

Signs of the Times

Matthew (23:33-) 24:1-35

- I. **APPRECIATING THE ARCHITECTURE** (Jer 7:1-15)
- A. **Beautiful Buildings** (Mk 13:1)—*Look what we built for God!*
 - B. **Impressive Forms**—*We know the correct way to order worship/church government!*
 - C. **Empty Religion** (1 Sam 4:21; Mat 21:13 & 23:38; Jn 4:20-23)—*abandon true relationship God but cling to the form of their religion: lip service and good luck charms.*
 - D. **Impending Destruction** (24:2)—*not one stone left upon another*
 - 1. **Fulfilled in AD 70**—Jerusalem conquered and Temple destroyed
 - 2. **Application for Us**—What we have built must not compete with what *He is building*. He will tear it down.
- II. **ANTICIPATING THE END** (3)
- A. **Reading the Signs**—Already fulfilled; Yet to be fulfilled; Continuing to be fulfilled?
 - 1. **False Christs and False Prophets**—leading many astray, even miraculous signs
 - 2. **International Political Unrest**—wars & rumors of wars
 - 3. **Natural Disasters**—famines, earthquakes
 - 4. **Great Tribulation**—hated, persecuted, martyrdom for faith in Jesus
 - 5. **Pervasive Wickedness (Lawlessness)**—will increase
 - 6. **Great Apostasy**—love will grow cold, many will fall away
 - 7. **Gospel Preached to All Nations**—the only sign that has not already taken place!
 - B. **Heeding the Signs**—*Why does Jesus tell us these things?*

1. **Don't Be Deceived.** (4, 24-25)—Jesus is the Christ; don't look for/follow *anyone else*.
2. **Don't Be Alarmed.** (6)—It's part of the plan; it will get *worse before it gets better*.
 ➔ **Childbirth, not cancer**—there *will be pain*, but the end is *good*!
3. **Prepare to Endure.** (13) It is only for a limited time. Your faith is not in vain.

III. **WAITING FOR JESUS** (30-31)—*He will return*.

A. **It Will Be Obvious.**

1. **Like Lightning** (27)—dramatic and unambiguous
2. **Astronomical Shaking** (29-30)—solar and lunar eclipse and meteor/asteroid storm
3. **On the Clouds** (30; Dan 7:13-14)—Daniel's prophecy, divine Son of Man receiving everlasting dominion of all nations
4. **With His Angels** (30)—indicates His deity; He commands the *Hosts of Heaven*
5. **With a Loud Trumpet** (31; 1 Thes 4:16)—not something quiet that you might miss!

B. **The Tribes of the Earth Will Mourn.** (Ps 2)

1. **Repentance?** (Zech 12:10-12)—seems to indicate the repentance of Israel as a nation
2. **Despair?** (Rev 6:16; Lk 23:30)—clearly pictures the terror and despair enemies of God

C. **The Elect Will Be Saved.** (31) He will preserve the elect; He knows where you are and His angels will gather you!

D. **The Promise Is Sure.** (35; Rom 8:35-39; Psalm 46; Deut 33:27) He will return for us and nothing—not life or death or anything that will take place—has the power to separate us from Jesus.