Understanding Matthew 24 -Because Jesus <u>Is</u> Coming Back



• <u>2 Peter 3:3-4</u> (NIV2011) **3** Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation...

SAVE THE DATE! RETURN OF CHRIST MAY 21, 2011 WECANKN N.com 3028

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Understanding the BOOK OF REVELATION



Four Beasts in Daniel 7



3

Like a Leopard
With 4 fowl's wings
Had 4 heads
Given dominion



Like a Bear
 Raised up on its side
 Had 3 ribs in its mouth
 Was told to arise and
 devour much flesh

Exceedingly dreadful,

Iron teeth, brass nails

terrible beast

Had 10 horns A little horn, which plucked 3 horns

ARAAGBADAA REVELATION 16:16

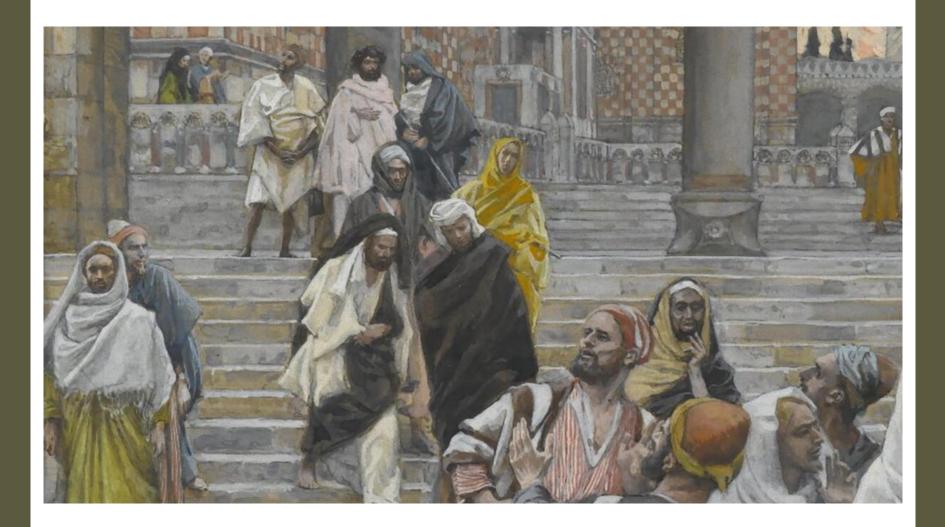
© The Knowledge Of The Truth

- <u>Matthew 24</u>, <u>Mark 13</u>, and <u>Luke 21</u> are commonly used where Jesus predicts the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Empire, and the end of the age and his return or second coming.
- I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MATTHEW 24 PRIMARILY POINTS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND OUR LORD'S WARNING TO US NOT TO WASTE TIME PREDICTING THE DAY OF HIS RETURN.

<u>Titus 2:11-13</u> –

"For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God, while we look <u>forward to that wonderful event when</u> the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."

IT'S BEEN A GREAT DAY FOR THE LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES





Matt 24:1-2 - Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." NASU

THE THREE QUESTIONS

- <u>Matt 24:2 -</u> "...the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us,
 1 - when will these things happen,
- 2 and what will be the sign of Your coming,
- **3** and of the end of the age?"

1) The destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem which took place in 70 A.D.

2) The second coming of Jesus. (End of the world)

Verses 4-26 - Signs of The Coming Destruction of Jerusalem.

(Jesus called them "birth pains." in vs. 8)

- FALSE MESSIAHS (vs. 5) Matt 24:5 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. NASU
 - Acts 5:36,37 Theudas and Judas
 - <u>Acts 21:38</u> the Egyptian
- <u>WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS</u>(vs. 6,7)
- <u>FAMINES AND EARTHQUAKES</u>(vs. 7)
- <u>PERSECUTION</u>(vs. 9,10)

• <u>FALSE PROPHETS - HERESIES</u> (vs. 11)

GOSPEL PREACHED TO THE WHOLE WORLD (vs. 14)

