

Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

Prophetic Utterances
of Jesus

Part 3



Characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature

- Usually deals with judgments on peoples and nations.
- Mixture of facts and symbols.
 - Indication of Facts: “At that time” “Immediately after”
 - Indication of Symbols:
 - “Sign” or “Signs”
 - Numbers: Seven, Ten, Twelve, and their multiples
 - Animals and Beasts
 - Celestial Bodies (Sun, Moon, Stars)
 - Understanding the context is essential

Review

- Background (Context)
 - Triumphal entry – **Coming kingdom** (Mk 11:10)
 - Parable of Tenants - **Devine judgement to come upon the nation of Israel.** (Mk. 12: 9-11)
 - Woes on teachers of the law and Pharisees (Matt. 23: 30-36) – **Judgement to come upon this generation**
 - Jesus weeps for Jerusalem – (Matt. 23: 37-39) – **“Your house left to you desolate”**
- Not one stone will be left on another” (vs-2)

Review (Cont.)

- Vs. 3-4 Two questions:
 - When will these things happen?
 - What will be the sign they are about to be fulfilled?
- Matt 24: 3 has three questions:
 - When will this happen?
 - What will be the sign of your coming?
 - And of the end of the age?

Review (Cont.)

- Mark 13: 5-13 – False Signs (beginnings of birth pains)
 - Vs 5, 7, 8 and 10 make it clear these are not the sign; but they will occur prior to the sign (of the destruction of the Temple).
 - False Christs,
 - Wars and Rumors of War, Nation against Nation
 - Earthquakes, Famine,
 - Handed Over and Flogged,
 - Gospel Preached to Whole World

Review (Cont.)

- The Sign (that the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple is about to take place). “When you see:
- Abomination of Desolation
 - Jerusalem surrounded by armies (Luke 21: 20)
 - Spoken of by Daniel the prophet (Matt 24:15) (Daniel 9: 24-27)
Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple
 - Standing where it should not (In the holy place – Matt 24: 15)
- **The Abomination that Makes Desolation** – the Roman Armies (those who are loathsome or disgusting, and abhorred) surrounding Jerusalem (standing around the holy place where they should not be) that will bring its destruction and desolation??

Review (Cont.)

- Warnings for when the sign is seen
 - Those in Judea flee to the mountains (vs 14)
 - Don't go back in the house to get anything (vs 15)
 - Don't return from the field (vs 16) or country (Lk 21)
 - Woe to those pregnant and nursing babes (vs 17)
 - Pray it won't happen in winter (vs 18)
 - Unprecedented tribulation, never again (vs 19)
 - If not cut short, no life would be saved (vs 20)

Matt 24: 26-28; Mark 13: 23; Luke 21:22-24

- “If they say ‘look...’ don’t go, for the coming of the son of man will be like lightning” (east to west). Mt (26-27)
- Wherever the corpse is the vultures (eagles) will gather. Matt (28)
- “Be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.” Mk (23)
- “Days of vengeance to fulfill all that was written” Lk (22)
- “Great distress....and wrath against this people” Lk (23b)
- They will fall by the sword and be led captive into all the nations and Jerusalem trampled under foot until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. (Lk 24)

Matt 24: 29-34; Mark 13: 24-30; Luke 21:25-32

● The Return of Christ? Yes?

- Sun will be darkened; moon not give its light; stars fall from the sky; powers in heavens shaken - Mt (29); Mk (24-25)
- Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory - Mk (26)
- Send forth the angles to gather up the elect from the four winds - Mk (27)

● The Return of Christ? No?

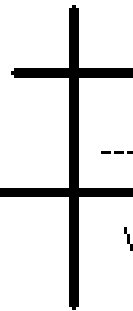
- In those days after the tribulation - Mk (24); immediately after the tribulation – Mt (29)
- This generation will not pass away until all these things take place - Mt (34); Mk (30);
- Contrast with Mt (35-51) & Mk (31-37)

“70 A.D.’ers” Return of Christ Theory

destruction of Jerusalem
2nd coming of Christ
70 A.D.

