

Matthew 24 Series - Matthew 16:24-28

Part 2 in the Series - THE END OF THE WORLD

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We began this series of messages on Matthew 24 in Matthew 16:24-28 where the Lord Jesus told His disciples in verse 28 - "Verily I say unto you, (This is Jesus, to His disciples, 2,000 years ago) There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom."

Please make sure you have your Bibles so you can follow along. I'll play another song while you get your Bibles.

For people to say that He was purposely telling them something that He absolutely knew was not going to happen to them - is - in my opinion - at the very least twisting the Scriptures into something they do not say - and at worst - calling Jesus a liar.

There was absolutely no reason for Christ to have made such a statement to them if it wasn't going to happen. If it was supposed to be a future event, an occurrence thousands of years from that time, then to say anything else would have simply been a lie.

Further, there are plenty of instances in the New Testament where Christ spoke in parables and in some cases did not intend for His listeners to understand what He was telling them. Christ then privately revealed His words to His disciples making sure they understood precisely what He was saying. Matthew 24 is an excellent example of this.

But you know what? Christians have been lying to their children for a long time, so what's the difference? You know, simple "white lies" like telling your children there is a Santa Claus, or an Easter bunny, or ghosts and demons, so why not lie and tell His disciples that, "If you stay faithful to me, some of you will not taste of death, till you see me coming in my Kingdom."

What we do not realize is it's things like this, that make us a laughing stock and causes people to turn off the message of the Gospel because the messengers have no credibility.

Did you hear that the rapture was supposed to have taken place this past July 27th. Of course, it didn't. Now they're saying sometime in August. Well, IT WON'T, then either. How many times do these idiots have to proven to be liars before they shut their mouths for good on the subject? If they want to continue believing a lie, it would be best to go back to the party line and say, "We just don't know when."

But they won't because there's too much money in the lie. Just ask Hal Lindsey and Tim LaHaye how much money they've made off spewing that lie since the 1970s.

Enough of that rant, let's just deal with the simple truths we can gather from God's Word, hold to those truths and plant the seeds of truth and trust that God will bring forth the fruit in his time.

Last week we examined the phrase "this generation" as found in the Gospels. We'll get into more detail with this phrase in future messages - but it cannot be denied the vast implications of the use of that phrase - and the understanding that "this generation" was clearly meant to refer to the generation that saw the birth, ministry, and subsequent execution of Christ.

To say that the phrase "this generation" as recorded in the Gospels is referring to a generation 2,000 years later is again - at the least twisting the Scriptures into something they do not say - and at worst - calling Christ a liar.

Look with me again to Matthew 24.

There can be no denying that Christ was referring to the temple that was in existence in His day. If you want to continue believing something different, then there may just be no hope for understanding. A toddler could understand these verses and see that Christ is talking to His disciples about THAT temple, that was in existence in Jerusalem, 2,000 years ago.

Now, if that's offensive, then so be it. I for one will contend for the faith and the truth and will unashamedly argue that my Lord was not a liar and not a deceiver.

Christ told His disciples in Matthew 24 that the temple they were looking at, that very day, 2,000 years ago, was going to be destroyed, that not one stone was going to be left standing upon another that was not going to be thrown down.

So, wanting further clarification, the text says in verse 3 that the disciples came to 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?"

So, now come the answers.

In this message, let's examine more closely the WHEN - when shall these things be - and specifically, when is the "end of the world."

Last week, we briefly discussed this. I showed you how the word "world" is used three

times in Matthew 24 and in all three times, it comes from an entirely different Greek word.

In verse 3, the word is aeon, which means age, but specifically the Jewish or Messianic age, specifically the end of the Old Covenant age. The question is when is the end of the age, or when is the end of the Jewish or Messianic age?

The word is not cosmos. It's not when is the end of God's creation. In fact, the Bible does not ever speak of the end of God's creation as in the grass, the trees, etc.

Look with me to Ecclesiastes 1:4.

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever."

The word earth in the Hebrew dictionary is ehret - and simply means land, earth, common, country, field, ground, land, wilderness, world.

