



## WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN? "The Coming of the Son of Man" Matthew 24:15-35

No. 5240

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In response to the disciples' questions about the destruction of the Temple, Jesus promised that the gospel would be preached to all nations, and he predicted they would face major challenges and difficulties. Then he went into further details.

### I. The Unprecedented Time of "Great Distress." vv. 15-21

- A. "The abomination that causes desolation" – the defiling of the Temple. v. 15
- B. The prediction of Daniel that needs to be understood.
- C. The fulfillment in the siege of Jerusalem A.D. 66-70. See Luke 21:20f
- D. The unprecedented savagery of the Roman destruction.
- E. The call to the believers to escape when they see what is happening – A.D. 68.
- F. The uniqueness of the event – never before or since. v. 21
- G. "The beginning of birth pangs" includes these atrocities.

### II. The Unrelenting Opposition to the "Elect." vv. 22-28

- A. The period of distress—the time between the Advents—will get worse. v. 22
- B. The difficulties of the disciples of Christ will intensify.
- C. The time of distress will be shortened for the sake of the elect. v. 22
  - 1. God has chosen to work out His purposes through a special people.
  - 2. God has chosen to redeem them through Christ.
  - 3. God has extended a call to sinners to be reconciled to Himself.
  - 4. God will gather His elect from the four winds. v. 31
- D. The disciples must be on their guard against spiritual deception. vv. 23-26
- E. The appearing of Christ will be so self-evident there will be no confusion. v. 27

### III. The Unmistakable Appearing of the Son of Man. vv. 29-35

- A. "Immediately" after the distressing times cosmic signs will occur.
- B. "At that time" the Son of Man will appear triumphantly.
- C. The appearing is itself the "sign" they were asking for.
- D. The generation to which Jesus was speaking would witness all this.
- E. The bottom line is the next thing on the agenda is Christ's return!
- F. The "lesson" to be learned is "He is near, right at the door." v. 33
- G. Count on it!

**Point to Ponder:** What is the impact on me in believing He is at the door?