The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part One: A Most Important Request for Information

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Introduction.**

* The Most Famous “Sermon on the Mount” is Jesus’s message at the start of His ministry – a message on True Faith and Christian Living preached on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee in Matthew Chapter 5-7 and in parallel texts in the Gospels of Luke and Mark. The Other Sermon on the Mount is Jesus’ End-times message taught to His disciples on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple Mount. It is found in Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21. He also taught many of the same prophetic lessons in other portions such as Luke 17.
* Are you familiar with the geography of the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives?
* What is so disturbing about Jesus’s statement? What is He doing?
* What are the disciples doing that we ought to do when it comes to end-times information?
  + **Matthew 7:7-11**

**2. The Danger posed by the End-times (Last Days): Deception**

* Note the disciples’ question in **verse 3** – what is odd about Jesus’ answer in **Matthew 24:4**?
* Jesus seems most concerned about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ involving the end-times.
* Deception comes from two different sources in the Last Days. What could they be?

**Revelation 12:9 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**

* The entire End-times period in which we live is immersed in delusion and deception. Can you think of any examples?
* **Matthew 24:5** -- The key deception here is related to what?
* **Matthew 24:6** – What is the deception concern here?
* Jesus took this time to clarify how the final days would look: **Matthew 24:7, 8, 9, 10**
* Does this description sound familiar? What is familiar to you?
* What do you think the biggest threat to the faith of Last Days Believers? **Matthew 24:11**
* Related to this issue, then, what is the Christians great responsibility as we get closer to Christ’s return? **1 John 4:1-4**
* What do you think the biggest threat to the integrity of Last Days Believers? **Matthew 24:12**
* To prevent deception and believers’ emotions from turning them aside in the Last Days, God has provided a place for the Christian to grow and find shelter. What is that place? **Ephesians 4:11-16**
* **Matthew 24:13** -- What might this mean for the Christian who has no church life?
* Jesus closes this portion with the most important clue a person needs to determine if they are living near the time of the end. Can you think of what that is? **Matthew 24:14**

**3. Questions?**

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Part Two: Jesus References Daniel

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* The “Sermon the Mount” is Jesus’s message at the start of His ministry – a message on True Faith and Christian Living preached on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee. The Other Sermon on the Mount is Jesus’s End-times message taught to His disciples on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple Mount. This is sometimes called the Olivet Discourse.
* Describe the geography of the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives.
* Regarding Bible prophecy, what was Jesus most concerned about as He answered the Disciples?
* What are the two sources of end-times deception? What are the motives of these sources?
* What is the Christian’s responsibility regarding end-time deception?
* What is the most important timeline clue regarding when “the end” will come?

**2. Daniel’s Prophecy**

* **Matthew 24:14** – This is the first timeline clue about the Last Days in Matthew 24. There is another coincidental event to get our attention. This event need not occur after the event of verse 14 but it is designated by the word “therefore.” This implies that it is a separate event that must occur for the End-times to be identified. **Matthew 24:15**
* Here Jesus gives us a prophetic cross-reference clue from the prophet Daniel. This “abomination of desolation” terminology appears three times in Daniel:
  + **Daniel 9:26-27** – this is clearly about a time after Jesus is crucified, Jerusalem is destroyed and “the sanctuary” (the inner part of the Temple) with it. Think about the time in which Daniel lives, what is eerily prophetic about verse 26? (Hint: What must be re-built for this to come true?)
  + Another clue is the word “desolate” always used to describe the Temple being violated or destroyed as in **Daniel 9:17**
  + In Daniel 11, the “King of the North” is prophesied to violate the Temple again: **Daniel 11:29-32** – Most people agree this was fulfilled about 170 BC by the Greek King Antiochus IV Epiphanes who defiled the Temple and was miraculous defeated by the Jewish Maccabees. However, like all prophecy there is shadow and foreshadow, type and anti-type.
  + **Daniel 12:1, 2, 3, 9-10, 11-12, 13** – A prophetic timeline linked to the future Temple.
* After all that, what is “the Holy Place” in Matthew 24:15? **Hebrews 9:3**
* Matthew 24:15 was fulfilled to some degree by several “Kings of the North” including the Greeks, Romans, the Kurd Saladin, the Turks and the British, all “Northern Kingdoms” that permitted the Temple Mount Holy place to remain “Desolate.” Only the Romans and Muslims erected an “abomination” on the Temple. Today, there is no Temple…
* So, what needs to happen before Matthew 24:15 can be fulfilled completely?
* The Holy of Holies is located 300 feet north of the Dome of the Rock and under the tiny “Dome of the Spirits” and directly in line with the Eastern Gate – think about that? What might that mean regarding Bible prophecy?

