

## Lighthouse Bible Church

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Matthew 24: 1 - 5 Scripture Reading: 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11

**'Signs that the end is near' Pt. #1**

### Stand – Read – Pray

Last week we began to look at the temple and the return of Christ and it started out with Jesus leaving the temple and pronouncing that **your house the temple is left to you desolate** in **Matthew 23: 38**. It was no longer His house or His Father's house because they have rejected Him as the Messiah.

He told the religious leaders and the people of Jerusalem that they would not see Him again until His second coming and then they would say **blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord**. And as Zechariah said, 'they would look on Him whom they pierced and mourn for Him'.

Then as Jesus and the disciples leave the temple, the disciples, Matthew 24: 1 says, point out the beauty of the temple and the decorations on the massive stones to Jesus and Jesus in Verse 2 says **not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down**.

We looked at how and why that would take place and how the temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD and how they did not leave one stone upon another by the time they finished destroying Jerusalem and the temple.

When Jesus and the disciples leave the temple they went to the Mount of Olives and all the way over there the disciples are pondering what Jesus had just said about the temple being left desolate and that not one stone would be left upon another.

So when they get to the Mount of Olives Peter, James, John and Andrew approach Jesus and ask Him **when will these things be and what will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age.**

And, as we saw last time, the disciples were looking for this to happen immediately and they did not see a time gap between the first and second coming of Jesus. They were expecting Jesus to overthrow the Romans and usher in His kingdom right away.

So Jesus wants to set them straight and in order to do that He is about to answer their questions of ‘what will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age or the end of the world as we know it’. He doesn’t answer, necessarily, the ‘when will these things be’, talking about the destruction of the temple, because that will happen in about 40 years and some of them will see it first hand.

But He does answer the other two and that is what we want to look at this morning: what will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age’. He is going to take them all the way down the corridor of time, a time yet future to us, and show them the signs that His return is near.

We know that what Jesus is sharing in Matthew 24 is in a time yet future to us for several reasons. One reason being that Verse 8 says **all of these are the beginnings of sorrows.** That word ‘sorrows’ *odin*, means pangs or travail, as it relates to the birth pangs of a child.

That passage in **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 3** *Read 1 – 3*, says **as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.** So whatever these signs are, are going to be coming right at the end just before Jesus comes back, just like a woman whose birth pangs start just before the baby is due.

Secondly, look at Verse 13 where it says **he who endures to the END shall be saved**. What end is He talking about? That word end, *telios*, is the same word used in Verse 6. What end is that talking about? Look at verse 3; the end OF THE AGE, the end of the world and its system as we know it, as we saw last time.

Thirdly, and we talked a little bit about this last week and we will look at it in more detail when we get there, in Verse 15 it says ... **standing in the holy place**. There must be a holy place for the abomination of desolation to happen and there is currently no Jewish temple in Jerusalem, but that will change soon as we shall see.

Fourthly, in Verse 29, we see that **the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from heaven**. That hasn't happened yet either.

So these signs we will be looking at are signs of the end in a time future to us involving those who are alive in that time (which may be us), but that appear to be approaching rapidly as we shall see. Like the birth pangs of a woman in labor that start out far apart then get closer and closer, the same is true of these signs.

We see some of these signs today that help us to know that the time is near. Jesus is going to say later in **Matthew 24: 22 – 34 you can look at the growth of the fig tree and know that summer is near...when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the doors**. He is going to say in **Matthew 24: 36 – 39 read, it will be just like in the days of Noah**. But the more frequent they become, like birth pangs, the closer we will be.

So let's look at it starting in Verses 4 – 5 and we are going to see Jesus answer, first of all the question, 'what will be the sign of Your coming' and He gives us the first sign in Verses 4 – 5.

