

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, November 5, 2023
Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew
Message 109. “The Destruction of the Temple” – Matthew 24:1-14
Pastor Phillip M Way

Matthew 24:1-2 presents the climax of Jesus’ predictions and declarations against the Jewish religious leaders as He talks with His disciples about the coming destruction of the Temple and the end of the Old Testament era. In chapters 24 & 25, Jesus discusses the near future for His disciples and then the reality of His Second Coming, warning all along about deceivers and false prophets that will seek to use world events to build a following by manipulating people through fear.

- I. The Temple to be Destroyed – vs. 1-2
 - A. Jesus Went Out and Departed
 1. Jesus leaves the Temple for the last time – “left and was going away”
 2. The Temple Abandoned – Matt. 23:38
 3. Ichabod – Ezek. 10:18-19; 11:22-23; Zech. 14:1-2
 - B. Big Stones and Buildings – Mark 13:1-2
 1. Temple was still being built
 2. Would not be completed until just before 70 AD
 3. Not one stone would be left on another – total destruction – Luke 19:44
 - a. Not just the Temple, but Jerusalem would be destroyed
 - b. What about the Western Wall?
 - 1) Retaining wall to support the Temple Mount
 - 2) Nothing remains of the Temple Buildings
 - c. Titus and the Roman Army
 - 1) Orders to not touch the Temple
 - 2) GOLD!
 - 3) FIRE!
 - C. Jesus Words Used Against Him – Matt. 27:40
 1. The destruction of Solomon’s Temple had been prophesied – 1 Kings 9:6-9; Micah 3:12; Jer. 7:11-14 (fulfilled 586 BC)
 2. The prophecy about Herod’s Temple was used against the NT church – Acts 6:13-14; 7:48-50
- II. The End of the Age – vs. 3
 - A. The Mount of Olives – east of the Temple
 - B. Two Questions
 1. When will this happen? – (vs. 4-35) – Dan. 12:6-7; 8:13
 2. What are the signs of the *Parousia* and the end of the age? (vs. 36-25:46)
 - a. Parousia – vs. 27, 37, 39
 - b. End of the Age – this is not the second coming
 - c. Two events are being described, one chronologically, and the other without warning (then, then, then, immediately/but of that day and hour no one knows)
 - C. The End?
 1. For the Disciples, the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple would be the end of the world!
 2. This event would mark the end of the Old Covenant era – 1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 8:13; 9:26
 3. Jesus was ushering in the New Covenant era and was building a NEW Temple – 1 Cor. 3:9-17
- III. This is Just the Beginning – vs. 4-8

