

Lesson 28: The End of the World, Part 1

Memory Verse: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28

1. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? Matthew 24:3

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him _____, saying, Tell us, _____ shall these things _____? and _____ shall be the _____ of thy _____, and of the _____ of the _____?"

2. Why did they ask this question? Jesus had just said to the priests and rulers:

Matthew 23:38 "Behold, your _____ is left unto you _____."

Note: "Christ's words to the priests and rulers, ... had struck terror to their hearts. They affected indifference, but the question kept rising in their minds as to the import of these words. An unseen danger seemed to threaten them. Could it be that the magnificent temple, which was the nation's glory, was soon to be a heap of ruins? The foreboding of evil was shared by the disciples, and they anxiously waited for some more definite statement from Jesus." DA 627.1

3. What did the disciples do? Matthew 24:1 "And Jesus went out, and _____ from the temple: and his disciples _____ to him for to _____ him the _____ of the temple."

Note: "As they passed with Him out of the temple, they called His attention to its strength and beauty. The stones of the temple were of the purest marble, of perfect whiteness, and some of them of almost fabulous size. A portion of the wall had withstood the siege by Nebuchadnezzar's army. In its perfect masonry it appeared like one solid stone dug entire from the quarry. How those mighty walls could be overthrown the disciples could not comprehend." DA 627.1

3. But what did Jesus say to them? Matthew 24:2 "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall _____ be left here one _____ upon another, that shall not be _____ down."

Note: "As Christ's attention was attracted to the magnificence of the temple, **what must have been the unuttered thoughts of that Rejected One!** The view before Him was indeed beautiful, but He said **with sadness**, I see it all. The buildings are indeed wonderful. You point to these walls as apparently indestructible; but listen to My words: The day will come when "there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." DA 627.2

"Christ's words had been spoken in the hearing of a large number of people; but when He was alone, Peter, John, James, and Andrew came to Him as He sat upon the Mount of Olives." DA 628.1 This is when they asked the question in verse 3.

4. What was Jesus' answer? Matthew 24:4 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take _____ that _____ man _____ you."

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Note: "Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves. When He referred to the destruction of Jerusalem, **His prophetic words reached beyond that event to the final conflagration** in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the world for their iniquity, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. **This entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last scenes of this earth's history.**" DA 628.1

5. What is the first point Jesus warned them about on which they could be deceived? Matthew 24:5 "For _____ shall come in my _____, saying, I am _____; and shall deceive many."

Note: "Many **false messiahs** will appear, claiming to work **miracles**, and declaring that the time of the **deliverance of the Jewish nation** has come. These will **mislead many**. Christ's words were **fulfilled**. Between His death and the siege of Jerusalem many false messiahs appeared. But this warning was **given also to those who live in this age of the world**. The same deceptions practiced prior to the destruction of Jerusalem have been practiced through the ages, and will be practiced again." DA 628.2 Every so often in our time we hear of someone claiming to be Christ being here or there. We will hear more of this as the time for Christ's second coming approaches.

6. What was the next thing Jesus told them about? Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of _____ and rumours of _____: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the _____ is not _____."

Note: "Prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, **men wrestled for the supremacy**. Emperors were murdered. Those supposed to be standing next the throne were slain. There were wars and rumors of wars. 'All these things must come to pass,' said Christ, 'but the end [of the Jewish nation as a nation] is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.' Christ said, As the rabbis see these signs, they will declare them to be God's judgments upon the nations for holding in bondage His chosen people. They will declare that these signs are the token of the advent of the Messiah. **Be not deceived; they are the beginning of His judgments.** The people have looked to themselves. **They have not repented** and been converted that I should heal them. **The signs that they represent as tokens of their release from bondage are signs of their destruction.**" DA 628.3 These signs were all fulfilled at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. They are also being fulfilled today. Let us look at them.

7. What signs are listed in Matthew 24:6,7?

"Ye shall hear of _____ and rumours of _____. ...
For nation shall rise _____ nation, and kingdom _____ kingdom:
and there shall be _____,
and _____,
and _____, in divers places."