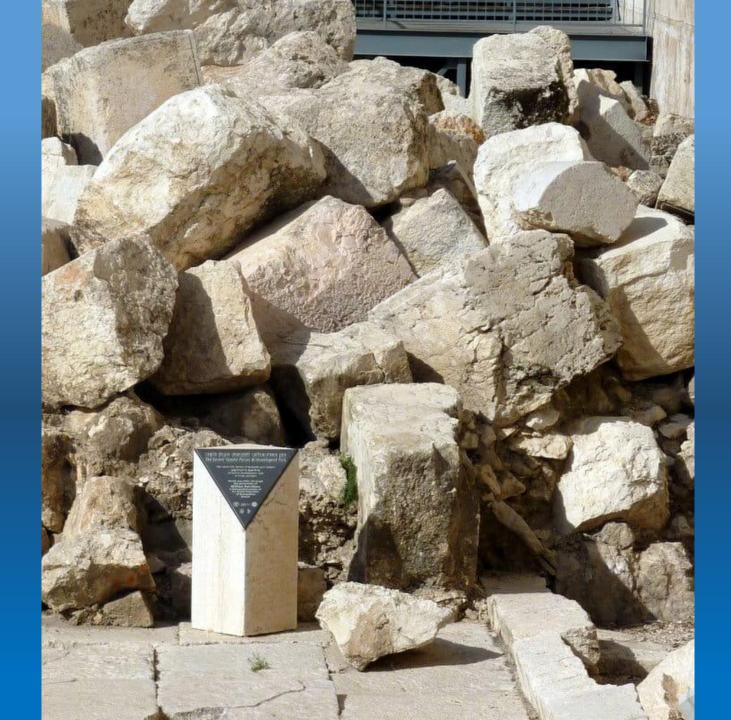
- <u>Matt 24:14</u> This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. NASU
- The phrase *"the whole world,"* is the word "*oikoumene*" and means the *"known inhabited world."*
- The bottom line is this. Paul claimed that the Gospel had reached the *oikoumene* before 70 A.D. (<u>Romans 1:8, 10:18, 16:26,</u> <u>Colossians 1:6,23</u>).

THOSE WHO ENDURE TO THE END WILL BE SAVED (vs. 13)

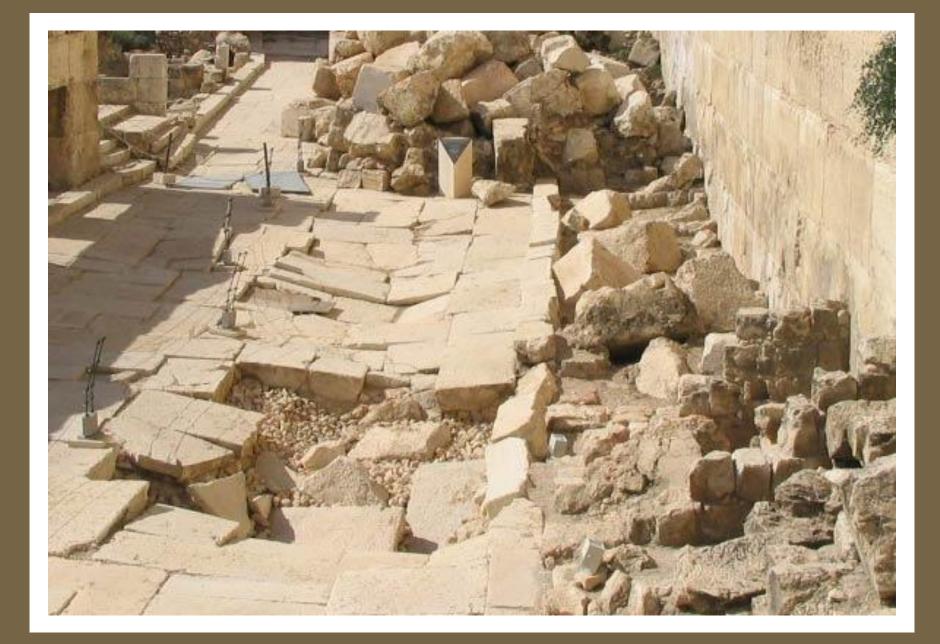
 "But the people of the church in Jerusalem" had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea named Pella. And when those that believed in Christ had come thither from Jerusalem, then, as if their royal city of the Jews and the whole land of Judea were entirely destitute of holy men . . ." (and he goes on to describe the deprivation and destruction that resumed). Josephus

