

God's Planned Future

Matthew 24-25, Daniel's, and Revelation Prophecies

In this lesson we shall consider some of the corresponding predictions between Daniel's prophecies in chapters 9 and 12 with Jesus' prophecy in Matthew chapters 24-25.

Remember also, that Matthew 24 corresponds with the chronological timeline of the Revelation.

Matthew 24 begins with Jesus and His disciples walking away from the temple in Jerusalem, when the disciples draw to Jesus' attention all the buildings of the temple. Jesus responds by saying, *I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down* (Mat 24:2).

Arriving at the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24:3, Jesus' disciples ask Him 2 questions. First, *when will these things be?* And second, *what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?* (Mat 24:3).

First, for us, we can easily look back into history and see that Jesus' words in verse 2, *there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down*, were fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Roman army, under General

Titus, destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. Although we have not seen it yet, the Jerusalem temple is going to be rebuilt and the priestly ministry will be reinstated with the sacrifices in the future. This will most likely happen immediately following the rapture with the approval of antichrist.

For the answer to the disciple's second question, Jesus proceeds to give a detailed explanation quoting from Daniel's prophecy which also matches with John's Revelation. As we bring all 3 prophecies together, we see that the future will look like this:

- **Daniel 9:26**, *and after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing* (That was Jesus' earthly life). *And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary* (That was the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70). *Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed* (This is the future tribulation following the rapture).
- **Matthew 5:5**, *many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.* We see this today with all the false prophets and false claims of

being reincarnated Jesus. But this will increase immediately following the rapture. When the church is removed from this world there will remain many false believers who were left behind. These will follow false christs as they pursue justifying their false belief which was the cause of them not being taken in the rapture of the true bride of Christ.

- **Matthew 24:6**, *and you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.* This corresponds with **Seal #1** in Revelation 6:1-2. The Antichrist establishes temporary world peace politically, militarily, and religiously. Antichrist will support the rebuilding of the temple as a gesture of peace to Israel when he makes a 7 year covenant of peace with them (Dan 9:27a). As time goes by in the early years of the tribulation, rumours of wars will be heard of. Then those rumours will become actual battles as peace dissolves into wars in different places and for different reasons.
- **Matthew 24:7**, *for nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.* This corresponds with **Seals #2-4** in Revelation. Antichrist's peace soon

dissolves into anarchy beginning with war. Revelation 6:4 explains **Seal #2**, *its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another*. War is followed by famine and shortage of food in **Seal #3**. Again, **Seal #4** sees mass death with ¼ of the world's population dying (Rev 6:8).

- **Matthew 24:8**, Jesus tells His disciples that *all these are but the beginning of the birth pains*. Things are about to get much worse as Jesus predicts in Matthew 24:21, *for then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be*. The 2nd 3 ½ year period of the 7 year tribulation is called “*great tribulation*” (cf. Mk 13:14-19; Rev 7:14) because it is the worst judgement ever.
- **In between Matthew 24:8 and 9**, Daniel's 3 ½ year prophecy happens *on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate* (**Daniel 9:27**). Mark 13:14a adds, *when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be*. Daniel's prophecy in chapter 11 provides more specific detail. Daniel 11:31 says that antichrist's military *forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress* (the city of Jerusalem. cf. Luk 21:20) *and shall*

take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. This will be some representation of antichrist (Dan 12:11) with his army telling people to worship him.

Then *He* (antichrist) *shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action* (Dan 11:32, 39b).

Antichrist will use complementary language and enticement to persuade everyone who is happy to break the 7 year peace covenant with Israel to faithfully follow him. This will include both Jews and Gentiles. However, there will be people of God, faithful Jews, and believers in Jesus Christ, who see through antichrist's deception, and they will resist him in any way possible.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, *let no one deceive you in any way. For that day... the man of lawlessness* (antichrist) *is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God* (cf. Dan 11:36-37).

Revelation 11:2b, *do not measure the court outside the temple* (Jerusalem); *leave that out, for it is given over to*

the nations (Gentiles), *and they will trample the holy city* (Jerusalem); *for forty-two months* (3 ½ years).

So, we see that halfway through the tribulation, antichrist and his army break the 7 year covenant of peace with Israel and hijack Jerusalem (This is NOT Armageddon). He stops the temple worship in Jerusalem and authorises his Gentile army to govern Jerusalem while Jews are still living there. He declares himself to be God and instructs the world to worship him as god (Dan 9:27; 11:31, 36; 12:11; Mt 24:9, 15-21; Lk 21:20; 2Th 2:3-4; Rev 11:2). While Jerusalem will be damaged, it will NOT be destroyed.

- **At this 3 ½ year point also**, Israel's 1/3 remnant are put into hiding and protected by God somewhere in the desert for the 2nd 3½ year period of the tribulation (Zch 13:8-9; Rev 12:6-16). It is possible that some of the Jewish 144,000 men are hidden away with these people also.
- **Matthew 24:9-14**, *then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake*. Once antichrist declares himself to be god, he demands that the world

worship him alone. With the disappearance of 1/3 of Israel, and antichrist's inability to find them, antichrist introduces the false prophet and the image of the beast, then marks his followers with his 666 mark (Rev 13:16-17).