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As we get closer to Jesus' coming, all of these things are getting worse and worse. There are more big earthquakes than ever before. We often hear of bad famines in some parts of the world. What about pestilences? Today there are many more serious diseases for which no cures have been found. And there are always wars somewhere. These wars are getting much worse in the way they are fought. But Jesus told us in verse 8: "All these are the _____ of _____." These are signs that the end is coming. These things are also to wake us up so that we will prepare for the coming of Jesus before it is too late.

8. What else did Jesus warn the disciples about? Matthew 24:9,10

"Then shall they deliver you up to be _____, and shall _____ you: and ye shall be _____ of all nations for my _____'s sake. And then shall many be _____, and shall _____ one another, and shall _____ one another."

Note: "All this the Christians suffered. Fathers and mothers betrayed their children. Children betrayed their parents. Friends delivered their friends up to the Sanhedrin. The persecutors wrought out their purpose by killing Stephen, James, and other Christians." DA 629.1

"Through His servants, God gave the Jewish people a **last opportunity** to repent. **He manifested Himself through His witnesses** in their arrest, in their trial, and in their imprisonment. Yet their judges pronounced on them the death sentence. They were men of whom the world was not worthy, and by killing them the Jews crucified afresh the Son of God. **So it will be again.** The authorities will make laws to restrict religious liberty. They will assume the right that is God's alone. They will think they can force the conscience, which God alone should control. Even now they are making a beginning; this work they will continue to carry forward till they reach a boundary over which they cannot step. **God will interpose in behalf of His loyal, commandment-keeping people.**" DA 630.1

"On every occasion when persecution takes place, **those who witness it make decisions either for Christ or against Him.** Those who **manifest sympathy** for the ones wrongly condemned **show their attachment for Christ.** Others are **offended** because the principles of truth cut directly across their practice. Many stumble and fall, **apostatizing from the faith they once advocated.** Those who apostatize in time of trial will, to secure their own safety, bear false witness, and betray their brethren. **Christ has warned us of this, that we may not be surprised** at the unnatural, cruel course of those who reject the light." DA 630.2

10. In Matthew 24:15-16 Christ gave His disciples a sign of the ruin to come on Jerusalem, and He told them how to escape:

"When ye therefore shall _____ the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea _____ into the _____."

Note: "This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. The Christians **obeyed the warning**, and **not a Christian perished** in the fall of the city." DA 630.3

11. What did Jesus tell His disciples to pray for especially? Matthew 24:20

"But pray ye that your _____ be not in the _____, neither on the _____ day."

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Note: "He who made the Sabbath did not abolish it, nailing it to His cross. The Sabbath was not rendered null and void by His death. Forty years after His crucifixion it was still to be held sacred. For forty years the disciples were to pray that their flight might not be on the Sabbath day." DA 630.4

12. What would happen between the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world? Matthew 24:21,22 "For then shall be _____ tribulation, such as was _____ since the _____ of the world to this _____, no, nor ever shall _____. And except those days should be _____, there should _____ flesh be saved: but for the _____'s sake those days _____ be shortened."

Note: "From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the chain of this earth's history, – the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. **Between these two events**, there lay open to Christ's view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked with blood and tears and agony. Upon these scenes His disciples could not then endure to look, and Jesus passed them by with a brief mention. ... **For more than a thousand years** such persecution as the world had never before known was to come upon Christ's followers. Millions upon millions of His faithful witnesses were to be slain. Had not God's hand been stretched out to preserve His people, all would have perished. 'But for the elect's sake,' He said, 'those days shall be shortened.' DA 630.5 This was fulfilled during the 1260 years which were prophesied in Daniel and Revelation. We will study this later.

13. "Now, in unmistakable language, our Lord speaks of His second coming, and He gives warning of dangers to precede His advent to the world." DA 631.1

What warning does He give in Matthew 24:23-26?

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, _____ is Christ, or _____; believe it _____. For there shall arise _____ Christs, and _____ prophets, and shall show great _____ and _____; insomuch that, if it were _____, they shall _____ the very elect. Behold, I have _____ you before. Wherefore if they shall _____ unto you, Behold, he is in the _____; go _____ forth: behold, he is in the _____ chambers; believe it _____."

14. Why should we not believe it or go to places where they say Jesus has come?

Matthew 24:27 "For as the _____ cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the _____; so shall also the _____ of the Son of man _____."

