now “obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away” (Heb 8:13).

There is a surprising and fascinating parallel between Jesus leaving the Temple to go the Mount of Olives and give the Olivet Discourse. It seems to be “a further echo of **Ezekiel 11:23**, where ‘the glory of the LORD’, on leaving the temple, stops at the same point “on the mountain that is on the east side of the city” – the Mount of Olives.<sup>3</sup> Hence, it is called the “Olivet Discourse.”

## The Buildings of the Temple

The disciples were fascinated with the architecture of Herod’s Temple. They believed the Temple was indestructible. “Mark says they urged him to look at the “massive stones” and “magnificent buildings” (Mark 13:1). The temple was indeed spectacular. With polished limestone walls, sheathed (in places) in gold leaf that glistened in the sun, it was the architectural wonder of the region.<sup>4</sup>

As we look at **Matthew 24**, and it is still Tuesday before the Lord’s death on Friday and Jesus is leaving the Temple in Jerusalem with Peter, Andrew, James, and John. As they leave the city, one of the disciples commented to Jesus as to how beautiful and magnificent the Jewish temple was. And it was, by all accounts, a magnificent structure.

**Tacitus**, a Roman historian, said that the temple was a place of immense wealth.

It must have been a truly *awesome sight*. Now while the disciples were in awe over the magnificence of the temple, Jesus told them that it would eventually be overthrown and completely torn down. And within 40 years later, in AD 70, that’s exactly what happened. The Romans surrounded the city, overran it, and tore down the temple leaving it in a heap of rubble.

## Jesus’ Prediction

Jesus begins by predicting something completely shocking – something “totally inconceivable at the time—the greatest architectural wonder in the Middle East will one day be entirely flattened and wrecked.”<sup>5</sup>

The disciples believe that the destruction of the Temple will signal Jesus’ Second coming, but Jesus is going to let them know that these are two separate events.

Of course, the “disciples do not yet recognize this – ... scarcely imagining that one could occur without the other.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 24:1). Chicago: Moody Press.

<sup>3</sup> France, R. T. (1985). *Matthew: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 339). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>4</sup> Doriani, D. M. (2008). *Matthew & 2*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (Vol. 2, p. 349). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

<sup>5</sup> Blomberg, C. (1992). *Matthew* (Vol. 22, pp. 352–353). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

In **Mark 13:4** the aim of the question is recorded more clearly. The disciples believed that the Destruction of the Temple and the coming of Christ would happen at the same time. Jesus is going to say in this passage, in fact, that that's not true. They are not the same event.

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## THE VITAL QUESTIONS

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### Three Questions

**Mt 23:3**, "As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, **when** will these things be [*destruction of the Temple*], and **what** will be the sign of your **coming** and of the **end** of the age?'"

Almost certainly in their minds – the destruction of the temple, the coming of the Lord, and the end of the age are all roughly at the same time. For them, it's all the same question. The disciples believe three events:

- The destruction of the Temple
- The coming of Christ
- The end of time as we know it

In their minds, the disciples believed **these three events all occur at the same time**. In their minds, they were asking the same question three different ways.

In other words, the disciples were not at all clear in their own minds as to how the events of Jesus' coming would take place. Jesus answers their questions, but lays out a time period he calls the time of the "birth pains."

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## THE BIRTH PAINS ILLUSTRATION

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### A Time of Birth Pains: Marks of the New Covenant Age

Jesus here in verses 4-28 is going to give them clarity that they did not have at this time. He's going to tell them of a time of "birth pains" before His Second coming. In verses 4-7 Jesus describes what is going to occur in the time period before He comes again in glory. Verse 8 is a key verse in understanding what Jesus is saying. Jesus says in Mt 24:8, "All these are but the beginning of the birth pains."

Jesus describes the birth pains before His Second Coming. Just as a woman has horrible labor pains before delivering the beautiful child, so Jesus says there are horrible labor pains that come before Him making the earth new again in His Second Coming. Jesus says there will be 10 labor pains, or 10 characteristics of the New Covenant age before he comes.

