

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**SO LIKEWISE YE, WHEN YE SHALL SEE ALL THESE THINGS,
KNOW THAT IT IS NEAR, EVEN AT THE DOORS.**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 24, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **MATTHEW 24:32-34**

Matthew 24:32-33, Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the July 24, 2022 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. As we analyze **Matthew 24 and 25**, we find that it constitutes what is known as the Olivet Discourse. It is the last discourse in the Gospels.
- b. The discourses include the Sermon on the Mount, the Mystery Parables, and the Olivet Discourse. Please refer to the Background which speaks to additional details concerning these discourses.
- c. In **Chapter 24**, the Lord has been in conversation with the religious rulers, and He has announced that the house of Jerusalem would be left desolate. **Matthew 24:1, And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.**
- d. Let's recap what has been happening. The Lord has indicated He is going to postpone the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom will come when Jesus comes and sits on the throne and rules and reigns for a thousand years.
- e. The temple will be made desolate. The Temple area was made of a series of buildings in a complex; a very beautiful structure and was Herod's temple that was still in progress of being rebuilt.
- f. The disciples are disturbed by the statement that Jesus made. **Matthew 24:2, And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**
- g. The disciples wanted to know more therefore they had a series of three questions. **Matthew 24:3, And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**
- h. The first question? **when shall these things be?** The things they are talking about is **There shall not be left here one stone upon another**, The answer to this question is found in **Luke 21:20-24**. The second question is **what shall be the sign of thy coming**, The answer to this question is found **verses 23-51** and we will be looking at that in some detail. The third question is **and of the end of the world?** The answer to that question will be found in **verses 9-22**. We will explore the details of this also.
- i. The Lord carefully answers all of these questions and provides details in the Preserved Word of God so there is no misunderstanding on our part. To the first question, **when shall these things be? There shall not be left here one stone upon another**, this answer is not found in the **Book of Matthew**, because it does not have to do with the future Kingdom of Heaven, but it speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. **Luke 21:20-24, And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21: Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22: For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23: But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be**

great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24: And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

- j. The destruction indicates that it was very devastating, more devastating than that of Nebuchadnezzar when he invaded centuries earlier. This speaks of AD 70 where the Romans came in and destroyed Jerusalem.
- k. The Lord will continue to answer the other questions. We will see this during the course of this message.
- l. We will find that the world will not end, it will be the end of the age – the old world will pass away and a new heaven and new earth will be brought on the scene where Jesus rules and reigns in righteousness. **2 Peter 3:13, Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**
- m. With that Introduction let's see what we can analyze from the Word of God as we look to the subject **But of that day and that hour knoweth no man** in our evening message.

3. TWO POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. **So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.**
 - 1. **Matthew 24:32-33, Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.**
 - 2. As we analyze this verse in some detail it is necessary for us to reflect on what God is speaking of and identify the fig tree.
 - 3. I believe without a doubt that the fig tree is symbolic of the Nation Israel. He identifies not only fig trees but also grape vines and so forth, to identify the people and the land.
 - 4. Let's peruse **Jeremiah 24**. You can read the entire passage to get the complete context. In order to keep the message short, I want to look at just a couple of verses. **Jeremiah 24:3, Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. Jeremiah 24:5, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. Jeremiah 24:8, And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt: Hosea 9:10, I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.**
 - 5. I believe without a doubt that God is speaking of Israel when He talks about the branches being tender and putting forth leaves. We know that this means summer is nigh- the time we gather fruit. **When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:**
 - 6. Several Sundays ago, we preached a message where the Lord was speaking of the basket of summer fruit as Amos pronounced judgment upon the northern kingdom of the Israelites.
 - 7. It is necessary for us to set the context because there is much error in the land. Let's let God's Word interpret itself and speak to us.
 - 8. **Matthew 24:33, So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.** – to find out what these things are let's go back and look.
 - 9. If you recall the disciples had asked three questions in the beginning. First - **when shall these things be?** The things they are talking about is **There shall not be left here one stone upon another**. We stated that the answer was not in the **Book of Matthew** but in **Luke 21:20-24**. (Please refer to the Background of this message.)
 - 10. The second question dealt with, **what shall be the sign of thy coming**. We will deal with that answer as we analyze **verses 23-51**.
 - 11. The third question we will deal with now is what shall be the sign **of the end of the world?** This answer is found in **Matthew 24:9-22**. In order to keep the message short, we will only use selected verses.
 - 12. First of all, Jesus talks about what will happen during the time we are leading up to. He indicates in **2 Peter 2:1, But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false**

teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

13. We do not have to worry about false prophets in this day because there are really no prophets anymore. God has specifically told us in His Word that prophecy will fail. **1 Corinthians 13:8-10, Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9: For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10: But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**

The prophecy we are dealing with in the aforementioned verses is the ability to foretell the future. This is not to be confused with the ability to prophecy that Paul speaks of in **1 Corinthians 14**. This speaks of the ability to forth-tell what God has already revealed to us in His Preserved Word. **1 Corinthians 14:3, But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.** We do have to be concerned with false teachers – people who set dates. During the characteristics of the age, we are looking at, Jesus indicates in **Matthew 24:5-6, For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6: And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**

14. He talks about nations rising against nations and tells us this is the beginning of sorrow. We know full well that the Lord Jesus Christ is preparing to come back again.
15. He introduces us to this period starting in **verse 9**, the beginning of the Tribulation. He speaks of many false prophets and the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness. That Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God.
16. He speaks that there will be a great tribulation period. This will be a time of sorrow. If we analyze the **Book of Daniel** it tells us it was designed to make an end of sin. We must remember that Daniel speaks to the Nation Israel. **Daniel 9:24, Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.**
17. The time of trouble Jesus speaks of is not for the Church but is for the nation Israel. **Matthew 24:21, For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**
18. Jesus ends addressing this question with this verse. **Matthew 24:22, And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**
19. The elect is not speaking of the Church, they are the nation Israel.
20. Having dealt with the first two questions; **when shall these things be?** and **of the end of the world?** Let's now turn our attention to the question, **what shall be the sign of thy coming.**
21. Jesus gives us a series of verses to assure them about the signs of His coming and He warns them in the earlier verses. **Matthew 24:23-25, Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24: 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. 25: Behold, I have told you before.**
22. Jesus tells us that there will be an intensity of people telling us things. I have warned the congregation on many occasions that we need to be in Bible study, we need to know what the Preserved Word of God teaches.
23. Jesus tells us about the signs, about the things that will precede His coming. **Matthew 24:30, 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.** This is where He will establish His kingdom where He is King of kings and Lord of lords.
24. The Shekinah Glory that departed in the Old Testament – will return again as Jesus comes back to establish His kingdom upon the earth. Of course, we understand that is after the Tribulation Period. **Matthew 24:29, 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:**
25. Having look at this in detail and captured the Background, Let's look at where we were.

b. This generation shall not pass.

1. **Matthew 24:34, Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**
2. This verse has been misinterpreted on many occasions.
3. Let's look and see what God is talking about.
4. ***This generation shall not pass*** – speaks of the indestructibility of the Jewish race.
5. We know many have attempted to destroy the Jews. We spoke about Haman in the **Book of Esther** – he was not able to do it, neither was Pharaoh. Hitler attempted to destroy all the Jews. Many this day-in-time still try. However, God will not permit the Jewish race to be extinguished. **Romans 11:1, I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**
6. I find no trace of the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire or the Roman Empire as it was once known. However, **the Jews are still around**. This is adequate proof for an unbelieving world that the Preserved Word of God is true and forever settled in Heaven. It is without a doubt our final authority for faith and practice. **Psalms 119:160, Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.** **Romans 3:4, God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar: as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.** **Psalm 12:6-7, The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7, Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- d. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- e. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- f. Please stand.

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