**3. Questions?**

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The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part Three: The Day of the Lord’s Wrath

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* The “Sermon the Mount” is Jesus’s message at the start of His ministry – a message on True Faith and Christian Living preached on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee. The Other Sermon on the Mount about prophecy takes place outside Jerusalem on which mountain?
* Describe the geography. What could one see from this location?
* From what book did Jesus take his teaching on **Matthew 24:15**?
* What needs to be rebuilt for this prophecy to come true?
* The words “abomination” and “desolation” actually refer to two different things taking place around the “Sanctuary” i.e. the Holy of Holies -- We see hints of this explanation in various foreshadows and types. Can you give an example of a historical event that helps us understand what “abominations” and “desolations” refer to that may repeat themselves when Matthew 24:15 is fulfilled?
* Who have been the “King of the North” during different foreshadow events of Daniel’s prophecy?

**2. There will be Great Tribulation**

* **Matthew 24:14-16** – Note the word “then” in verse 16. This is a time-line sequence portion of prophecy. In verse 14 we see the Gospel must be preached to the whole world. Then the events of the end will take place. About the same time, Daniel’s prophecy will be fulfilled completely. As the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. before Daniel’s prophecy was fully realized then it is plain to us that the Temple must be re-built for verse 15 to take place. And once that Third Temple is violated by an abomination, there will be a desolation of a new persecution and war against the Jews over Jerusalem. Thus, in verse 16 we see the word, “then” meaning the next thing that should happen is that believers should follow Jesus’ advice in verses 16-20:
  + **Matthew 24:16, 17, 18, 19, 20**
* **Matthew 24:21** -- This final time of persecution and judgment goes by many names: **Jeremiah 30:7** (Time of Jacob’s Trouble), **Revelation 14:19-20** (Time of God’s Poured Out Wrath), **Joel 2:31** (Day of the LORD); Christian Prophecy Scholars generally use the slightly misleading term “The Great Tribulation” from this verse to describe this period of persecution and judgement. Why might this term be problematic? Consider Jesus words in **John 16:33**
* The Great Tribulation refers to a time when God is punishing the World for rejecting His Son, persecuting the Saints, and trying to wipe out the Jewish people: **Romans 2:5**
* This terrible judgement will be centered on the nations surrounding Israel, although all the world will be judged. **Zechariah 12:2-3, 8-9**
* Is God going to also punish the Church at this time? Why or why not? **1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16-18,** **1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, 9**
* Consider the implications here: **Matthew 24:22**
* As for specific timing of events like the Rapture we must be careful – **Matthew 24:36**
* But keep in mind, many of these events will be happening before the Rapture: **Luke 21:28**
  + *More on Matthew 24 and the Great Tribulation next week…*

**3. Questions?**

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The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part Four: The Coming Christs

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* The “Sermon the Mount” is Jesus’s message at the start of His ministry – a message on True Faith and Christian Living preached on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee. The Other Sermon on the Mount about prophecy takes place outside Jerusalem on which mountain?
* Describe the geography. What could one see from this location?
* What must happen before “the end will come?”
* What are some of the Old Testament and/or Book of Revelation names for the time of tribulation mentioned in **Matthew 24:21**?
* What is the geographic location of the prophecy in verses 15-22?
* Then who, specifically, is being warned by this portion of prophecy?

