

“Should I Worry About the End Times?” Study Guide

Lesson 9: Explaining Matthew 24

Outline

1. THE SETTING
 - a. MATTHEW 24:1, Herod’s Temple
 - b. MATTHEW 24:2, Prophecy of Destruction
2. THE QUESTIONS
 - a. MATTHEW 24:3
 - b. The disciples assumed that the fall of the splendid new temple would only happen at the end of all things
 - c. They conflate those questions together into one.
3. THE ANSWER, PART 1
 - a. MATTHEW 24:4-8
 - i. False Christs
 - ii. Wars and rumors of wars
 - iii. Famines and disasters
 - iv. Just the beginning
 - v. “The end is not yet”
 - b. MATTHEW 24:9-12
 - i. Persecution and violence
 - ii. “many will fall away”
 - iii. False prophets
 - c. MATTHEW 24:13-14
 - i. Endurance was needed
 - ii. The gospel would go on
 - iii. “and then the end will come”
 - d. MATTHEW 24:15
 - i. DANIEL 11:31
 - ii. Jesus is referencing a cryptic prophesy of Daniel regarding the profaning of the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - iii. When they saw this “sign,” what should they do?
 - e. MATTHEW 24:15-20
 - i. Instructions
 1. Flee to the mountains?
 2. Don’t go back home?
 3. Hope you aren’t pregnant?!
 4. Hope it is not winter?
 5. Hope it is not Sabbath?
 - ii. None of these instructions make sense for the end of the world.
 - iii. All these instructions make sense if something bad was about to happen in Jerusalem.
4. THE FALL OF JERUSALEM
 - a. LUKE 10:20-24
 - b. Jerusalem, 70 AD

- c. MATTHEW 24:21-22
 - d. MATTHEW 24:34
 - e. Josephus: "As the legions charged in, neither persuasion nor threat could check their impetuosity: passion alone was in command. Crowded together around the entrances many were trampled by their friends, many fell among the still hot and smoking ruins of the colonnades and died as miserably as the defeated. As they neared the Sanctuary they pretended not even to hear Caesar's commands and urged the men in front to throw in more firebrands. ... Everywhere was slaughter and flight. Most of the victims were peaceful citizens, weak and unarmed, butchered wherever they were caught. Round the Altar the heaps of corpses grew higher and higher, while down the Sanctuary steps poured a river of blood and the bodies of those killed at the top slithered to the bottom."
 - f. Epiphanius: "All the disciples went to live in Pella because Christ had told them to leave Jerusalem and to go away since it would undergo a siege."
 - g. Eusebius: "The people of the Church in Jerusalem were commanded by an oracle given by revelation before the war to those in the city who were worthy of it to depart and dwell in one of the cities of Perea which they called Pella. To it those who believed on Christ traveled from Jerusalem, so that when holy men had altogether deserted the royal capital of the Jews and the whole land of Judaea"
5. THE ANSWER, PART 2
- a. MATTHEW 24:3
 - b. MATTHEW 24:36
 - c. MATTHEW 24:37-39
 - d. MATTHEW 24:42-44
 - e. Comparison
 - i. First Part: Local destruction, lots of warning signs, would happen soon
 - ii. Second Part: Global like the flood, no warning sign, unknown time
6. FINAL POINT
- a. What do we do with this information from Jesus?
 - b. MATTHEW 24:45-47
 - c. MATTHEW 24:48-51

Discussion Questions

1. What are the main differences between the prophecies at the beginning of Matthew 24 and the ones towards the end of that same chapter?
2. Why might the apostles have assumed that the destruction of Herod's temple and the end of the world would happen at the same time?