While there will be a great spiritual awakening during the tribulation from the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev 7:3-8; 9:4: 14:1-5), the 2 male Jewish witnesses (Rev 11:1-14), and the 3 hovering angels (Rev 14:6-11), there will be great deception also. There will be many false evangelists with false gospels (Mat 24:11), leading people to become false converts. These false converts will fall away (Mat 24:10), accepting the 666 mark of antichrist because of antichrist's deception and the terrible events of the tribulation judgements (Mat 24:12). Only the genuinely converted tribulation saints will remain faithful and not receive the 666 mark.

Revelation 20:4 tells us that these tribulation believers will be those who have *been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.*

These faithful believers will either be martyred for their faith, or they will somehow persevere to the end of the tribulation. Everyone who is discovered to have refused the mark of the beast, and refuse to worship antichrist will be executed, which is **Seal #5** in Revelation 6:9-11; 14:13. Martyrdom of tribulation converts to Jesus as Saviour and Lord will escalate.

This is how Matthew 24:14 will play out during the tribulation, *and this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.* The gospel will be proclaimed right up to the end of the 7 year tribulation when Christ returns in Revelation 19.

- **Matthew 24:15-21**, *so when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel (Dan 9:27, antichrist at the tribulation 3 ½ year point), standing in the holy place,*¹⁶ *then let those (tribulation converts) who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*¹⁷ *Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,*¹⁸ *and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.*¹⁹ *And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!*²⁰ *Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on*

a Sabbath. ²¹ *For then (the 2nd 3 ½ years) there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*

Here, Jesus explains that if you happen to be a convert to Jesus during the 1st 3 ½ year period of the tribulation, and you see antichrist commit *the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel*, run for your life! Things are about to get much worse. Not only will you not be able to buy and sell without the 666 mark (Rev 13:16), but you will most likely be executed for believing in Jesus if discovered.

- **Matthew 24:22**, Jesus continues to explain that if the 7 year tribulation was permitted to continue any longer, mankind, under antichrist's leadership, would annihilate themselves. *And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

God wants to preserve living people to continue into His 1000 year kingdom. Plus, God wants to preserve the nation Israel to fulfill the remaining Old Testament promises to them. This requires survival of both humans and planet earth.

Close to the end of the tribulation, bowl judgement number 6 (Rev 16:12-16) sees the river Euphrates dried up; and the world's armies join forces with the northern and eastern armies. They march westward across dry land, where the river Euphrates used to be, to meet at the place called Armageddon, waiting for Christ to arrive for battle.

Meanwhile, other smaller armies attack and take over unbelieving Jerusalem (Zch 14:1-4) which is a mix of both Jew and Gentile in rebellion against antichrist. But Jerusalem is NOT destroyed.

While waiting for Christ to arrive for battle at Armageddon, bowl judgement number 7 is poured out (Rev 16:17-21). This is the storm to end all storms, but this is still NOT Armageddon or Christ's return!

- ~ *Flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder*
- ~ *A severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth*
- ~ *The great city (Jerusalem) splits into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed*
- ~ *Every island fled away*
- ~ *The mountains could not be found*

~ *From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds (45Kg) each fell upon men*

The planet's tectonic plates move as never before to completely change the surface of the earth. All the cities around the world collapse into piles of rubble. Jerusalem is the ONLY city left standing on what will be a raised area of land. The surface of the earth is restructured from being mountainous to being a gentle and undulating landscape in preparation for the 1000 year Kingdom.

Remember, while this is happening, Israel's 1/3 remnant and the 144,000 Jewish evangelists remain protected by God. The battle of Armageddon has not happened, and Christ has not returned yet, but He soon will.

- **Matthew 24:27**, *for as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man*. This speaks of Jesus' 2nd stage of His return. Stage 1 was the rapture, when Jesus snatches the church up to the clouds. Stage 2, which comes later, is Jesus' descent to touching planet earth to conquer it (Zch 14:4). Revelation 19:11-16 describes Jesus

returning with the armies of heaven. Daniel 12:7b explains this return of Christ as *when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished*. Christ's return will bring an end to antichrist's reign.

- **Matthew 24:28**, *wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather*. Revelation 19:17-18 tells us that a colossal number of birds (vultures) gather to start eating the dead bodies in the 1st stage of the clean-up project following Jesus' conquering at Armageddon.

While Daniel finishes his prophecy in Daniel 12:13, Jesus continues in Matthew chapter 24 as does John in the Revelation.

Before we look at Jesus' words in Matthew 24:29-31, we shall briefly consider Daniel's final words.