Will anyone have to tell you that Christ has come when **He** comes? YES NO

15. As one of the signs of Jerusalem's destruction, Christ had said, "And many _____ prophets shall rise, and shall _____ many." Matthew 24:11

Note: "False prophets did rise, deceiving the people, and leading great numbers into the desert. Magicians and sorcerers, claiming miraculous power, drew the people after them into the mountain solitudes. **But this prophecy was spoken also for the last days.**

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This sign is given as a sign of the second advent. **Even now** false christs and false prophets are showing signs and wonders to seduce His disciples. Do we not hear the cry, 'Behold, He is in the desert'? **Have not thousands gone forth into the desert, hoping to find Christ?** And from thousands of gatherings where men profess to hold communion with departed spirits is not the call now heard, 'Behold, He is in the secret chambers'? **This is the very claim that spiritism puts forth.** But what says Christ? "**Believe it not.** For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." DA 631.1

16. The Saviour gives signs of His coming, and more than this, He fixes the time when the first of these signs shall appear: Matthew 24:29-31

"Immediately _____ the tribulation of those days shall the _____ be darkened, and the _____ shall not give her light, and the _____ shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be _____."

Note: "At the close of the great papal persecution, Christ declared, the sun should be darkened, and the moon should not give her light. Next, the stars should fall from heaven." DA 632.1

When did these things happen?

The sun was darkened on May 19, 1780.

That night the moon did not give her light, also May 19, 1780.

The stars fell on November 13, 1833.

17. According to Jesus what would be the next great sign in the sky? Matthew 24:30,31

"And _____ shall appear the _____ of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall _____ the tribes of the earth _____, and they shall _____ the Son of man coming in the _____ of heaven with _____ and great _____. And he shall send his _____ with a great _____ of a trumpet, and they shall _____ together his _____ from the four winds, from one _____ of heaven to the _____."

18. What does He tell them to understand? Matthew 24:32,33

"Now _____ a parable of the _____ tree; When his branch is yet _____, and putteth _____ leaves, ye know that summer is _____: **So likewise ye,** _____ ye shall _____ all these things, know that it is _____, even at the _____." So when the signs in the sun, moon, and stars have appeared, we can know that His coming is near.

Note: "Christ has given signs of His coming. He declares that we may know when He is near, even at the doors. ... These signs have appeared. Now we know of a surety that the Lord's coming is at hand." DA 632.2

"Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. **He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself.** He has not forgotten them nor His promise. ...

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A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty.

A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes.

A little longer, and He will present us 'faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.' Jude 24." DA 632.3

19. Has He revealed to us the day and the hour of His coming? Matthew 24:36

"But of that _____ and _____ knoweth no _____, no, not the _____ of heaven, but my _____ only."

Note: "But the day and the hour of His coming Christ has not revealed. He stated plainly to His disciples that He Himself could not make known the day or the hour of His second appearing. Had He been at liberty to reveal this, why need He have exhorted them to maintain an attitude of constant expectancy? There are those who claim to know the very day and hour of our Lord's appearing. Very earnest are they in mapping out the future. **But the Lord has warned them off the ground they occupy.** The exact time of the second coming of the Son of man is **God's mystery.**" DA 632.4

20. How else does Christ point out the condition of the world at His coming?

Matthew 24:37-39 "But as the days of _____ were, _____ shall also the

_____ of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were _____ the flood they were _____ and _____, marrying and giving in marriage, until the _____ that Noe _____ into the ark, And knew _____ until the flood came, and _____ them all away; _____ shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Note: "Christ does not here bring to view a temporal millennium, a thousand years in which all are to prepare for eternity. He tells us that as it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of man comes again." DA 633.1

21. How was it in Noah's day? Genesis 6:5:

"God saw that the _____ of man was _____ in the earth, and that _____ imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only _____ continually."

Note: "The inhabitants of the antediluvian world turned from Jehovah, **refusing to do His holy will.** They followed their own unholy imagination and perverted ideas. It was because of their wickedness that they were destroyed; and **today the world is following the same way.** It presents no flattering signs of millennial glory. The transgressors of God's law are **filling the earth with wickedness.** Their betting, their horse racing, their gambling, their dissipation, their lustful practices, their untamable passions, are fast **filling the world with violence.**" DA 633.2