**Verses 4 - 5: and Jesus answered and said to them ‘take heed that no one deceives you for many will come in My name saying ‘ I am the Christ’ and will deceive many’.**

The key word in Verses 4 – 5 is **deceive or deceives**. The first sign that the end is near is people trying to deceive others by saying they are the Christ, they are Jesus, they are the Messiah, there will be false Christ’s, false Messiah’s trying to deceive many into thinking that is who they are.

Jesus says **take heed**, that word is *blepo* and it means to see or look. He is saying be on the lookout for those deceivers because there will be **many** of them just before I return.

Why will there be a lot of false Christs, false deliverers, deceivers saying **they are the Christ**. Because at this particular time in human history the world is going to be looking for answers, both secular and religious. Because you know what happened in the white spaces between verse 3 and verse 4 of Matthew 24? The rapture of the church.

**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 54**, and other places talk about the church being taken up into heaven and then the final 7 years of human history leading to the end of the ages begins as **Daniel 9: 27, Revelation 6 – 18** and other places say.

So you can imagine when all of a sudden every Christian on the face of the planet disappears and the people who are left behind are trying to bring order out of chaos and answers to questions as to where all the people went. Out of all of that **many will come in His name saying I am the Christ**.

As a matter of fact, in the parallel account in **Luke 21: 8** it says **take heed that you not be deceived for many will come in My name saying I am He AND the time has drawn near, therefore do not go after them.** These would be Messiah's will be claiming the end is near and that they are the Christ and have the solutions for all the problems of the world.

And, according to Jesus, there will be **many** of them and unfortunately there will be **many** who will be deceived by them. What makes people follow someone today who claims to be the Christ or the Messiah will be magnified 100 fold in that time just before the return of Jesus Christ, the true Messiah.

People during that time will be living in desperation and wanting answers and they will turn, as many do today, to religious leaders because there is a religious bent in all of us. And these frauds and charlatans and false Christ's and Messiah's will pop up everywhere and deceive anyone they can.

Look at **Verse 23** of Matthew 24; it says **then if anyone says to you 'look here is the Christ or there!' do not believe it for false Christ's and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to DECEIVE, if possible, even the elect.**

The difference between the false Christ's and Messiah's of today and those during the time of the end is that the ones at the end will be energized and empowered by Satan and his demons to do **great signs and wonders** that will make their deception all the more believable.

All of these false Christ's will be nothing, though, compared to the ultimate deceiver and false Christ and that will come and that is **the Anti Christ** mentioned many places in scripture as arising during this same time frame. And because he will be indwelt and empowered by Satan himself as **Revelation 13: 2** and **Daniel 8: 24**, he will deceive many, many people.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2: 9 – 10** says **the coming of the lawless one**, talking about the anti-Christ, **is according to the working of Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders and with all unrighteous deception...**

This man, **Daniel 9: 27** says, is so deceptive that he will even get the nation of Israel to sign a peace treaty with him thinking that he can deliver them and then he will turn on them half way through the treaty. **Revelation 13: 8** says that **the whole world will worship him** except for true Christians. In **Daniel 8: 25** it says **through his cunning, he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule.**

Look at **Revelation 13: 11 - 17**

By the way, **Revelation 6: 2**, which is the beginning of the tribulation time, the same as Matthew 24, says the anti-Christ will come on a white horse with a crown on his head and will conquer many. **Revelation 19: 11 – 12** says that when Jesus comes back He will be riding on a white horse and have many crowns on His head and will conquer all His enemies.

So Jesus says to His disciples, the people who are alive in that day just before My return need to keep their eyes wide open so that no one deceives them because there are coming a lot of false Christ's, false Messiah's, that will try to deceive many. How many, the entire world of that time. He says don't let that happen to you.

Close with **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2: 1 – 4, 9 – 10, \*8**

That is why Jesus says to the people of that time 'you better beware' because the anti-Christ and others have the power to deceive the whole world.

But the people of our time, right now, need to be aware as well. Remember that this deception is like birth pangs, they increase more and more as the end nears. That warning is for us today as well because we are seeing the deception all around us, aren't we?