Daniel 12:11-13, *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*

¹² *Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.*

¹³ *But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."*

We understand that verse 11 says there will be 3 ½ years (1,290 days) from the time of antichrist committing the *abomination that makes desolate* to Christ's return. Then in verse 13, Daniel continues to tell us that those who wait for 1335 days will be blessed. This creates a 75 day difference, or interim gap, between Christ's return and another significant event which Daniel does not name. However, it is Daniel's expectation that some will survive through this period for them to be blessed. The only clue Daniel gives is found in his final sentence; *and you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days* (Daniel 12:13). This indicates that for those who survive through the extended period of 1335 days, which is 75 days beyond Christ's return, they shall stand in a place specifically allotted to them by God. In the Jewish context of Daniel's prophecy, this would indicate standing in the new Kingdom with King Jesus. We see God's prophecies further fulfilled for Israel through Jesus' words in Matthew 25 and the Revelation.

Matthew 25:34, *then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

The invitation given in verse 34 will be to the saved people who somehow survive through to the end of the tribulation. They will include the 144,000 Jewish men, the surviving tribulation saints, and the remnant of Israel who were protected by God in the desert who have now all been saved. These people are separated out as the sheep on Jesus' right side in the sheep and goat judgement. These are the ones Daniel spoke of when he said, *you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days* (Daniel 12:13). Their allotted place is with Jesus in the new kingdom.

Matthew 24:29-31 finds Jesus giving a 3 point summary of the final days of this world as we presently know it, and the beginning of the transition to His new kingdom period.

First, verse 29, Jesus shows us the final condition of this present world moments before He returns.

Second, verse 30, Jesus again shows us the glory of His actual return to conquer the world.

Third, verse 31, Jesus shows us how He gathers the surviving believers from around the world following Armageddon and His return.

First - Matthew 24:29, *immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

When the complete trilogy of 7 seal judgements, 7 trumpet judgements, and 7 bowl judgements have been dispensed, the end of the tribulation arrives. The accumulation of all the judgements is unimaginable. The entire earth is changed, the solar system is dismantling as it falls to pieces, bombarding the earth with meteorites. The 24 hour cycle of day and night has changed with the bare minimum of sunlight only partially illuminating the darkened earth.

The remaining unbelievers, including those in antichrist's army are covered in painful sores, sunburnt, hungry, and dehydrated from the lack of water and food. The catastrophic effects of **bowl #7** storm has destroyed every city in the world with homes now just a pile of rubble. The earth's landscape looks totally different. Land and oceans have been redefined because of the **bowl #7** earthquakes. Most, if not all, of the world's satellites will have been destroyed and fallen out of the sky or floated off into space as redundant junk. The world's supercomputers will have been crushed as with the world's electricity plants. The

toxic waste wafting around the globe from radioactive residue and chemical spillage will be indescribable. Present day maps will be of little use. Jerusalem is the only city left standing, which will enrage antichrist and the remaining unbelievers even more.

The scene on earth *immediately after the tribulation of those days*, and briefly before Christ's return, will be so extreme that we can only partially imagine the horrors of it now.

Second - Matthew 24:30, *then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

With the earth and solar system devastated, and Jerusalem being the only city still standing, although overrun by Gentiles and split into 3 parts, antichrist's bedraggled armies wait to do battle with Jesus at Armageddon. Then it happens. **Christ returns!**

Into this darkened environment, *the Son of Man* will enter the earth's sky. A divine portal from heaven to earth's atmosphere opens, through which Jesus launches down

through the clouds to earth. The brilliance of His glory will light up the sky with His radiance as never seen before. Somehow, people around the world will be able to see Jesus' entrance. It may be that enough manmade technology will still be functioning to allow global viewing of it. Or it may be supernaturally enabled. But this much is certain, Jesus' identity and magnificence will be unmistakable, and seen by all. As antichrist's remaining armies look upward to behold their enemy approaching, they will know their demise is only moments away.

Jesus returns with His heavenly armies (That's us, Rev 19:14) to conquer at Armageddon and Jerusalem (Zec 14:3-5b). The armies with Christ have no weapons because Christ is the weapon. There is no actual fighting, no battle, Christ simply destroys His enemies by His spoken word (Rev 19:15). Zechariah 14:12 explains in graphic detail, *this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.*

This is not atomic warfare. Rather, this is the power of Jesus' spoken word. Revelation 14:20 sees the combined

blood of these battles *as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia* (approx. 300Km). The brutal physical devastation caused by Christ as *He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty* (Revelation 19:15). The destruction of His enemies at Armageddon and Jerusalem produces such an enormous volume of blood that the earth will not be able to immediately soak it in.

- ~ Antichrist and the false prophet are captured and *thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur* (Rev 19:20b).
- ~ *An angel coming down from heaven... seized the dragon... who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer* (Rev 20:1-3).

Third - Matthew 24:31, *and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Following Christ's victorious return, the world is a quite a different place. Satan is gone, antichrist and the false prophet are gone. All opposing armies are gone also.

Christ wastes no time in rounding up the surviving people from around the world. There will, however, remain many antichrist supporters in other places around the world. Likewise, there will be believers in Christ scattered who have not taken the 666 mark of the beast.

So, Christ *will send out his angels*, who will *...gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other*.

Matthew 25:32-34 continues, *before him (Christ) will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*³³ *And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.*³⁴ *Then the King (Christ) will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Then he will say to those on his left, depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matthew 25:46. cf. Heb 10:12-13; Jude:14-16). This judgement is commonly referred to as the sheep and goat judgement.