

Matthew 24:1-14

As we get started back with our study of Matthew's Gospel, might I remind you of where we left off in chapter twenty-three. It's the last time we see Jesus' clashing with the religious leaders of His day. Matthew twenty-three records Jesus warning the crowds about the dangers associated with the scribes and Pharisees. After warning the people, He then pronounced seven woes upon the scribes and Pharisees. Twenty-three concludes with Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem and with Him ending His public ministry.

Over the next few weeks, we will look at the last of three major discourses found in Matthew. Chapters 24 and 25 are commonly referred to as the Olivet Discourse. In them, you will see the disciples questioning Jesus about eschatological things and about His second coming. Jesus, in a drop-the-mike moment had just denounced the religious leaders, turned His back on Jerusalem because of their hard heartedness, and told the disciples that their temple was to be left desolate.

Remember, the disciples were like all other Jews, expecting a warrior King that would come in and free them once and for all. However, Jesus had just told them that His Kingship was delayed until a later date. Like many of us would have been, the disciples were confused and wanted to know when these things would take place. Are there future things concerning God that you wish He would give you some insight into. Big things? Kingdom things?

The first question they had was "when will these things be?" Matthew doesn't really record the answer though because His Gospel is focused more on things to come. He wanted his gospel to present Jesus as King. To find the true answer to their first question, we must go to Luke's account. **Read Luke 21:20-24.**

When was the temple that Jesus was referring destroyed? In 70 A.D. by Titus the Roman. Can you imagine the look on the early Christians faces when this destruction occurred?

In verses 3-13 who is Jesus speaking about? He is speaking to the Jewish nation and not to the gentiles. Why? Because these events, the end of day's events, the tribulations are reserved for the nation of Israel after the end of the church age. If you recall our Revelation study, the first half of the seven years will be filled with false prophets and deceptiveness. This is what Jesus is referencing here.