



## Let No One Alarm You About Destruction Matthew 24:1-3

**Have** you ever heard a message or watched a movie about the end times that scared the “living daylights” out of you?

**Often**, the unspoken message of such messages and movies is, *It's going to happen just like this and there's nothing you can do about it!*

**On** the other hand, when Jesus spoke about what we call the end times, or eschatology, he told his disciples to not be alarmed (Matthew 24:6).

**Here** are some essential things to keep in mind as we work our way through Matthew 24 -

- 1) There are differing views on what Jesus is communicating here.
- 2) Everyone with a view believes their view is the correct one.
- 3) We should judge what we hear not to another view but to Scripture.
- 4) This is not a matter of “first importance” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).
- 5) **Jesus Christ is coming again!**  
(see 1 Corinthians 11:26).
- 6) **This** should encourage us, not alarm us if we trust in Jesus!
- 7) Submit your questions for the final message, which will be a Q & A.

Let's dig deeper, where we'll see that timing and context are key:

**Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Matthew 24:1**

- Here's an approximate timeline of the last 72 hours:
  - 1) Sunday: Jesus has ridden into Jerusalem as King (21:1-10).
  - 2) Monday: Jesus cleanses the temple (21:12-17).
  - 3) Tuesday: Jesus teaches in the temple (21:23 – chapter 23).
- So far, Jesus is “on script” with Jewish expectations of their king coming and cleansing the temple [i.e. 2 Maccabees 10:1-9].
- But Jesus “flips the script” in words ***against*** the temple (23:37ff.)
- So here the disciples broach the topic about the temple's glory.

**But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” Matthew 24:2**

- Such a prediction would have been phenomenal!
- Some of the temple-stones were as much 45 cubits long [Josephus, *War*, 5.224]!
- Even average-sized stones were between 2-8 tons!
- For Jesus' prediction to would mean:
  - 1) He was who he said he was all along (God's Son and Messiah).
  - 2) God's kingdom would not be centered on a temple/building.
- Jesus' words were literally fulfilled with the events of AD 63-70!

**As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3**

- Views on Jesus' words here agree that the disciples first question refer to the destruction of the Temple in AD 70.
- What is debated is the second question- whether it refers to events surrounding the

temple's destruction, or things that will take place in our future. In other words, *Whose future? Their future or ours?*

- When is “the end of the age?”
- Our best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture!
- The answer is found in 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Hebrews 9:26.

***To be continued...***

*The disciples were impressed by the buildings of the temple. Jesus was not. Ask yourself: What impresses me? Am I too easily impressed by earthly things? How can I live the hope that Jesus is coming again?*