

AFTER THE TROUBLES

Daniel 12:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31 / Proverbs 22:1-16

I. The Troubles Will Come

A. Bad times cannot surprise Bible users; Christians need to be ready to react. “When ye therefore shall see *the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel* the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.*” (MATTHEW 24:15-16)

B. Hard times for the people refusing to listen to Jesus were specifically revealed. “And *when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed* with armies, then *know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*” (LUKE 21:20)

C. Daniel predicted the destruction of Jerusalem and the old order of the rabbis. “And *from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” (DANIEL 12:11)

1. Antiochus Epiphanes previewed the prophesy. “Now the fifteenth day of the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and fifth year, *they set up the abomination of desolation upon the altar, and builded idol altars throughout the cities of Juda on every side;*” (1 MACCABEES 1:54)

2. The great fulfillment came in the siege of 70 AD according to Josephus. “When the city was taken, *the Romans brought their idols into the temple, and placed them over the eastern gate, and sacrificed to them there.*” [JEWISH WARS, book vi., chap. 6, 1]

D. Even the most optimistic theologians expect a catastrophe before the final triumph of grace. “*Let no man deceive you* by any means: *for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*” (2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-4)

E. When the Romans assaulted Jerusalem, the church remembered the following passage and fled to Pella. “Then *let them which be in Judaea flee* into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: *Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.* And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But *pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.*” (MATTHEW 24:16-20)

F. The final conflict will showcase the bitter determination of evil to overthrow the kingdom of grace; but in all things God provides for His people. “For *then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.* And *except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.*” (MATTHEW 24:21-22)

II. Stay Calm

A. Do not believe the special interest prophets. “Then *if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*” (MATTHEW 24:23)

B. The false prophets and saviors will have marvelous commercial resources at their command; even genuine believers will be tempted to follow them. “For there shall arise *false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*” (MATTHEW 24:24)

C. Avoid the flimflam; we have been warned. “Behold, *I have told you* before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; *believe it not.*” (MATTHEW 24:25-26)

D. There will be no doubt when the Lord returns. “For *as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*” (MATTHEW 24:27)

III. God Will Wrap Things Up His Way

A. The Second Coming will not be ambiguous, but it will be too late for many. “For *wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be* gathered together. Immediately *after the tribulation* of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and *the powers of the heavens shall be shaken*: And *then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn*, and *they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*” (MATTHEW 24:28-30)

B. God will send for His people, they will not have to go looking for what they have already found in Jesus. “And *he shall send his angels* with a great sound of a trumpet, *and they shall gather together his elect* from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (MATTHEW 24:31)

C. God hath appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged. but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil. [WCF 33:1] “When the Son of man shall *come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall* he sit upon the throne of his glory:” (MATTHEW 25:31)

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