



WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN? "The Beginning of the End" Matthew 24:1-28

No. 5239

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After speaking out against the sad spiritual condition of Israel, Jesus predicted that the Temple, the center of the nation's religious life, would be destroyed. The disciples assumed that meant the end of the world and immediately wanted to know "WHEN?"

I. Questions and Assumptions.

- A. The disciples' questions.
 - 1. When will this tragic event occur?
 - 2. What "sign" will there be that it is about to happen?
- B. The disciples' assumptions.
 - 1. If the Temple is destroyed, that is "the end of the age."
 - 2. The "end of the age" will happen at the "*parousia*" of Jesus.
- C. The contemporary relevance.
 - 1. Scripture teaches there will be an end (*telos*). vv. 6, 14
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 b. 1 Peter 1:9 c. Philippians 3:19
 - 2. Scripture teaches that Christ will return: "*parousia*"; "*adventus*."
 - a. John 14:3, 28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Peter 3:4

II. Answers and Statements.

- A. Spiritual deception will be all too common. Don't be deceived. vv. 4, 5
- B. Political turmoil will be the norm. Don't be alarmed. v. 6a
- C. "But the end is still to come." v. 6b
- D. International conflicts will continue. v. 7
- E. "Natural disasters" will occur constantly.
- F. "These are the beginning of birth pangs." v. 8
- G. Christian believers will be mistreated and maligned by all nations. v. 9
- H. Professing believers will capitulate to pressure and "turn away." vv. 10-12
- I. But those "who stand firm to the end will be saved." v. 13
- J. And the "gospel of the kingdom WILL be preached in all nations." v. 14
- K. THEN THE END WILL COME. v. 14

III. Relevance and Application.

- A. The Christian's focus must be on the future more than the present.
- B. Jesus did not promise us a rose garden, but a battlefield.
- C. The path to glory is strewn with spiritual land mines requiring vigilance.
- D. The gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all nations despite opposition.