

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Matthew 24:34-44](#).
- B. Two Sundays ago I preached a sermon on the coming of Christ from the letter of 2Peter. I hinted that if possible I would preach a lesson on Matthew 24. Such a request has been made.
- C. We hear a great deal today on the religious airwaves about the signs of the end of time. One of the great proof texts used in showing there will be signs at the end of time is Matthew 24.
- D. It is my belief that Mt. 24 teaches no such thing, in fact will teach just the opposite when studied. Tonight's lesson is a brief look at some of the things found in Matthew 24.

I. WILLIAM MILLER, FALSE PROPHET OF THE SECOND COMING.

- A. Read from V.E. Howard's booklet, pages 5-7.
- B. This is but one example of many, from people who believe that they can calculate the Lord's return.

II. A SHORT LOOK AT MATTHEW 24.

- A. First, let us look at the context of which Jesus delivered this most interesting discourse (Mt. 23:34-39).
- B. In the above passage Jesus says the following;
 - 1. The Jews will suffer the punishment for the shedding of innocent blood.
 - 2. It will take place in this (that) generation.
 - 3. Jesus will destroy the temple (or house) of the Jews.
- C. Now we can better understand as to why Peter, James, John, and Andrew ask Jesus about this statement made in Mt. 24:1-3. They ask three questions:
 - 1. When will these things take place (the destruction of the temple).
 - 2. What will be the sign of Your coming.
 - 3. What is the sign of the end of the age.
- D. The rest of Mt. 24 is Jesus' answer to these three questions. Jesus answers the first two in 24:3-34, and the last question in 24:35-51 and into chapter 25.

III. JESUS ANSWER TO THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS.

- A. Here are the first two questions:
 - 1. When will these things take place?
 - 2. What will be the sign of Your coming?
- B. Verses 3-34 answer these questions. Look closely at the wording of "these things" in 24:3 and 24:34. This proves that Jesus is discussing the destruction of Jerusalem in answer to the first question.
- C. Within the answer to the first question Jesus tells about the sign of the coming of the Son of Man (see 24:29,30) and thus answers the second question.
- D. Interesting verses that could not point to the end of time are; 24:16, 24:19,20 and especially 24:15 in light of Lk. 21:20-24; and Dan. 9:27.
- E. "Within that generation" shows the signs happening did not refer to the end of time (24:6-8, 34).
- F. The sign of His coming would be His coming to destroy the temple not His final coming! Remember the question Jesus is answering!
- G. Jesus' coming is a figurative one, and by the hands of the Gentiles He is going to do it (Lk. 21:20-24).

IV. JESUS' ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION.

- A. Now that Jesus has said that the things to take place (the destruction of the temple) and the sign of His coming to do it would take place in that present generation of Jews, He can now answer the third question about the end of the age.

- B. This answer begins in 24:35 and is expounded upon in a series of parables through chapter 25. Only the Father knows and there will be no signs of His coming:
1. The parallel teaching of in the days of Noah (Mt. 24:37-44).
 2. The parable of the master and his servants (Mt. 24:45-51; esp. v48).
 3. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins (Mt. 25:1-13; esp. v5).
 4. The parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-30; esp. v19).
 5. The teaching on the return of Christ (Mt. 25:31-46).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Paul, Peter, and John say that Jesus will come as a thief in the night. There will be no warning signs (1Th. 5:1,2; 2Pet. 2 :10; Rev. 16:15).
- B. Only God knows when Jesus will return, the rest is false doctrine.
- C. Are you ready for that return?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.