

1  **THE FINAL COUNTDOWN – 2**

Matthew 24:1-14

2  **MATTHEW 24:1-6**

✘ Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And 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." ³ 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?" ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ, and will deceive many. ⁶ "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.

3  **MATTHEW 24:7-14**

✘. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ "All these are the beginning of sorrows. 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. ¹⁰ "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ "But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 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."

4  **LAST FLIGHT OF THE ATLANTIS**

5  **FINAL COUNTDOWN FOR SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS**

6  **JULY 8 LAUNCH OF ATLANTIS**

7  **ATLANTIS FINAL LAUNCH**

8  **REVIEW– FINAL COUNTDOWN**

- ✘ Israel as a sign of the Return of Jesus
- ✘ God is not through with the Jews
- ✘ Founding of the state of Israel
- ✘ Return
- ✘ Luke 21:24b
- ✘ Romans 11: Olive Tree

9  **BACKGROUND TO MATTHEW 24**










- ✘ Christ's Final week – Goes to temple
- ✘ He left the temple area with His disciples
- ✘ Jesus gave the Olivet Discourse
- ✘ His disciples had no idea - they had not comprehended
- ✘ Matthew 24:2 – Temple destroyed
- ✘ Disciples question – Matthew 24:3: When will these things be?
- ✘

10  **THE FIG TREE**

- ✘ Matthew 24:32-33: "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!
- ✘ WHAT THINGS? Six Signs
 - + Jerusalem no longer trampled by Gentiles
 - + Luke 21:28: "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."
- +

11  **SPIRITUAL DECEPTION**

- ✘ vv. 4-5: " ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ, and will deceive many.
- ✘ Warning – Religious charlatans in every age
- ✘ End of the age – spiritual deception increases

- ✘ Turned away from the truth – follow anyone who promises to solve their problems
- 12  **1 TIMOTHY 4:1**
- ✘ Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”
 ✘ “deceiving spirits” are in the world today
 ✘ Come to a climax when the Antichrist displays the work of Satan
 ✘ Mimicking the work of God
- 13  **WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS**
- ✘ vv. 6-7a: . 6 “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. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
 ✘ Greek text - “You will be hearing,”
 ✘ Leon Trotsky - seeking a peaceful world picked the wrong century
- 14  **DO THESE NAMES SOUND FAMILIAR?**
- ✘ Rwanda, Cambodia, Chechnya, Serbia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Iraq, Kashmir, Northern Ireland, Somalia, Haiti, Kuwait, Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and dozens of other conflicts
 ✘ Just 66 years ago – Germany and Japan
 ✘ World is marked by warfare – No peace until the Prince of Peace returns
- 15  **NATURAL DISASTERS**
- ✘ vv. 7b-8: And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 “All these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pains)
 ✘ Pestilence - Outbreak of disease
 ✘ Earthquakes in various places
 ✘ Like “birth pains” or labor pains as we approach the end of this age
- 16  **BIRTH PAINS**
- ✘ From the calendar - general time when the baby is due
 ✘ Begin with low intensity and low frequency
 ✘ Go on for several days
 ✘ May start and stop
 ✘ Eventually the labor pains start in earnest
 ✘ Finally the baby is born.
- 17  **END OF THIS AGE**
- ✘ More and more disasters occurring around the world
 + Financial Crash
 + Terrorist attacks (possibly nuclear)
 + Epidemics
 ✘ “birth pains” warning us of Jesus return
 ✘ Men and women cry out for a leader to bring them peace and safety
 ✘
- 18  **FIERCE PERSECUTION**
- ✘ 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.”
 ✘ Paints a dire picture of the future
 ✘ America has never had to face this kind of persecution
 ✘ In many parts of the world - suffering and dying for Christ every day
- 19  **WIDESPREAD APOSTASY**
- ✘ 10 “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.
 + Picture of unprecedented religious apostasy in the last days
 + Applies to so-called Christian leaders
- 20  **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5**
- ✘ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors,

headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

21  **WORLDWIDE MISSIONARY OUTREACH**

✘ vv. 13-14: ¹³ "But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 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 does it mean?

+

22  **WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE 21ST CENTURY?**

✘ Closer to finishing the task than ever before

✘ Missiologists tell us:

+12,000 unreached people groups left in the world

+9,000 of those have already been targeted

+Leaves 3,000 people groups unreached and without any clear plan to reach them

+The number is large but it is dropping all the time

23  **PERSPECTIVE ON THE SIGNS**

✘ Present in every generation

✘ Tempo of sign-events will increase as we get closer to the last days.

✘ Must stay focused on Jesus

✘

24  **WATCH AND BE READY**

✘ Matthew 24:42: "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

✘ We are in the Final Countdown!

✘ Keep your eye on Israel.

✘ Watch the signs that Jesus gave us.

✘ Stay Focused on Jesus and His commands.

✘ Are you ready?