The writer of the Song of Solomon says the "earth abides forever."

Look at Isaiah 9:6-7:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Look close at verse 7. Of the INCREASE of His Government and peace there shall be no end. How does His Government increase? When people are born again into His Kingdom. I see this verse telling me that God has no plans for His creation to stop.

By interchanging the word world and its several different meanings, and by inserting the word world where earth should be, it's easy to see how all kinds of weird belief systems can come about. Some of this is just plain ignorance, but some of it - no - the foundations of it - are calculated, direct twisting of the Scriptures for the sole purpose of creating and perpetuating deception. Deception that ultimately removes the Kingdom of Christ from its present day reality - and relegates it to some far off distant fairy tale that never comes true.

In the late 1970s, Jerry Falwell referred to the 1980s as the "Decade of Destiny." As a

young man, his preaching and that of all other preachers of that time period had managed to convince most people that the world would not continue past the 1980s.

They based their teachings on a lie that was created by C.I. Scofield in the early 1900s and involved the establishment of "Israel" - and I put the word Israel in quotes - with the establishment taking place in 1948. These false preachers claimed that this was the fulfillment of Matthew 24:32 related to the "budding of the fig tree." Their false doctrine stated that 40 years - a generation - was to be added to 1948 - which was 1988. They were then going to take away 7 years for the tribulation, though they quickly changed that calculation when 1981 came and went some ended up with a rapture date of 1984 - which of course didn't happen.

Nonetheless, here we are some 30 plus years later - many of those false preachers have died - didn't see the rapture - but their lies continue.

Now, when I was in Bible college, I was required to purchase the Liberty Commentary on the New Testament. The Liberty Commentary on the New Testament was put out by Jerry Falwell and it was supposed to be a study tool to help people better understand the Scriptures. But here's an interesting text in the Commentary and I'll let you decide whether it's an honest mistake or purposeful deception.

There is no doubt in my mind that C.I. Scofield was part of a very rich, powerful - some today might even refer to them as Illuminati types - and he was very calculating in his deception and I believe he knew exactly what he was doing - and with the money backing from Cecil Rhodes and Oxford University - they perpetrated the greatest deception the world has ever seen.

Jerry Falwell? I don't know. But you make up your own mind - at least as it relates to this passage of Scripture. Here's what the text of Ephesians 3:20-21 says:

20] Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
[21] Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Here's what the Liberty Commentary says:

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus.

Christ and His church constitute one living organism. The church is His body, and He is the Head of that one body.

Throughout all ages.

The duration of our praise and thanksgiving.

Amen. Chapter 4.

Wait just a minute. What happened to the phrase "world without end."

So, we're going to examine nearly every word or phrase in the New Testament, but when we come to Ephesians 3:21, where the text says, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, **world without end...**

...we're just going to completely skip over the phrase world without end and go on to chapter 4 as if that phrase is not even in the text?

To me, that's as dishonest as it gets.

The phrase world without end doesn't fit with the message of a future Kingdom. It doesn't fit the message of futurism. So let's just ignore it.

Rightly so, because on it's face, without further study and searching, it appears that the Scriptures might contradict themselves. Not so.

Matthew 24:3 talks about the end of the world. Yes, the end of the Old Covenant age. So what's the Greek word here in Ephesians 3? Is it cosmos? Is it oikoumenay? No, it's age - the same Greek word found in Matthew 24. But look at the text.

Unto him be glory in the ecclesia - age without end. It is the Kingdom Age of Christ that has no end. Exactly what Isaiah said, "Of the increase of His Government and Peace, there shall be no end."

Understanding these things in this manner is the only way for the Scriptures to harmonize. If you teach something different, that's when things like leaving phrases out, or changing words here or there - that's when those things take place.

So, in Matthew 24:3 - the end of the world means the end of the Old Covenant age. It is not the end of the cosmos, the end of God's creation. The Bible does not teach the end of God's creation - but the exact opposite.

Last week, I told you if someone does not believe that Christ coming in the clouds has already occurred, then your "salvation" is future - it is not for today.