**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4: 1** says **now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times**, the times we are living in right now, **some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.**

How are some people deceived today? Well **Colossians 2: 4** says that **you can be deceived with persuasive words** from false teachers. Through philosophy, through political correctness, through other false religious beliefs, through current cultural beliefs or through the majority always being right or whatever. *Galatians 6: 7 - 8*

In **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2: 1 – 3** talking about the same false prophets and teachers that Jesus is talking about in Matthew 24, Peter warns that **many will follow their destructive ways because of whom the way of truth is blasphemed and by covetous practices they will exploit you with DECEPTIVE words. Ephesians 5: 6 says to not let anyone DECEIVE you with EMPTY words. Romans 16: 18 says by smooth words and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the simple.**

Through persuasive, deceptive, smooth, flattering words they want to get you to follow them.

But you want to know something; we can also deceive ourselves as well. Look at **James 1: 22 - 25** says **but be doers of the word and not hearers only, DECEIVING yourselves.** Then **Verse 26:** **if anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue DECEIVES his own heart.**

**1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 8** says if we say that we have no sin we **DECEIVE** ourselves and the truth is not in us. *Comment.* **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 33** says do not be **DECEIVED** bad company corrupts good morals. *Comment.*

So how can we keep from being deceived? Read **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 10 – 17**

**Ephesians 6: 13 – 14** says that through the knowledge of Jesus and the maturing of our faith in Christ we will no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness of **DECEIT**.

The ultimate deception that the devil wants you to believe is that there is more than one way to heaven, that there is no hell, that you can be good and get to heaven, you can be religious and get to heaven, you can do good things to earn your way to heaven. His ultimate deception is to tell you about another gospel. **Galatians 1: 6** Paul says **I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different gospel which is not another but some want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But if we or an angel from heaven preach any other...**

Let me end by reading this in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6: 9 – 11**

Well, Jesus said the time of the end is near when you see many deceivers in the world. So keep your eyes open. We will look at more signs next time.

Close with Gospel



**Lighthouse Bible Church**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Matthew 24: 1 - 5**  
**'Signs that the end is Near' Pt. #1**

Introduction and Review:

Matthew 23: 38, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 3

Matthew 24: 22 – 34, 36 – 39

Verses 4 – 5: Take heed that no one deceives you

The cause for deception:

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17, Daniel 9: 27

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 54

Revelation 6 – 18

Luke 21: 8, Matthew 24: 23

The ultimate deceiver:

Revelation 13: 2, 8, Daniel 8: 24 - 25, 9: 27

2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2: 1 – 4, 8 – 10

Revelation 13: 11 – 17, 19: 11 – 12, 6: 2

Watching for the deception today:

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4: 1, Colossians 2: 4

*Galatians 6: 7 – 8*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2: 1 – 3

Ephesians 5: 6, 6: 13 – 14, Romans 16: 18

James 1: 22 – 26, 1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 8

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 33, Galatians 1: 6 – 9

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 10 – 17

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6: 9 – 11

**Lighthouse Bible Church**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Matthew 24: 1 - 5**  
**'Signs that the end is Near' Pt. #1**

Introduction and Review:

Matthew 23: 38, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 3

Matthew 24: 22 – 34, 36 – 39

Verses 4 – 5: Take heed that no one deceives you

The cause for deception:

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17, Daniel 9: 27

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 50 – 54

Revelation 6 – 18

Luke 21: 8, Matthew 24: 23

The ultimate deceiver:

Revelation 13: 2, 8, Daniel 8: 24 - 25, 9: 27

2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2: 1 – 4, 8 – 10

Revelation 13: 11 – 17, 19: 11 – 12, 6: 2

Watching for the deception today:

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4: 1, Colossians 2: 4

*Galatians 6: 7 – 8*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2: 1 – 3

Ephesians 5: 6, 6: 13 – 14, Romans 16: 18

James 1: 22 – 26, 1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 8

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 33, Galatians 1: 6 – 9

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 10 – 17

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6: 9 – 11