**Matthew 24: The Times of the Signs**

*A Message by Frank Warburton*January 13, 2021

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 Do you like surprises? Some people do, some people don’t. I think some of us get a little embarrassed when there is a surprise party in our honor. But we usually enjoy being part of the surprise party for the guest of honor and like to see the look on his or her face, when they are brought to the place where the party is being held for them. We may become nervous; looking forward to the outcome of the “big game” when our team is in the National Championship or going to the World Series and we hope that “our” team wins, but unsure if they will. If we knew what was coming in advance, it might make it easier to make a decision to invest in a certain company’s stock, if we knew it was going to go up as opposed to down. We do not know what the future holds for us, but we know the One who holds the future.

 Tonight, we will be looking at Matthew 24 which is known as the Olivet Discourse. The Olivet Discourse is a teaching that Jesus gave on the Mount of Olives, in Jerusalem.

 This discourse is recorded in Matthew 24-25; Mark 13 and Luke 21. These are known as the Synoptic Gospels. These three Gospels are called these because they share some of the same historical accounts of JESUS’s life and ministry from slightly different perspective as contrasted with the Gospel of John.

**Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple**

**Matthew 24:1**Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

 In these first two verses. JESUS describes that the Temple in Jerusalem will be destroyed in the near future of the disciples. This event happened in 70 A.D. when Titus Vespasian conquered the city after numerous rebellions by the Jews living in Jerusalem against the Roman Occupation.

 A lot of the information we have today, regarding the siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. comes from the writing of the Jewish Historian, Flavius Josepheus. It is believed orders were given to not destroy the Temple but to take it intact; in order to retrieve the gold that was used in the construction of the Temple. Somehow a soldier in the heat of the moment through a flaming piece of wood or an arrow was thrown or shot into the temple, causing it to catch fire and burn. The gold melted and went into the cracks of the stones of the Temple. The Temple was dismantled and thrown down from the Temple Mount.

(Stones excavated down to First Century Street on the Western side of Temple Mount south of the Western Wall.)

**The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age**

**Matthew 24:3-4**
Now 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? And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.

**THE FIRST SIGN: DECEPTION**

**2 Timothy 3:13**
But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

**1 Timothy 4:1-3**
Now the Spirit [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+timothy+4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29749a)]expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

What are these doctrines of Demons? Any religion or group that Denies the Deity and Humanity of JESUS CHRIST; HIS sinless life, HIS death on the Cross; that HE physically rose from the dead; that HIS death alone, was not sufficient to pay for our sins is a doctrine of demons. Do we see deception happening in our world today?

The ultimate deceiver is Satan. The Bible tells us about his future.

Revelation 20:10 *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=revelation+20%3A10&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-31049a)*] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

**THE SECOND SIGN: FALSE CHRISTS**

**Matthew 24:5**For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

**False Cults and Religions**

1. Jehovah’s Witnessnes
2. Mormons
3. Islam
4. Hinduism

Different JESUS in each of these different groups. And Different Gospel

**THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE JESUS:**

**John 14:6**
Jesus said, I Am the way, the truth, the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

How can we not be deceived? Read and study the Bible. It is the only source of Truth that we can believe.

**Acts 17:11**
These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

Read your Bible daily. Check out the teachers you are sitting under and listening to. The Bereans checked out what Paul the Apostle had to say to them about JESUS. Check me out. If what I am saying and teaching does NOT line up with the Bible. You reject what I say and go with what the Bible says.

vs 6-7b And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

**THIRD SIGN: WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS**

The 20th into the early 21st Century has seen a dramatic increase in wars.

WWI was known at the time as the Great War and the War to end all wars. Did it? Unfortunately, no. WWII; Korea; Vietnam; The Cold War with Russia; The Genocide in Rwanda ETC.

In verse 7 the word for nation is the Greek work ethnos. Meaning different ethnic groups.

**Matthew 24:7**
For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

**FOURTH SIGN: FAMINES**

Various areas of the Earth are being affected by famines and shortages of food.

**FIFTH SIGN: PESTILENCE**

Worldatlas.com listed deadliest epidemics in 21st Century up to June 2018.

Yellow fever; Ebola; the H1N1 Swine Flu; Cholera caused by poor sanitation; Sars; Dengue Fever; MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and of course now people would add perhaps COVID to the list.

**SIXTH SIGN: EARTHQUAKES**

Just google a search for Earthquakes of the 20th Century. There are some pretty spectacular videos of time-lapsed earthquakes when they occurred. Statistics from the U.S. Geological survey show an increase in earthquakes over the last 120 years.

**Matthew 24:8**
All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

Greek word for sorrows: odin meaning “birth pains.”

 When a woman is pregnant her body begins to rehearse the birth of the child, though contractions. They start small and are known as “Braxton-Hicks” contractions. In the early stages of a woman’s pregnancy; I have been told that it may feel like a butterfly fluttering in the mother’s womb. As the baby grows; these contractions increase in frequency and severity.

These contractions will have lulls between them. But the closer to the birth the contractions will grow stronger and closer together until there is a point that they do not stop until the baby is born. We have personally lived through several birth pains over the past several decades. Times when Biblical Prophecies come in rapid succession one after another. We are living in a major birth pain right now.

**Other Biblical Prophecies Pointing to the Second Coming**

1. The Sudden Destruction of Damascus Syria Isaiah 17:1 , Jeremiah 49:23-27
2. Invasion of Israel by Russia, Turkey and Iran Ezekiel 38-39
3. Formation of One World Religion, One World Cashless Economic System, One World Government / Revelation 17; 13:11-18, 18

There are others.

**Matthew 24:9**
“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

**SEVENTH SIGN: PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS:**

Who is JESUS speaking to in Matthew 24? His disciples. Who were Jewish. While we will not getting into the Seven Year Tribulation. It is important to remember who the focus will be on. GOD will be dealing with Israel again and not the Church. We will be taken up in the Rapture.

Anti-Semitism on the Rise. Quote from American Thinker article and The times of Israel

**Matthew 24:11-13**Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

(Verse 11) We have already named some of the false prophets out there.

(Verse 12) Increase in lawlessness. READ THE HEADLINES TODAY

This has been a heavy message and can be both scary and comforting. Scary if you do not have a personal relationship with GOD through JESUS Christ. Comforting if you know JESUS, because HE is on the throne and in complete control.

**SOME OF HIS PROMISES TO YOU AS A CHRISTIAN:**

“For He Himself has said, “**I** **will** **never** **leave** **you** nor forsake **you**.” Hebrews 13:5

“When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.” Isaiah 43:2

We will finish tonight by with verse 14

**Matthew 24:14**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

What is the Gospel? The word Gospel means “Good News.”

But before I can give you the good news, I need to tell you the bad news.

**Romans 3:23**
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Explain

**Romans 6:23**
For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Explain: What we earn and deserve vs the ultimate gift.

**Romans 10:9-10**
that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Simple

**Romans 10:13**For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

There is nothing we have to do to earn salvation. JESUS paid it all.

[Pastor Frank’s reference to Pope & Global Capitalism](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-council-for-inclusive-capitalism-with-the-vatican-a-new-alliance-of-global-business-leaders-launches-today-301187931.html)

[The Great Reset – Time Magazine](https://time.com/collection/great-reset/)

Persecution of the Jews
[Jews blamed for Covid](http://nataliehilder.ca/articles/plague-libel-blaming-jews-for-covid-19/)

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Reach out to us [here](http://www.ccelkgrove.org/next-steps).
Want to know more? Click [here](http://www.ccelkgrove.org/abcs).