

## **MATTHEW 24**

### **JESUS GIVES US THE OVERVIEW OF ENDTIME EVENTS**

[Moerewa CF – 24-26/6/2003 - EKB]

**For many people, their expectation of the future determines how they live in the present,.**

*Mat 24:1* Jesus' disciples drew His attention to the Temple in Jerusalem.

*Mat 24:2* Jesus said, "Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

*Mat 24:3* Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked:

a. "When shall these things be?" i.e. the Temple be destroyed?

b. "What shall be the sign of Your Coming and the end of **the age**?" (not the "world").

(The disciples probably thought these two, [a & b], happened together. The temple was the centre of life for the Jew. Its destruction would mean the end of everything.)

These questions indicate that in Jesus' answer, He refers to the Jerusalem of His day and its destruction in 70 AD, and to the events surrounding His Second Coming, the "parousia". As we read *Mat 24*, *Mk 13*, *Lk 21*, (parallel passages in the Gospels), these two aspects overlap, the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and the Second Coming at the end of this age.

*Mat 24:4,5* Beware of deception, especially as the Second Coming gets closer, *Lk 21:8*.

*Mat 24:6* This age, (the Cross to the Second Coming), experiences many wars.

*Mat 24:7* There will be wars, famines, plagues and earthquakes, *Lk 21:10,11*.

*Mat 24:8* **These are the beginning of the labour pains of the birth of the new age, which is the Kingdom and Rule of God over the earth.**

*Mat 24:9* Persecution of believers for His Name's sake, *Lk 21:12-17*.

*Mat 24:10* Many Christians fall away from Christ.

*Mat 24:11* False prophets arise and deceive many.

*Mat 24:12* Because of sin, the love of many will grow cold.

*Mat 24:13* But those who endure to the end will be saved, *Lk 21:19*. ( See Amp. V. )

### **THE SIGN OF THE LORD'S RETURN AND THE END OF THE AGE.**

*Mat 24:14* **This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations AND THEN THE END SHALL COME.**

(This is the answer to question "b" above. )

*Mat 24:15-20* Refers **firstly to the literal destruction of the Jerusalem of Jesus' day** in AD 70, by the Roman army under Vespasian and then Titus. More detail given in *Lk 21:20-24*. Vespasian was besieging Jerusalem when he was recalled to Rome to become Emperor. Later Titus returned to continue the siege. Between these two sieges the believers fled from the city.

From AD 70 Jerusalem has been under Gentile control. In the six day war, AD 1967, the Jews took back most of Jerusalem, but the Temple Mount is still under Gentile control. *Lk 21:24* says that Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. The Islamic Mosque of Omar occupies the Temple Mount at the present.

**But also this refers to the Antichrist, the abomination which makes desolate,** *Dan 11:31, Dan 12:11, Dan 7:11,20,25, Dan 8:9,11*, at the end of this age, *Rev 13:5-8*.

*Mat 24:21-28* This passage refers to events in the final end time great tribulation rather than to the events in the fall of Jerusalem of Jesus' day.

The tribulation is a period of 1260 days, 42 months, time, times and half a time or three and a half years, *Rev 11:2,3, Rev 12:6,14, Rev 13:5, Dan 12:7, Dan 7:25*. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> seal of *Rev 6:9-11*.

*Mat 24:29* **Immediately after the tribulation** there will be the sun, moon and stars signs, *Lk 21:25*. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> seal of *Rev 6:12-14*.

*Mat 24:30* After the signs in the sun, moon and stars, the sign of the Coming of the Son of Man will appear in the heaven, *Rev 6:15-17*. The tribes of the earth shall mourn. They will hide in the caves and the rocks from the face of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. *Rev 6:15-17, Rev 1:7, Dan 7:13*. The wrath of the Lamb is given in detail in chapters *Rev 8-11 & 15,16*.