Jewish age
“this age”
old covenant
flesh--earthly
old heavens and earth

Christian age
“age to come”
new covenant
spirit heavenly
new heavens and earth



----- last days -----

life of Christ

work of apostles

the church age never ends

----- time of revealing and
confirming the new covenant -----

new covenant
exists at the death
of Christ but not
completely estab-
lished until 70 A.D.

wicked and righteous who die
are immediately judged and sent to
their eternal state -- there is no
resurrection of the physical body

Matt 24:29, Mark 13: 24-25

- Sun will be darkened; moon not give its light; stars fall from the sky; powers in the heavens shaken. Compare Lk (25-26).
- Prophetic of judgment and fall of nations, cities, kings, kingdoms, rulers, and nobility.
 - Isa. 13: 9-13 Destruction of Babylon
 - Isa. 34: 4-8 Judgment upon Edom
 - Isa. 51: 4-6 Judgment upon Senacherib (Judah)
 - Ezek. 32: 7-8 Judgment upon Egypt
 - Dan. 8: 10 Judgment on Israel by Antiochus Epiphanies
 - Joel 2: 30-31 Quoted in Acts 2
 - Rev. 6: 12-17 Judgment upon Rome
- Jeremiah 31:27-40 Applied to the destruction of the nation of Israel and the establishment of a new covenant and an eternal kingdom. (Note Heb 8:13)

Mark 13: 26

- Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.
 - Sign of the Son of man shall appear in the sky (Mt. 24: 30)
 - The sign of his coming (Mt: 24: 3) (in judgment or into his kingdom)?
 - The tribes of the earth (land) will mourn - Mt (30)
 - Coming on clouds sign of spiritual move, not physical (Is 19:1)
- Vision of the Four Beasts (Daniel 7: 13-14; 21-22, 26-27). He was given dominion, Glory, and a kingdom. All the dominions will serve him. (Rev. 1: 5-7)
 - Signifies Jesus coming with power and glory into his kingdom reign and his kingdom overcoming the 4th (Roman) kingdom.

Mark 13: 27

- Send forth the angels to gather up the elect from the four winds.
 - Greek “angelos” = messengers (Mk. 1:2) (Mal. 3:1)
 - Carrying the gospel to the Gentiles (Lk. 21:24;28)
 - The kingdom given to others, (Lk. 13:28-29)
 - With a great trumpet - Mt (31) – See Is. 27:9-13
 - The gospel call into all the world (Mark 16:15)
- Signifies the apostles and other disciples carrying the gospel to the whole earth until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Matt 24:32-34; Mark 13:28-30; Luke 21:29-32

- Parable of the fig tree
 - When you see these things happening, recognize He is near Mt (33), Mk (29)
 - Recognize the kingdom of God is near (Lk. 21: 31)
 - Contrast with Mt (35-51) & Mk (31-37)
- This generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
 - Race? Cf. Matt. 23:35-36; Matt. 16:27-28

Matt 24:35-51; Mark 13: 31-37; Luke 21:33-36

- Heaven and earth will pass away Mt (35); Mk (31); Lk (33)
 - Third question from Matt. 24: 3 – end of the age?
- Of that day and hour no one knows Mt (36); Mk (32)
 - Like the days of Noah – eating, drinking, marrying – Mt (38)
 - One taken, one left – Mt (40-41)
 - You do not know when the appointed time will come (Mk (33) [which day the Lord is coming – Mt (44)])
 - Like a master of a house on a journey (Mk 34)
 - Be on the alert (ready, awake at all times) for you do not know when the master of the house is coming (Mk 35-37); at a time when he does not expect him and an hour he does not know – Mt (50)
 - Watch, stay awake, pray for strength to escape (Lk 34-36)
 - Notice contrast to Mt (32-34) & Mk (28-30); Also Mt 24:35 – 25:46

The Coming of the Kingdom

Luke 17: 20-37

- The kingdom does not come with signs, the kingdom is within (in the midst of) you. (20-21)
- Disciples will desire to see the days of the Son of Man (22-24)
 - Like Lightning (Cf. Matt 24:27)
- The days of the son of Man (when the Son of Man is revealed) (25-37)
 - Like the days of Noah (Cf. Matt 24:37-39)
 - Like the days of Lot
 - One taken, one left (Cf. Matt 24: 41)
 - Where the corpse is, there the vultures (eagles) will gather (Cf. Matt 24:28)