I showed you the words of the Lord Jesus in Luke 21:25-28:

[25] And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

[26] Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

[27] And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

[28] And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

This passage equates the coming of Christ in the clouds in His Kingdom with redemption. If this has not already occurred - then Christ was NOT the Messiah.

Are you ready to admit that? Not me. Christ was the Messiah sent to Old Covenant Israel to put an end to the sacrifices, to complete the prophets and the prophecies and to be anointed and crowned as King of kings and Lord of lords and to establish His Kingdom and rule and reign in the lives of all who will allow His reign. And, praise God, IT IS FINISHED. He did what He came to do and He's King now.

Look with me to Hebrews 9. I've referred to this passage many times. I've asked people many times to simply give me an answer about this passage and it doesn't happen.

There is no doubt the passage is referring to Christ. Verse 24:

Let me set the stage. At the time of the writing of Hebrews, Christ had ascended up into heaven as described in Acts 1. The writer of Hebrews is detailing the end of the Old Covenant and trying to convince his readers of the New covenant. He explains the Old Covenant sacrificial system, then says that Christ ended that system. These verses detail this.

[24] For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

[25] Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

[26] For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

[27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

[28] So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Look at verse 26. [26] For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: **but now once in the end of the world** hath he appeared to put away sin by the

sacrifice of himself.

How many times does the word world appear in this verse? Two times. Guess what? It's different Greek words. ...suffered since the foundation of the world...? cosmos - creation - makes perfect sense because the sacrifices began at creation - or shortly thereafter. But now once IN THE END OF THE WORLD hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Listen! If you do not believe the end of the world has already taken place - then Jesus WAS NOT THE MESSIAH. Your redemption is in the future. And if your redemption is in the future, then you better find out who your redeemer is because it is not the One Who the Scriptures talk about. That's a scary place to find oneself.

When does this passage say He sacrificed Himself? IN THE END OF THE WORLD. I don't know how it can get any plainer or clearer than this.

Some might say, well, that doesn't fit with my beliefs. Exactly. Then I'd say it's time to change some beliefs. If you don't agree with this, your argument is not with me - it's with the Scriptures.

Jesus died in the end of the Old Covenant age - in the end of the world - what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world - and if you don't believe that these things have already occurred then you are looking for redemption in the future and the Jesus that came 2,000 years ago - WAS NOT THE MESSIAH.

The second time the word world is found in Matthew 24 is in verse 14.

Look at it, please.

[14] And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The world here is not cosmos. It is not aeon. It is oikoumenay and it means the Roman empire. So this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the Roman empire for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

As recently as a week or so ago, I had one of the futurist zealots call me an idiot - which isn't the first time - and won't be the last time - but he said only an idiot would say that this verse has been fulfilled. This guy absolutely knew that certain tribes in the Amazon had never heard the Gospel before, so I was an absolute idiot for saying this passage has been fulfilled.

Well, again, let's let God be true and every man a liar - every man that doesn't agree with God.

Turn with me please to Colossians chapter 1.

Let's keep in mind who was charged with preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom in the first century. These were men who had watched Jesus heal the sick, give sight to the blind, walk on the water, feed 5,000 people with 2 fish and five loaves of bread. These were men who saw Him raise Lazarus from the dead. These were men who saw Him wrongly accused and executed by the state - but rise from the dead.

These were men who so desperately wanted to believe that this Christ was the King of Israel - the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies. They had their doubts - until He arose from the dead and walked right through the walls of that upper room and announced to them that He had taken all power in heaven and earth. Do you think they had their doubts after this? After Thomas put his hands in Jesus' side? Do you think they still doubted? No way.

These men went out and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom relentlessly and in the face of persecution, peril and death - they never stopped and it was said in Acts 17 - these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also, whom Jason hath received and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King One Jesus.

That's who was preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ in the first century.

In Colossians 1:3-6, here is what was said.

[3] We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

[4] Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

[5] For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

[6] Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Once again. What does the text say? Verses 5 & 6:

5] For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

[6] Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world;

This is PAST TENSE. Simple English. The gospel which is come unto you, as it is in all the world.