**2. False Christs and False Prophets**

* Do you know of any false prophets and/or false Christs who have come already?
* **Matthew 24:23-24** – These false prophets can be so convincing that who might be tempted to believe in them?
* **Matthew 24:25** – Why is Jesus being so emphatic here? Jesus’ primary teaching on this subject is found in: **John 10:1-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-15, 17-18**
* Note what the Old Testament warned the Jews about in **Deuteronomy 13:1-2, 3-4, 5** – Are the Jewish people as a nation taking heed to this teaching? Who among today’s Israeli Jews is?
* **Matthew 24:26** – There are some ridiculous claims regarding the “secret” return of the Messiah. Do you know what the Jehovah Witnesses, Chabad Jews and Shi’ite Muslims believe about this? Discuss
* **Matthew 24:27-28** – What is Jesus saying here about His return? **Matthew 10:27**
* What is the only “secret” we have about the Second Coming of Christ? **Matthew 24:36**
* But we do know the times and the seasons: **Matthew 16:2-3**, **Luke 21:28**
  + *More on Matthew 24 and the Great Tribulation next week…*

**3. Questions?**

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The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part Five: After the Tribulation of Those Days…

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* The “Sermon the Mount” is Jesus’s message at the start of His ministry – a message on True Faith and Christian Living preached on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee. The Other Sermon on the Mount about prophecy takes place outside Jerusalem on which mountain?
* What seemed to be Jesus’ chief concern for His followers regarding prophecy? **Matthew 24:4**
* What are some examples of false Christs and false prophets in the world today?
* What will the return of Christ be like? Public, private, known only to a few, subtle, and/or obvious?
* What is the expected day or hour of Christ’s return?
* What exactly can we know about the time of Jesus’ Second Coming?

**2. Celestial Signs, the Day of Darkness and the Fig Tree**

* There are several time clues in the next seven short but meaty verses of Matthew 24 that are meant to help you recognize the season of Christ’s return…
* **Matthew 24:29** – What is the key phrase here that assures us the next event can only take place ***after*** the two critical events of Matthew 24:14-15 and the conditions described in verses 5-26?
* Discuss the complete list of events leading up to verse 29.
* The term tribulation is misleading here. What does tribulation mean? **John 16:33**
* However, the description of these events does seem to suggest that the Time of Jacob’s Trouble (Tribulation), which is directed and centered around Jerusalem, has already begun. **Jeremiah 30:7**
* Is Matthew 24:29 literal or symbolic? What does it mean? **Amos 5:18-20**
* Some associate the falling stars with fallen angels and the implications for the earth.
  + **Revelation 6:12-17** – note the mention of the Fig Tree – remember that!
* **Matthew 24:30-31** – What is this about? Remember the key signal is the trumpet!
  + **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**
* This verse is reminiscent of **Zechariah 12:8-10**
* Pastor’s Perspective: The Day of God’s Wrath begins here. All of the events in verses 29-31 could take place simultaneously and include the darkness, Christ as lightening in the dark, and the Rapture. The verses of Zechariah 12 seem to suggest that the unbelieving Jews of Israel will realize they missed their opportunity to be raptured and when they rejected Christ. They mourn because they know they must now go through Great Tribulation on the earth. **Jeremiah 8:20**
* **Matthew 24:32-35** – What is the Fig Tree? **Hosea 9:10 1 Kings 4:25**
* Remember Revelation 6:12-17? Figs go together with the cosmic signs indicating the Day of God’s Wrath. The Fig Tree is Israel. Even unbelieving Israel is bearing fruit in the form of the Messianic Jewish movement in that land today. the Rapture of the Church will shake up the Fig Tree due to the teaching of these Messianic Jewish Figs!
* Many of the end times signs will be in play while the church is still on the earth: **Luke 21:28**
  + *More on Matthew 24 and the Great Tribulation next week…*

**3. Questions?**

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The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part Six: No one knows…

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* The “Sermon the Mount” is Jesus’s message at the start of His ministry – a message on True Faith and Christian Living preached on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee. What mountain is Jesus on when He teaches on the Last Days? Why is this significant? **Ezekiel 43:1-4, Ezekiel 44:1-3**
* What seemed to be Jesus’ chief concern for His followers regarding prophecy?
* What are some things that tell us we are living in the “season” of Christ’s Return?
* What key event is accompanied by the blast of a Trumpet?
* What is the Fig Tree analogy all about?
* What does the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” refer to?
* What is one thing many leading false prophets claim to know about the Return of Christ?

