

Matthew 24:15-28

Desolation

Soon you will see ...

- I. An Abominable Sign
- II. A Fair Warning
- III. Unspeakable Horrors
- IV. A Spectacular Appearance

... then everyone will see.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does Jesus warn the people about?
2. What does He tell them to do?
3. War is a terrible thing. Will there ever be peace on earth?
4. Many people, including Christians, live in places where there is war. Will you pray for them today? Once place we need to pray for now is the nation of Ukraine.

War & Peace

There always have been and still are wars and rumors of war. That be the case until the Kingdom comes in fullness. Throughout history there have been major wars in which certain battles were pivotal in determining the outcome. Some have been on a much larger scale, but none have been more significant than siege of Jerusalem in 70AD. That might seem like an overstatement, however, when we consider the earthly significance and even even more-so the theological impact it had, we realize that it was a key element in the history of redemption. No wonder Jesus takes the time just before his death to elaborate on it. Jesus alerts his people to the horrors that are about to befall the city and warns them to flee for their lives. The fury of the battle for Jerusalem spawns atrocities so disturbing that they are best left to discerning readers. The people truly experience great tribulation. In God's perfect providence it was also an even the propelled the preaching of the Gospel and therefore the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in a way previously unknown. Thanks to human depravity the tragedy of war did not cease with that event, significant as it was. But the people of God then and today can take heart, because some day, when the Son of Man comes in His glory, peace will reign. *In the words of Matthew Bridges wonderful Hymn*

“Crown Him the Lord of peace; who's
power a scepter sways

From pole to pole that wars may cease
absorbed in prayer and praise:

His reign shall know no end; and round His
pierced feet

Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their
fragrance ever sweet.”

For an account of the siege of Jerusalem see the historian Josephus “The Jewish War”