### The Entire World Groans!

The whole earth groans in labor pains for the birth of the new creation in the Second coming! **Romans 8:18-19, 21-23**, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God."

Look at verse 21, “...the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

### Outline

So in verses 4-28, Jesus gives us 10 labor pains that characterize this New Covenant Era. In our lives before the Second coming, we need to be ready for...

1. false teachers and false christs (vs. 4-5, 11, 23-26),
2. international rivalries (“kingdom against kingdom”), “wars and rumors of wars” (vs. 6-8),
3. persecution of the church (vs. 9),
4. a falling away of some who profess Christ (vs. 10-11),
5. a time when lawlessness and wickedness increases in society (vs. 12),
6. a time when “the love of many will grow cold” (vs. 12), - Christ is heaven now!
7. Christians to endure (vs. 13).
8. the worldwide preaching of the Gospel (vs. 14),
9. the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (vs. 15-21), and
10. a time of danger and peril (vs. 22)

Jesus says in Mt 24:8, “All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.” In other words, these are the characteristics that describe the new covenant age. This era will be marked by these things.

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### THE COMING OF JESUS WILL BE OBVIOUS!

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**Mt 23:27-28**, “For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

You may ask – “But when will the Second coming be?” Many have tried to predict the date through the centuries. When Jesus comes it will be as obvious as the lightning that flashes in the sky. It will be obvious to all. And it will be as easily identifiable as a dead body being eaten by vultures.

When will we know? You will know when He comes and not a second before. Jesus tells us all these signs that we will not be alarmed.

### Don't Be Alarmed: **Be READY!**

He says in **Mt 24:5**, “**See that you are not alarmed**, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.” These are things that are characteristic of the entire new covenant age. It's going to be a difficult time, so don't be surprised! Don't be alarmed! These things must take place. They don't signify the end is near, for Jesus could come at any moment. His return is imminent – He could come at any moment. Paul and the first Christians expected Him to come in their generation. Every generation experiences all these things.

All these things “must take place, but the end is not yet” (vs. 5).

What Jesus says is that there will be a delay – a time of birth pains that will occur before He comes. Now the disciples did not know how long it would be. The things he talked about would begin to happen within one generation. In fact, the sharpest birth pain, the destruction of the Temple would occur within one generation (40 years) of those listening to Jesus.

### **Be Ready: NT theme!**

In the New Testament, we are constantly told that we are to be ready for Christ’s coming at any time. So I’m going to say several Bible verses and after each one I want to shout: “Be Ready!”

Jesus says, **Mark 13:33**, “Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time [of the Second coming] will come.” **Be ready!**

Peter says (**1 Peter 4:7**), “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.” **Be ready!**

Jesus says (**Mt 24:42**), “Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” **Be ready!**

Paul says (**1 Thes 5:2**), “For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.” **Be ready!**

John says (**1 Jn 3:2**), “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” **Be ready!**

## **I. Be ready for man-centered teachers and false christ, (vs. 4-5, 11, 23-26).**

Now this is the only mark that is mentioned three times. It saturates the entire passage. Theologians call this inclusio.

**Mt 24:4-5**, “And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.”

**Mt 24:11**, “And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray

**Mt 24:23-26**, “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. <sup>24</sup>For false christ and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup>See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup>So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”

### **Man-Centered Ministries**

The first sign of the New Covenant age is man-centered ministries. False teachers will come in the Christ’s name deceiving many. Some will even claim to be the Christ. This has been true through the ages. Sadly, it’s true in recent days. As we come to the end of the age, we must be careful that we don’t get caught up in men and movements, but we keep our focus on walking with Christ.

### **Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing**

“The pages of history are filled with the tragic stories of false messiahs, false prophets, and

their enthusiastic but deluded disciples.”<sup>7</sup> We must always be on guard. We must not ultimately be led by men, but by Christ. There is a delicate balance.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 7:21-23**, that there will be many false teachers who do miracles and proclaim to know Christ as Lord, but Jesus does not know them.

He says in **Mt 7:15**, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

### Know the By Their Fruits

But these wolves will be exposed at the Last Judgement when Christ comes. He says in **Mt 7:19-20**, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”<sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

They are lawless, man-centered deceivers and entertainers whose focus is not *HOLINESS* but rather *HUMAN COMFORT*.