*Mat 24:31* **The Resurrection of all believers.** Before the wrath of God falls, the angels of God gather God's elect to Him, *Mk 13:27, 1Thes 4:13-18*. This will be with a great sound of a trumpet, *1Thes 5:9*. **This is the resurrection of all believers at the Coming of Christ.**

**Please note:**

**There is no rapture or resurrection of the saints before the tribulation,** as some teach. In the Bible we have an overcoming doctrine not an escape doctrine. *Lk 21:19,36*

**There is only one resurrection of the believers, at the end of this church age, which is after the tribulation, when the Lord returns, and before God's wrath is poured out.** *Mat 24:30, Dan 7:13, Rev 1:7, 1Thes 4:16, 1Thes 5:9*.

**The tribulation is three and a half years of trouble caused by the antichrist who opposes all who serve God,** *Dan 7:21,25, Rev 13:7, Mat 24:21-29, Rev 11:2,3, 12:6,14, 13:5* .

**The wrath is trouble caused by God** as He punishes the wicked, *Rev 6:15-17*, chapters *Rev 8,9,10,11,15,16, (1Thes 5:9)*.

The rule of the antichrist is **not absolute**, *Dan 11:40,41, Rev 16:12, Rev 12:6,14, Rev 3:10, Lk 21:36*. “**All the world**” often means all the region of the old Roman Empire, *Lk 2:1, Rom 1:8, Col 1:23*. This is the region of the end time 10 nation antichrist kingdom, *Dan 2:41-44, Rev 13:1*.

The image of *Daniel 2* had two legs of iron. This indicated that the Kingdom of Rome would be divided and have two capitals and two emperors. The two capitals were Rome and Constantinople, *Dan 2:33*.

The final 10 nation antichrist kingdom, *Dan 2:42-44, Dan 7:20,21, Rev 13:1*, will cover the same region and include nations in western Europe and the eastern side around Turkey. The present EEC is developing in this direction.

*Dan 8:8-12* indicates that the antichrist will come from one of the nations in the eastern side, (Macedon – Northern Greece, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, *Dan 8:8*).

Because Antiochus Epihanes Deus II, about 169 BC, who was a famous type of the antichrist, came from Syria, it is thought that the coming antichrist may also come from Syria.

### **The Sequence of Events**

**Nation of Israel Restored** – *Jer 16:15, Jer 23:3, Ezk 11:17, Ezk 28:25*

1914	Balfour Declaration to set up State of Israel
1948	State of Israel created, (May 14 <sup>th</sup> ).
1967	6 day war (“Six days we fight, the seventh day we rest”).
1970	Yom Kippur war.

**10 Nation European Confederation is being formed now** – as the E.E.C. based on the Treaty of Rome.

**Final 10 Nation Confederation**, yet to be fully established. This will occupy the region of the former Roman Empire. *Dan 2:42-44, Dan 7:20,21, Rev 13:1*.

**One of these 10 leaders becomes the Antichrist.** *Dan 7:20,21,23-25, Dan 7:8, Dan 8:9-12, 2Thes 2:1-4, Rev 13:1f, Mat 24:15*. His rule is not universally absolute. *Dan 11:40,41, Rev 16:12, Rev 12:6,14*.

**The Tribulation period** of three and a half years, *Mat 24:21-29*, is mainly against Israel, but all the world is affected. *Rev 11:2,3, Rev 12:6,14, Rev 13:5, Dan 7:21,25, Dan 12:7*.

**Christ’s Second Coming**, *Mat 24:27,30, Lk 17:24-30, 1Thes 4:16, Dan 7:13,14*.

**The Saints are raised up to be with Him – the Resurrection**, *1Thes 4:13-18, Mat 24:31, 1Cor 15:50-54, Mk 13:27*.

**The wrath and judgment of God poured out.** *Rev 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16*. (7 trumpets & 7 vials).

**Marriage Supper of the Lamb.** *Rev 19:6-9*. This occurs during the time of God’s wrath.

**The Judgment of the saints for rewards.** *Rev 11:18, Mat 25:14-30, 1Cor 3:8,14.*

**The Judgment of the Nations,** *Mat 25:31-46.* Christ separates the nations into the sheep or goat nations, based on the way they have treated the brethren of Jesus, Israel and the Church.

**The Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth** for 1000years, *Rev 20:6, Lk 19:17, Zech 14:16,17.*