

# The Coming of the End of the Age

## Matthew 24:4-14

Introduction:

There is a great value in studying the prophecies of the end time.

What value is there?

**The importance of studying prophecy is so that we will not be led astray by following false prophets and false individuals who claim to be Christ.**

Their value is not in trying to figure out the date of Christ's return.

Matthew 24:35 (ESV) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Matthew 24:36 (ESV) But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

There needs to be a great deal of humility in approaching the prophetic portions of Scripture.

The occasion for Christ's teaching concerning His return and the end of the age was His teaching regarding the destruction of the temple.

Matthew 24:1 (ESV) Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.

Matthew 24:2 (ESV) 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."

The disciples having heard that the temple would be destroyed had a question(s) for Jesus.

Matthew 24:3 (ESV) 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?"

How are we to understand the disciples' question? Were they asking about one event, two events or three events?

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What are the three events?

The destruction of the temple

Christ's coming

The end of the age.

All these events are closely connected. How closely connected are they in time?

The significance, purpose or aim of Jesus' response was to keep His disciples from being led astray by false Christs and prophets that arise in association with these events.

Key Verse Matthew 24:4 (ESV) And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.

The need: Many people will come declaring that they are the Christ.

Matthew 24:5 (ESV) For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

The result: Many will be led astray to follow these false Christs.

Matthew 24:5 (ESV) For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

The disciples understand and believe that Jesus is the true Christ.

Matthew 24:3 (ESV) 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?"

I. Before the end of the age many false Christs will have appeared.

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II. Before the end of the age there will be numerous wars.

Matthew 24:6 (ESV) 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.**

A. There is a connection between war and the destruction of the temple.

Daniel 9:24 (ESV) "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:25 (ESV) Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

Daniel 9:26 (ESV) And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

- B. That is why when Jesus speaks of the destruction of the temple in verses 1 and 2 that the disciples raise the question concerning Christ's return and the destruction of the temple.

Matthew 24:1 (ESV) Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.

Matthew 24:2 (ESV) 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."

Matthew 24:3 (ESV) 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?"

- C. This was all preparatory for and relevant to the temple's destruction and the overthrow of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- D. Significant wars have raised questions throughout the ages as to whether or not this is the time of Christ's coming.
1. This was especially true in our history with the coming of world wars I and II. Prophecy conferences were the rage.
  2. This is also true whenever there is a war involving Israel.
  3. The point of knowing this is to be on the alert for it as at such times that false prophets and Christs abound.

- III. Before the end comes there will be natural catastrophes.

Matthew 24:7 (ESV) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

This is just the beginning not the end.

Matthew 24:8 (ESV) All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 (ESV) **While people are saying, “There is peace and security,”** then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

IV. Before the end of the age there will be persecution.

A. Christ’s followers will experience affliction.

Matthew 24:9 (ESV) “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.”

B. Christ’s followers will experience death.

Matthew 24:9 (ESV) “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.”

C. Christ’s followers will experience persecution throughout the world.

Matthew 24:9 (ESV) “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.”

V. Before the end of the age many professing faith in Christ will fall away from the true faith.

A. Many will depart from the true faith in Christ.

Matthew 24:10 (ESV) And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

B. Those who fall away from the true faith will deliver the faithful over to the persecutors.

Matthew 24:10 (ESV) And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

C. Those who fall away from the true faith will hate those who remain faithful to the faith.

Matthew 24:10 (ESV) And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

- VI. Before the end of the age there will be many false prophets who will be successful in drawing many to themselves.

Matthew 24:11 (ESV) And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

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- VII. Before the end comes sinfulness will abound resulting in many losing fervor in their love for God and each other.

Matthew 24:12 (ESV) And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

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- VIII. Before the end comes there will still be a faithful remnant who will be “saved.”

Matthew 24:13 (ESV) But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:22 (ESV) 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.

Romans 8:35 (ESV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:36 (ESV) As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Romans 8:37 (ESV) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:38 (ESV) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

Romans 8:39 (ESV) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- IX. Before the end comes the gospel will be preached to all ethnic groups.

Matthew 24:14 (ESV) 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.

2 Pet 3:12 (NASB) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

- X. Then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14 (ESV) 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.

- XI. **Before the end comes the true Christ will have come.**

Matthew 24:30 (ESV) 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.

Matthew 24:4 (ESV) And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray.

Matthew 24:5 (ESV) For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

- XII. Conclusion:

How do we know when the true Christ has come?