ABOMINATION OF DESECRATION (vs. 15-21)

- Josephus describes some of the horrors that took place.
 - people's cries were so loud they drowned out the sounds of fighting
 - Jewish soldiers tormented their own people for food.
 - There were thousands of crucifixions
 - horrid famine and piles of dead bodies
 - the burning of Jerusalem
 - fire quenched by blood
 - 1,100,00 Jews died and 97,000 taken captive
 - The Roman armies took the city, entered the Temple, tore every stone down to the ground. (They torched the Temple and as the Temple burned, the gold and precious metals melted and ran into the cracks of the stones... so they tore them apart to get to the gold and silver.







These predictions unquestionably refer to the destruction of Jerusalem. If they referred to the second coming, why were people commanded to flee to the **Judean hills?**

A REMNANT SAVED (vs. 22)

TIME OF FALSE MESSIAHS (vs. 23-26)

(notice how this wraps both ends)

VERSES 27-31 -TRANSITION VERSES

- Matt 24:29-31
- 29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other other.
- NASU

- Apocalyptic words were not typically meant to be taken "*literally*" to the Jewish mind of that time. Those were apocalyptic words. They had been used to describe the destruction of other great cities.
 - <u>Isaiah 13:10,19</u> refers to Babylon
 - <u>Isaiah 34:4</u> refers to Edom
 - <u>Ezekiel 32:7,8</u> refers to Egypt

• Likewise, the destruction of Jerusalem would be so horrible, so complete, that it would be like the breakup of the heavenly bodies in the sky.

- "know that it is near at the door."
 "He is near."
- <u>Matt 24:33</u>- Even so, when you see all these things, you know that <u>it</u> is near, right at the door. NIV
- •<u>Matthew 24:34</u> (GW) 34 "I can guarantee this truth: This generation will not disappear until all these things take place.

VERSES 36 FF - THERE ARE NO SIGNS FOR THE SECOND COMING.

- Matt 24:36-40
- 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- NASU

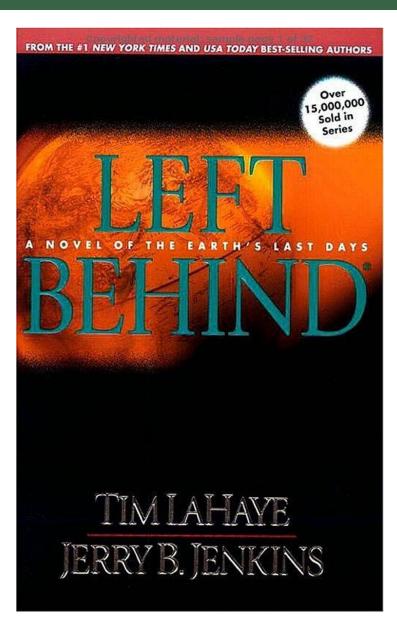
<u>Matt 24:36</u> – "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

- "<u>But</u>" emphasis ("*peri de*") a distinct shift
 like capitalizing the word BUT. "In respect to"
- We're changing topic now to the second coming.

- <u>vs. 37-39</u> like those in Noah's time, everyone was going about regular business until it happened.
- <u>vs. 40,41</u> Even close relationships will be divided by it.
- Then Jesus tells the first of two parables about His return:
 - Like a thief in the night, Jesus will come unexpectedly. <u>Vs. 42-44</u>
 - Like a faithful servant, be ready at all times. <u>Vs. 45-51</u>

<u>1 Thessalonians 5:2-4</u> - "For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, 'all is well; everything is peaceful and secure,' then disaster will fall upon them as suddenly as a woman's birth pains begin when her child is about to be born. And there will be no escape. But you <u>aren't in the dark about these things, dear</u> brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes

like a thief."



- Perhaps there is a deeper problem we ought to address. That is, <u>do we anticipate the second coming of Christ</u>?
- Titus 2:11-13 says, "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God, while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."