- A. Who is Jesus Talking To? (vs. 4)
 - 1. You – first person, the Disciples there with Him
 - 2. You – third person in verses 16-18 – “all y’all”
 - B. What is Jesus Talking About?
 - 1. Time indicators for the destruction of the Temple – it was to be expected and they would see it coming in this present generation
 - 2. Note: there are no time indicators for the Second Coming here – always be ready, watching, and awake (like the days of Noah, life goes on then the flood – vs. 36-39)
 - C. Do Not Be Deceived! (vs. 4-5)
 - 1. Many will come in My name (as if they were Me) – Acts 5:36-37; 1 John 2:18
 - 2. “Prophets, Kings, and Messiahs” – referenced by Josephus
 - 3. Using and misreading historical events – this is guidance for unsettling times – “keep your head when all around you are losing theirs”
 - 4. When He comes, it will be unmistakable – vs.23-27
 - D. Do Not Be Troubled! (vs. 6-8)
 - 1. The destruction of the Temple is not the end of the world
 - 2. Do not be alarmed, the end is not yet
 - 3. Wars and rumors of wars – Isa. 19:2
 - 4. Natural disasters
 - a. Earthquakes – 61, 62, 67 AD – Acts 16:26
 - b. Famines – 46 AD – Acts 11:28-29
 - 5. The beginning of sorrows – labor pains – Isa. 13:8; Jer. 6:24; Micah 4:9-10
- IV. Then...Stand Firm in Difficult Times - vs. 9-14
- A. Outside Threats (vs. 9)
 - 1. Deliver You Up to Tribulation
 - 2. Hand over those from the Disciple Community
 - 3. Pressure, suffering, affliction, physical abuse – Acts 4:1-4; 5:40-41; 6 (Stephen); 8:1-3; 12:1-4
 - B. Inside Threats (vs. 10-12)
 - 1. Then Many Will Stumble – offense, fall away, apostasy – 1 Tim. 4:1
 - 2. Betrayal and Hatred – Demas, Alexander – 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 4:14-17
 - 3. False Prophets – Acts 20:28-30; 2 Cor. 11:1-4; 2 John 7
 - 4. Lawlessness and “Cooling Off” of Love – Rev. 2:4-5
 - C. Then, Then, Then, But (vs. 13)
 - 1. Endure to the End – as long as it takes – Matt. 10:22; 13:20-22
 - 2. The Gospel of the Kingdom will be Preached
 - a. In all the world – not *cosmos*, but *oikoumenay*
 - 1) The Roman Empire (used this way 5 times in Acts)
 - 2) The then known world – Luke 2:1; Acts 11:28; 24:5; Col. 1:23
 - 3) As a witness to all the nations where it goes – Acts 1:8
 - b. Then the end will come – this is the end of the OT era and the Temple, not the end of the world – see vs. 34 – “this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place”

Next week – vs. 15-35 continues to tell us about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple as Jesus tells the Disciples what they need to be prepared to do as they see these things unfolding.

Cross References

Matthew 23:38

38 See! Your house is left to you desolate;

Ezekiel 10:18-19

18 Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

Ezekiel 11:22-23

22 So the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was high above them. 23 And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.

Zechariah 14:1-2

14 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Mark 13:1-2

13 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" 2 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Luke 19:44

44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Matthew 27:40

40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

1 Kings 9:6-9

6 But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 8 And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' 9 Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the Lord has brought all this calamity on them.' "

Micah 3:12

12 Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest.

Jeremiah 7:11-14

11 Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” says the Lord. 12 “But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel. 13 And now, because you have done all these works,” says the Lord, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, 14 therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

Acts 6:13-14

13 They also set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.”

Acts 7:48-50

48 “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 49 ‘Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest? 50 Has My hand not made all these things?’

Daniel 12:6-7

6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” 7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

Daniel 8:13

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, “How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?”

1 Corinthians 10:11

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Hebrews 8:13

13 In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 9:26

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Acts 5:36-37

36 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. 37 After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.

1 John 2:18

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Isaiah 19:2

2 "I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; Everyone will fight against his brother, And everyone against his neighbor, City against city, kingdom against kingdom.

Acts 16:26

26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Acts 11:28-29

28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

Isaiah 13:8

8 And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames.

Jeremiah 6:24

24 We have heard the report of it; Our hands grow feeble. Anguish has taken hold of us, Pain as of a woman in labor.

Micah 4:9-10

9 Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in your midst? Has your counselor perished? For pangs have seized you like a woman in labor. 10 Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, Like a

woman in birth pangs. For now you shall go forth from the city, You shall dwell in the field, And to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; There the Lord will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.

Acts 4:1-4

4 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Acts 5:40-41

40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Acts 8:1-3

8 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Acts 12:1-4

12 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. 4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

1 Timothy 4:1

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 Timothy 4:10

10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica— Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

1 Timothy 1:20

20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 4:14-17

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. 16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and

strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Acts 20:28-30

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

2 Corinthians 11:1-4

11 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

2 John 7

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Revelation 2:4-5

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Matthew 10:22

22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 13:20-22

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Luke 2:1

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Acts 11:28

28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Acts 24:5

5 For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

Colossians 1:23

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”