Skip down to verse 23:

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

What's it say? The gospel WAS PREACHED TO EVERY CREATURE which is under heaven.

Ok. Call me an idiot. Tell me I'm stupid because I believe Christ. Matthew 24:14 IS PAST. Knowing who was delivering the Gospel in that first generation - how is it hard to believe that the Gospel reached the ears of everyone?

This is because we fail to recognize the uttermost importance of the generation to whom Christ - the Son of God - was sent to - and lived among - preached to - taught to - healed their sick raised their dead - and who still Killed Him!

The prophecy of Matthew 24 was that the Gospel would be preached to the Roman empire - but the men who preached that Gospel not only fulfilled it's preaching to the Roman empire - but God in His infinite mercy and kindness exceeded Christ's own prophecy and Paul said the gospel WAS PREACHED to the entire cosmos. ALL OF GOD'S creation had it revealed to them that Jesus was the Messiah.

That's why I say to you it is the responsibility of every living, breathing creature to conform to the Kingdom of Christ right now.

So the end of the world means the end of the Old Covenant age. Already happened.

The Gospel of the Kingdom preached to the Roman empire - and then shall the end come - Already happened.

Doesn't fit your current belief system? Then you better make some changes quickly because your salvation depends on it.

The last time the word world occurs in Matthew 24 is in verse 21.

[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.

The word world finally is cosmos. The tribulation that Christ described that was coming on the generation to whom was bestowed the very Son of God and they murdered - was going to be such that tribulation that had never occurred since God's creation. Worse than the flood. Worse than Sodom of Gomorrah.

Noah's generation did not kill the Son of God. Sodom and Gomorrah did not kill the Son of God. It could be said they killed some prophets. But they did not kill the Son of God.

The generation that killed the Lord Jesus Christ would have the wrath of God poured out upon them like no other wrath the world had ever seen.

The Lord Jesus had told those people in Matthew 23:36-38

[36] Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

[37] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

[38] Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

In closing, look with me very quickly to I Thessalonians 2:

The books of the Thessalonians are written directly to those first century believers to which Christ spoke to in Matthew 24. These are the ones that He told to flee into the mountains for safety.

Verse 14 of chapter 2 says:

[14] For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

[15] Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

[16] Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

If you are not seeing this passage of Scripture with me now - you must get your Bible and see this. Look at verse 15 -

[15] Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

This is the exact fulfillment of Christ's words in Matthew 23.

Look at verse 16:

[16] Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.
...to fill up their sin alway...

Compare this to Matthew 23:31-32:

[31] Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

[32] Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

I Thessalonians 2:16:

...for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost...

Matthew 23:34-38

[34] Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

[35] That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

[36] Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

[37] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

[38] Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

How can this be any clearer?

Matthew 24 was fulfilled exactly the way Jesus said it would be when in verse 34, he says: "Verily I say unto you, (Jesus to His disciples, 2000 years ago) This generation shall not pass, till ALL ALL ALL these things be fulfilled."

The Kingdom of God is a present day reality - right now. He's not coming again. He has nothing left to accomplish. He's King of kings and Lord of lords - right now.

Much of what I've talked about in this message is in my book, The Religion of the New

World Order which can be read freely on my website at www.godsendusmen.com

I want to remind you that the state of Missouri is trying to put me in prison for 80 plus years because - as the arresting officer said - the books on your website. Believe me, if I had it my way, this would pass. The assault on myself and my family has been horrific.

My wife and my babies have been through an unbelievable amount of trials in the last two and a half years.

But I cannot stop preaching what I preach. It is the truth. The present day reality of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the only hope for America and the world.

The message of futurism is the party line. It's the popular message, the masses love it. It's made its advocates enormous amounts of money and worldly fame - but its end has been destruction. The message of futurism has wreaked havoc and destroyed everything in its path and yet it doesn't seem that one man in a million is seeing through the lies.

I challenge you again that if I have made you question just one of your current beliefs, then you should be willing to examine the rest to see if these things be so.

Lord willing, we'll be back next week to continue as we've just barely scratched the surface with these messages.