**2. As in the Days of Noah**

* **Matthew 24:36** – When will false prophets ever stop predicting the day when Jesus will return? When will people stop believing them? Why *would* anyone believe them? **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5**
* **Matthew 24:37-39** – What are the characteristics of the “days of Noah” described in verses 38-39?
  + **2 Peter 3:1-6**
* Where would we find other characteristics of the “days of Noah?”
* **Genesis 4:23-24, Genesis 6:1-4, 5-6, 11-12** – What are some characteristics described here?
* How do conditions in “the days of Noah” compare with conditions today? **2 Timothy 3:1-7**
* This is why we need to keep in mind the words of Jesus in **Luke 21:28**
* **Matthew 24:40-42** – What is being described here? **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**
* What is being suggested in verse 42? **Matthew 24:43-44**
* What is the implied threat here?
* How does that work if we are under grace? **Ephesians 2:8**
* Readiness is a Christian Responsibility! **Mark 13:35-37**
  + *More on Matthew 24-25 and the Return of Christ next week…*

**3. Questions?**

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The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part Seven: The Faithful and the Wise; the Evil and the Foolish

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* Where is Jesus when He teaches on the Last Days? Why is this prophetically significant?
* What seemed to be Jesus’ chief concern for His followers regarding prophecy?
* What is one thing we can never be smarter than Jesus about regarding His Second Coming?
* What were the Days of Noah like?
* What do we need to be ready about? Why?

**2. Parables of the Last Days**

* **Matthew 24:45-47, 48-51** – Explain what this story has to do with the Last Days
* What does verse 49 suggest about the kind of Christian we are supposed to be? **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
* What word is used to describe the person who thinks Jesus is delaying his return?
* What is the reward for the faithful person who acts as if the Master could come at any moment?
* What is the punishment for the person who lives the other way? **Matthew 13:40-42**
* How might this parable help us to live as better Christians?
* **Matthew 25:1-2, 3-4** – What does the oil in the lamp represent?
  + **Acts 10:38**, **1 John 2:20**, **Matthew 5:16**
* Why are these people called “virgins,” even the foolish ones? **2 Corinthians 11:2-3**
* Why would anyone NOT have oil in their lamp? **John 3:19-21**
* **Matthew 25:5-9** – What does it mean that they were all asleep? **1 Thessalonians 5:3-9**
* Why can’t those faithful virgins share their oil with the foolish ones? Isn’t that selfish? **Psalm 49:7**
* **Matthew 25:10-12, 13** -- What is the implied threat here? **Matthew 7:21-23**
* Readiness is a Christian Responsibility! **Mark 13:35-37**
  + *More Last Days Parables from Matthew 25 next week…*

**3. Questions?**

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The Other Sermon on the Mount An End-times Bible Study 2019

Part Eight: Talents, Sheep and Goats

Text: **Matthew 24:1-3**

**1. Review.**

* Where is Jesus when He teaches on the Last Days in Matthew 24-25?
* What do you remember about the parable of the Faithful and Evil Servant?
* Who does the Evil Servant represent?
* What seemed to be Jesus’ chief concern for His followers regarding prophecy?
* In the parable of the Ten Virgins:
* Why are the women here all “virgins?” What does that tell us about them?
* What do the lamps represent? (Hint: What we do when we “shine our light”)
* What does the oil represent?
* Why did Jesus warn us to “be ready?” In what way?

**2. The Final Judgement**

* **Matthew 25:14-15** – What is a talent?
* What are the criteria for receiving one’s designated quota of talents?
* How is this fairer then an equal disbursement?
* This is why Christianity is neither Capitalistic nor Socialistic – it is a *Meritocracy.* Do you know what that means?
* **Matthew 25:16-19** – How do we know this is about the Last Days? **Revelation 22:12**
* How do we know that the talents were loaned to the stewards and not owned by them? Hint: vs. 19
* What are the two types of investments described here? What could they mean? **Luke 12:20-21**
* **Matthew 25:20-23, 24-25** – What do you think about the One Talent man’s explanation?
* **Matthew 25:26-27, 28-30** – What are the two words used to describe this One Talent man?
* What does this suggest about people who claim they are “afraid” to serve God, or get involved, or otherwise commit themselves to Christian service? **Matthew 10:27-28**
* Is verse 29 “fair?” Explain your answer [Hint: Remember the word “meritocracy”]
* **Matthew 25:31-33, 34-36, 37-40** – What did these “right-hand” sheep nations do that Jesus is going to reward them for? Note the key word here is “brethren” and those who rendered aid are either sheep or goats. **Genesis 12:3**
* **Matthew 25:41-43, 44-46** – What is happening to these goats?
* Jesus is so near, are you ready? **Luke 21:28, 36**

**3. Questions?**

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