Possible Type and Archetype

- Type – Jesus coming in judgment on the Jews with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple and coming with power and glory into his kingdom reign.
- Archetype – Jesus' second coming in bodily form in the clouds and the final judgment of the earth after he has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power, and turns the kingdom over to the Father. (I Corth 15:20-28)
 - Comp. Romans 5:12-21 for Type - Archetype

Map of Answers to the Questions from Matt. 24: 3 tracked to Mark 13

- When will this happen?
- What will be the sign of your coming?
 - Coming in judgment on Israel and Jerusalem
 - Coming into his kingdom reign and in judgment on Rome
- And of the end of the age?
- Mk 13: 28-30
- Mk 13: 5-27
 - False Signs - vs 5-13
 - Abomination of Desolation – vs 14-25
 - vs 24-27
- Mk. 13: 31-37
 - Jewish age, or Christian age, or both.

Kingdom Dispensations

Why the destruction of Jerusalem and the coming kingdom are connected

- Kingdom of Israel
 - Physical Israel
 - Jewish Nation
 - Old Covenant
 - Physical Temple
 - Levitical Priesthood
 - Physical Sacrifices
 - Annual Atonement
- Kingdom of Heaven
 - Spiritual Israel (Rom. 9)
 - A holy nation (I Pet. 2)
 - New Covenant (Heb. 8)
 - Temple of the Spirit (I Corth 3, 6)
 - Priesthood of Believers (I Pet 2)
 - Living Sacrifices (Rom. 12:1)
 - Atoning Sacrifice Made Once for All (Heb. 9-10)
- From A.D. 30 to A.D. 70, both systems were in place (overlapping)
 - “He sets aside the first to establish the second” (Heb 10:9)
 - “What is obsolete is aging and will soon disappear” (Heb 8:13)

The Coming of the Kingdom

- “The kingdom of God has come near to you” (Luke 21:31)
- “The kingdom does not come with signs... the kingdom is within you” (Luke 17:20-21)
- “The kingdom of heaven is at hand (has come near)” (Matt 4:17,23), et. el.)
- Pray “Your kingdom come” (Matt 6:10)
- “The kingdom of heaven is forcefully advancing and forceful men take hold of it.” (Matt 11:12); (Luke 16:16)
- “My kingdom is not of this world... My kingdom is from another place” (John 18: 36)
- Christ reigns until the end when he will turn the kingdom over to the Father (I Corth 15: 23-27)

References and Suggested Study Material

- **Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible**, Abridged by Ralph Earl, 1967, http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1810_clarke_commentary.html
- **The Works of Flavius Josephus**, various translations, <http://www.ccel.org/j/josephus/works/JOSEPHUS.HTM>
- **“Did Jesus Return in 70AD,”** Stafford North, Oklahoma Christian University, <http://www.oc.edu/faculty/stafford.north/70AD.pdf>
- **“Studies of Last Things,”** Stafford North, Oklahoma Christian University, http://www.oc.edu/faculty/stafford.north/lastthings/last_things_1.htm, http://www.oc.edu/faculty/stafford.north/lastthings/last_things_2.htm, http://www.oc.edu/faculty/stafford.north/lastthings/last_things_3.htm.
- **“Daniel,”** Stafford North, <http://www.eBibleStudy.org>
- **“Revelation,”** Stafford North, <http://www.eBibleStudy.org>
- **“The Seventy Weeks an the Great Tribulation,”** Philip Mauro, http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1921_mauro_seventy-weeks.html
- **The Apocalypse Code**, Hank Hannegraff, 2007.

Benefits of this Study

- Increases our faith in the scriptures in seeing the fulfillment of scripture.
- Increases our trust in the judgements and faithfulness of God.
- Keeps us from being distracted by current events and current pre-millennial doctrines.
- Encourages us to always be ready to move from time to eternity for it will come “as a thief in the night.”