

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 23:29-39**.
- B. This is the third in a four part series to be given on Sunday nights concerning Jesus' second coming and the end of time as we know it. This series is by way of reminder and information.
- C. Sermon topics to be discussed are;
 - 1. Part 1 — The Second Coming of X.
 - 2. Part 2 - The Great Final Day (Resurrection & Judgment).
 - 3. Part 3 - The Prophecies of Matthew 24.
 - 4. Part 4 - The Error of Premillennialism.
- D. Tonight, Part 3 — The Prophecies of Matthew 24.

I. BRIEF REVIEW.

- A. In Part 1, we discussed that over 300 references are found in the NT about Jesus' second coming.
- B. Many things as we know them will come to an end; and no one knows the time of Jesus' coming.
- C. In Part 2, we discussed several passages which tell us what will happen on the great final day.
- D. The resurrection of all souls (good and bad) will take place and the eternal judgment of all souls will be carried out.

II. MATTHEW 24 AND THE END OF THE WORLD.

- A. Many Bible teachers and preachers have used Mt. chapter 24 to show the signs they think will take place before Jesus comes again.
- B. Such notables as Judge Rutherford (a Jehovah Witness), Billy Graham, and Hal Lindsay have used Matthew 24 to prove their theories as to what will happen at the end of time.
- C. Our study is to examine Mt. 24 and see if the Bible teaches there will be signs of the end of time.
- D. If you have not already done so please open your NT to Mt. 23:29. We shall begin there.

III. A SHORT EXPLANATION OF MATTHEW 23:29-24:44.

- A. This passage of scripture (23:29-24:44) can be divided up into 10 sections of similar thoughts. Tonight, I want to quickly go through this passage denoting what it does say and what it does not say.
- B. Matthew 23:29-24:2:
 - 1. Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees of His day and what will happen to the Israelites who are alive in the first century.
 - 2. "This generation" is important for it is the same generation spoken of in Matthew 24.
- C. Matthew 24:3:
 - 1. The apostles ask three questions (two questions are recorded by Mark and Luke):
 - 2. These questions are:
 - a. When will the items of destruction come?
 - b. What will be the sign of your coming?
 - c. When is the end of the age?
- D. Matthew 24:34:
 - 1. We glance ahead to realize that Jesus concludes some of His remarks and says that the things previously mentioned in Mt. 24 will take place in His generation.
 - 2. The items spoken of before 24:34 will take place in the generation of the Pharisees--not at some future time period.
- E. Matthew 24:4-14:
 - 1. Within this section Jesus mentions things that might be seen as signs of the end, but are not.

2. Therefore, do not be misled by false prophets and teachers who will use such to make followers of themselves.
- F. Matthew 24:15:
1. Here is the real sign of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem that Jesus gives and it is in accordance with Daniel's 70 weeks (see Dan. 9).
 2. Luke says more specifically that the "abomination of desolation" is when the armies surround Jerusalem (Lk. 21:20). Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by Titus in 70AD perfectly fulfilling the prophecies of Jesus and Daniel.
- G. Matthew 24:16-20:
1. These instructions only make sense if viewed as given to those in the first century to escape the destruction of Jerusalem.
 2. Without getting into some of the absurd details of Hal Lindsay's view, Lindsay completely contradicts Daniel's prophecy. (More next week on Daniel's 70 weeks).
- H. Matthew 24:21-28:
1. The destruction is terrible. Some think as many as 1,000,000 people died. The apostles are not to be misled by those who think that Jesus will come again secretly.
 2. But the death sentence has been passed on Israel (from 23:38) and Jesus issues a proverb in 24:28.
- I. Matthew 24:29-31:
1. This is figurative language, used by Isaiah, Joel, and John in the Revelation, concerning the fall of a great nation. So it is with this fall of the Jewish nation.
 2. The sign of the Son of Man coming is not the literal Jesus returning a second time, but Jesus figuratively returns to judge and destroy Israel (see Mt. 26:64).
 3. Now the gospel can be preached by Xians all over the world; free from the problems of Israel.
- J. Matthew 24:32-25:
1. Jesus has answered their questions. Wars, rumors of wars, famine and earthquake are not the sign of the end, but the armies surrounding Jerusalem is! So just learn as you do from the fig tree that summer is here, learn from the surrounding armies that the end of Jerusalem and the temple is near.
 2. Here again in 24:34 Jesus says this destruction will take place within 40 years of the speaking of Jesus' words.
- K. Matthew 24:36-40:
1. Jesus changes subjects here. First instead of "these days" He speaks of "the day" and we see secondly that in 24:36 He uses the word "but" contrasting what He is about to say with what He has already said. He is now speaking of the final day.
 2. Verse 34 is the ending point for Jesus' discussion of the coming destruction of Jerusalem.
 3. In the remainder of the narrative Jesus speaks of the end of the age or world and helps us to be prepared since there will be no signs.
- L. Matthew 24:41-25:46:
1. Look at all the warnings given by Jesus about the end of the world and how there are no signs of it to give warning.
 2. No one knows the time:
 - a. As in the days of Noah (24:38-42).
 - b. As the head of household who had been robbed (24:43 ,44).
 - c. As the unfaithful servant when the master returns (24:45-51).
 - d. As the foolish virgins were not ready (25:1-13).
 - e. As the parable of the talents condemns the lazy slave (25:14-30).
 - f. As we picture the judgment scene itself (25:31-46).

CONCLUSION.

- A. Jesus could not have made it any clearer than what He did.
- B. Wars, rumors of wars, famine, earthquakes and false X's are not signs of the end of the world, nor of the destruction of Jerusalem!
- C. Only the "abomination of desolation" which according to Luke was the surrounding of Jerusalem by the Roman army was a sign of the impending destruction of the city and temple. And even this was not a sign of the end of the world.
- D. The destruction of the temple in Jerusalem would take place in the generation of the Pharisees Jesus was speaking to.
- E. Of the end of the world, there will be no warning.

INVITATION.

- A. In our last and final lesson we shall discuss the false theory of premillennialism which distorts many things about the end of time.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.