We read in **Mt 7:22-23**, “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’”<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

### Paul’s Warnings of False Teachers

As we look toward the end, we must be so careful that we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, and not the power of some “cult of personality. There is an addiction among the masses to the “cult of personality”.

- Paul said in **2 Tim. 4:3**, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.”
- Paul said, “...our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive” (**1 Thess. 2:3**).

### Old Testament Leaders vs. New Testament Believers

We also must understand that every false christ is not claiming to be a reincarnation of the historical Jesus Christ like the “so-called” Rev. Sun Myung Moon (Unification “church”) who claims to be sinless, he claims to have more wisdom than Jesus, and he has often said that he is greater than Jesus.

The word “christ” simply means “anointed one.” So let us consider a bit of Biblical theology. In the Old Testament, with a few exceptions, the people who were anointed with the Holy Spirit were the leaders: the prophets, the priests, and the kings.

But in the New Covenant, everyone is anointed. At Pentecost (as predicted in Joel 2) everyone is anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:17-18**, “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”

<sup>7</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Mk 13:5). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.



### All Christians Have the Anointing

It is such that St. John can say in **1 Jn 2:27**, “... the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.”

John is not saying that no teachers are needed, for obviously he is teaching them! But he is saying there is a special distinction for believers in the New Covenant era. They are all anointed as the prophets, priests, and kings of Israel of old.

### Difference of Anointing is Gifting, not Quality

There is no qualitative difference between the leaders of Israel and New Covenant believers. The difference lies in gifting and placement in the Body of Christ.

So then, people with administrative gifts in the Body have the same power and anointing as people with preaching and teaching and prophetic gifts. There is NO QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE between believers.

In the weeks to come, we will cover...

## II. Be ready for **international rivalries & disasters**, (vs. 6-8).

**Matthew 24:6-8**, “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. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.”

## III. Be ready for **persecution of the church**, (vs. 9).

**Mt 23:9**, “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.”

## IV. Be ready for **a falling away of false converts**, (vs. 10).

**Mt 23:10**, “And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.”

## V. Be ready for **lawlessness to increase**, (vs. 12).

**Mt 23:12**, “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

## VI. Be ready for **love to grow cold**, (vs. 12).

**Mt 23:12**, “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

## VII. Be ready for **Christians to endure**, (vs. 13).

**Mt 23:13**, “But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

## VIII. Be ready for **the worldwide preaching of the Gospel**, (vs. 14).

**Mt 23:14**, “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.”

## **IX. Be ready for the destruction fo the Temple**, (vs. 15-21).

**Mt 23:15-21**, “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.”

## **X. Be ready for a time of danger and peril**, (vs. 22).

**Mt 23:22**, “And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

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### CONCULSION

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#### **Living as a Foreigner (Betty Marmoody)**

Bartzog and Betty Marmoody were married and had a little daughter named Martob. Bartzog’s nickname was “Moody”. He was a successful doctor—they lived in Michigan.

The family traveled to Iran in August 1984 for what Moody said would to be a two-week visit with his family in Tehran. Once the two weeks were over, however, he refused to allow his wife and child to leave. Betty and her daughter became trapped in a culture hostile to Americans, a family hostile to her, and an abusive husband. Betty’s husband separated her from her daughter for weeks on end. He also beat her and threatened to kill her if she tried to leave.

She would not eat and struggled until finally she said she decided to go along with her environment carefully waiting for an opportunity to escape. Even though on the outside she did what she had to in order to get along, she was always longing for home, waiting for that moment when she would leave.

She eventually fled with her daughter with the help of various locals throughout Iran and Turkey through hundreds of miles of dangerous country, sometimes in car, on foot, and on horseback.

Though Betty had to live in a foreign land for a time, she was never at home.

#### **We Live as Foreigners as Christians**

We are “strangers and pilgrims” sojourning on this earth (**Heb 11:13**). This present evil world is not our final home. “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil 3:20).

Jesus is coming again! Christians are persevering and watching and waiting for Him to come at any moment!