

Prophecy Sermon #3

MCBC
Hutchinson, KS
June 13, 2004

Turn to Matthew 24 and the book of Thessalonians

Our world is shrinking – by plane, internet, television

United Nations – European countries – Euro financial system – Euro Dollar
– Mediterranean countries – headway into America

Europe attempts to displace the USA as a superpower.

The setting up for a one-world government and its leaders would not be a
surprise to anyone today

Through this Satan will bring on the scene his man – Satan's superman

Newspaper article

This shows us how badly this world desires a Ruler and is looking for His arrival.

When the one-world ruler comes on the scene what will be his agenda?

I've entitled today's message "The Man of Sin Will Come, Part I"

Matthew 24 – let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Matthew 24:15-28

Let us pray

You may be seated

"The Man of Sin Will Come" – and He will perform the abomination of desolation

And this "abomination of desolation" will start "the Great Tribulation" – vs. 21 – the last
half of the Tribulation period, consisting of 3 ½ years

The last half of the Tribulation is called the Great Tribulation and it's also called "the
time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7)

That Day could not arrive till certain other events have taken place.

Let's look at God's timetable

There is first the Rapture of the Church – we hold to a Pre-Tribulation view – which means we believe that the Lord will return and catch up His own to meet Him in the air. This is “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him.” One great event that will occur suddenly and without warning.

God has promised believers deliverance from this tribulation (I Thes. 1:10 and 5:9)
The Church will be taken out sometime before the Tribulation Period (I Thess. 4:13-18)

I Corinthians 15:51-53, “Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

1. The Bible says, we must believe in His coming – I Thessalonians 4
2. _____ Pray for His coming, Matthew 6:10 – “Thy kingdom come”
3. Patiently – by waiting for His coming – II Thessalonians 3:5
4. _____ Love His coming – “that love His appearing” – II Timothy 4:8
5. _____ Look for His coming – Titus 2:13, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”
6. We should not be ashamed at His coming – I John 2:28 – we need to be holy

In other words, are we ready for the Lord to return at any minute?

If not, get ready, be ready, stay ready because He’s coming for His bride, the Church.

The coming of the Lord is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the N.T.

That’s an average of once per 25 verses.

Jesus Christ is going to return!

Christ must come for His saints before He returns with His saints

Once the church is out of the world, Satan and his forces will unfold their program.

Rapture has taken place

Paul did not use the term *Antichrist* in his letters. This term is used in the New Testament only by John (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7). *Anti* has two meanings: *against*, and *instead of*.

Satan opposes Christ – he’s against him and he sets up a man in His place. Antichrist is the name we use to identify the last great world dictator whom Paul designated as “that man of sin,” “the son of perdition,” and “that lawless one.”

Now why is Satan unable to reveal his “man of sin” sooner? Because God is restraining the forces of evil in the world today.

II Thessalonians 2:1-8

Second Thessalonians 2:1-12 indicates that the Antichrist cannot be revealed until:

#1 The church is gone;

#2 The apostasy has taken place (the abandoning of the Bible, churches departures from the truth);

#3 The *restrainer* is taken out of the way. That restrainer is the Holy Spirit in the church.

This restrainer is now at work in the world and will continue to work till it is “taken out of the way” (v. 7b).

The restrainer is a person who is today “in the midst,” but will one day be “taken out of the midst.” This restrainer is the Holy Spirit of God in the midst of God’s program today, working through the church to accomplish God’s purposes. When the church is raptured, the Holy Spirit will not be taken *out of the world*, but He will be taken *out of the way* to allow Satan and his forces to go to work. The Holy Spirit will certainly be present on the earth during the Day of the Lord, but He will not be restraining the forces of evil as He is today.

In spite of its weakness and seeming failure, never underestimate the importance of the church in the world.

People do not realize that the presence of the people of God in this world gives unsaved people opportunity to be saved.

And we through the Spirit hold back the wave of sin that wants to drown the world
in iniquity

Lot was not a dedicated man, but his presence in Sodom held back the wrath of God. Once the restraining ministry of the Spirit of God has ended, the next event can take place.

Once the church is out of the world, then Satan can produce his masterpiece, the Antichrist and he will be revealed.

The Antichrist will make an agreement for seven years, but after three-and-one-half years ('in the midst of the week') he will break that agreement. He will then move into the Jewish temple himself and proclaim that he is God (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13)." This is the abomination of desolation.

So we now see the revealing of the Antichrist

Abomination of desolation – greatest observable sign – by setting up in the temple an image of himself to be worshiped. Such an event will be clearly recognized.

Matthew 24:15, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand.)"

Let's look at Daniel

He is a peace-breaker (Dan. 9:26-27)

Daniel 9:26 tells us that a prince will come, of the same people who destroyed Jerusalem before.

There will rise a prince, a dictator, Antichrist, Man of Sin, who will have a treaty purporting to be for seven years with the Jews, and a remnant of Jews in Jerusalem will again have their sacrifices in some kind of temple at Jerusalem.

Those sacrifices will not long continue. However, “in the midst of the week,” that is, after the first three and a half years of the seven are past, the Man of Sin will commit the “abomination of desolation” which Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24:15, the very thing foretold by Daniel the prophet in Daniel 9:27 will take place!

The Jews will be given into the hand of the Antichrist “until a time and times and the dividing of time,” that is, three and a half years (Dan. 7:25). The period is called “a time, and times, and half a time” (Rev. 12:14). It is called “forty and two months” (Rev. 11:2). It is called “a thousand two hundred and threescore days” (Rev. 11:3; 12:6).

After three and one-half years, Antichrist will break his covenant with the Jews *and take over their temple* for the next 3½ years

Statue of Revelation

Revelation 11:3 – first ½ of Tribulation – “And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 11:7, “And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.”

Revelation 13 – explains the abomination in detail (vs. 3-5)

Revelation 13:11 – the false prophet – “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”

666 – the number of Antichrist

Turn back to Matthew 24:15

An interesting parenthesis occurs here. This statement indicates that what Jesus was teaching would have greater significance for people reading Matthew's Gospel in the latter days.

The exhortation **let the reader understand** reinforces the fact that Jesus was not giving the warnings in the Olivet discourse to the disciples themselves or to their generation but to believers in the end time, who will read those truths in Scripture and thereby be enabled to **understand** the trials they are enduring.

There is much more to the Antichrist – “The Man of Sin Will Come”

Next week we will actually see the abomination of desolation in detail in Revelation 13

Let us stand for closing invitation

Every eye closed

We are not looking for the Antichrist

We are looking for the Christ

Are you ready to meet Him?

Are you on the Lord's side?

All the world is rushing to a one-world government and currency

– eventually to a one-world leader

Will you be raptured or left behind in the Tribulation?

Christ is the only Savior – He's the only way of escape

Ye must believe on Him, receive Him

Don't deny Him, refuse Him

As the pianist plays softly (“Just As I Am”), won't you come and receive Christ as
Savior?

Just step out – walk the aisle – kneel here at the altar – receive Christ as Savior

(Lead in prayer) for salvation

Believers, Jesus is coming – will you be ashamed at His arrival – confess your sins

Observable results: Made God and the Bible seem more real

People were joyful to be raptured not tribulationized

Accepting of Christ to be more urgent