

The Lord's Coming In Matthew 24

Matt. 24:29-31

Introduction:

- A. Popular chapter during natural disasters and international tension.
- B. Often applied to the second coming of Christ.
 - 1. Religious sensationalists do it for own profit.
 - 2. Raises false expectations and disillusionment with Christianity.
 - 3. Gives agnostics and skeptics ammunition. (cf. Deut. 18:21-22).
 - 4. "Signs" repeated in nearly every generation in history.
- C. Good *reasons* to apply it to the Lord's coming in judgement against Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Discussion:

II. The Question Asked With Its Context. (vv. 1-3; Mk. 13:1-4; Lk. 21:5-7)

III. The Flexibility Of The Language.

- A. "End of world (age)" (v. 3; cf. Heb. 9:26; 1 Cor. 10:11).
- B. "Coming of Son of man" (vv. 27,30 cf. Mt. 16:28; Rev. 2:5, 16, 3:3).
- C. "Sun..darkened, and moon..." (v. 29,39) — Used of fall of nations.
 - 1. Babylon. (Is. 13:1, 6-10, 17-19).
 - 2. Egypt. (Ezek. 32:2,7-8).
 - 3. Fall of Israel. (Joel 2:30,31).

IV. The Geography Mentioned. (v. 16; Lk. 21:20,21,24; Mk. 13:14).

V. The Warning To Flee (vv. 15-21; Lk. 21:20-24).

VI. The Testimony Of Historians — Divine and Secular.

- A. Signs. (vv. 4-8; Lk. 21:10-13)—Confirmed by Josephus in *Wars Of The Jews*.
- B. Apostles persecuted. (v. 9; cf. Mk. 13:9-13).
- C. False prophets. (v. 11; cf. 1 John 4:1).
- D. Gospel to world. (v. 14; cf. Col. 1:5-6,23).
- E. Christians are spared (v. 13; Lk. 21:18-19) — Confirmed by Eusebius p. 86)
- F. Roman siege (Lk. 21:20,21)
- G. Days shortened (Matt. 24:22)
 - 1. Titus planned to starve Jews out with siege.
 - 2. Provoked by Jews, stormed city instead—shorting the days.
 - 3. Over million perished and 97,000 captives.

Conclusion:

- 1. Parable of fig tree. (vv. 32-33)
- 2. "This generation..." (vv. 34-35) — It has been fulfilled.
- 3. "The day of the Lord will come..." (2 Pet. 3:10-14).