

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 24

Prerequisite Principles

- **Never assume you understand Bible prophecy.**
- **Often, our motives for studying Bible prophecy are tainted by ...**
 - Fear
 - Anger
 - Pride
 - Desire for power
- **We are confined in time. God is not.**
- **Bible prophecy has two overarching themes:**
 - There will be a period of great darkness followed by a time of great light. *(Daniel 7:11-14)*
 - Prepare yourself! You will stand before God to be judged. *(Matt.24:42-51)*

Two Questions:

Q#1: “*When* will these things happen?”

Answer: Matthew 24:15-28

Q#2: “*What will be the sign* of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Answer: Matthew 24:29-41

But first...

- a) Many will come claiming to be the Messiah and will mislead many
- b) Wars, rumors of wars (nations...kingdoms)
- c) Famines
- d) Earthquakes

(Only the beginning of birth pains)

- e) Widespread persecution of believers
- f) Many will fall away and betray one another
- g) Many false prophets will arise and mislead many
- h) Disobedience to Torah will lead to diminished love
- i) The “Gospel of the Kingdom” proclaimed to the *world* (?)

Luke 2:1

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that **all the world** (οἰκουμένη) should be registered.

Acts 11:28

And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the spirit that there would be a great famine over **all the world** (this took place in the days of Claudius).

Acts 17:6

And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned **the world** upside down have come here also.”

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of Torah-lessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself **against every so-called god** or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Luke 21:20

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.”

The “Abomination of Desolation”

Daniel 9:27 / 11:31

... And on the wing of **abominations** shall come one who makes **desolate**, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator... Forces from him shall appear and profane the Temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the **abomination that makes desolate**.



A Coin of Antiochus IV Epiphanes

The Greek inscription reads:

"King Antiochus, the holy Epiphanus, Nilanor" i.e. "Antiochus, image of God, bearer of victory"

Photograph now in public domain.

1 Maccabees 1:54-57

On the fifteenth day of *Chislev* in the year [165 BC] the king built the **desolating abomination** on top of the altar of burnt offering; and altars were built in the surrounding towns of Judah and incense offered at the doors of houses and in the streets. Any books of the Torah that came to light were torn up and burned. Whenever anyone was discovered possessing a copy of the covenant or practicing the Torah, the king's decree sentenced him to death.

Matthew 24:15-16

“So when you see the **abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.



Flavius Josephus

(37 BC – 100 AD)

Josephus: Wars of the Jews 6:316

And now the Romans, upon the flight of the seditious into the city, and upon the burning of the holy house itself, and of all the buildings around it, brought their ensigns to the temple and set them opposite its eastern gate; and there did they offer sacrifices to them, and there did they make Titus imperator, with the greatest acclamations of joy.





Arch of Titus
(82 AD)



Luke 17:35-37

“There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken, and the other will be left. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.” And answering they said to Him, “Where, Master?” And He said to them, “Where the body is, there also will the vultures be gathered.”

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Yeshua, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the **joy** set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Proverbs 31:25

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she **laughs** at the time to come.