

Prophecy Sermon #5

MCBC
Hutchinson, KS
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Turn to Matthew 24/Revelation 12

In Matthew 24, Jesus gives us 3 sections—the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation, and after the Tribulation

There is more information on the Tribulation than there is on the Millennium – 1000-year reign – the eternal state

The majority of the book of Revelation is about the Tribulation Period

The main person of this tribulation period is the Antichrist—the Man of Sin—Satan’s superman.

Remember, he will come as a peacemaker

He will be a peaceful political leader who unites 10 nations into a strong, powerful block.

He will make a covenant with Israel to protect her and permit her to use her temple.

This covenant will be for seven years.

But in the middle of the 7 years, he reveals his true character by taking over the Jewish temple and demanding that the world worship him—the abomination of desolation

Satan will also bring along another man to help the Antichrist and the Bible calls him the False Prophet.

They are running the world by dominating the religious realm and also the economic sector with the mark.

Today we are going to see what happens when Antichrist makes his way to Jerusalem.

The title of our message today is “The Man of Sin, Part 3”

Matthew 24 – Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word

Matt 24:15-28

Let us pray

You may be seated.

“The Man of Sin Will Come”

Jesus tells all . . . who are living in Judea during the Tribulation what their response to the Antichrist should be when he comes into Jerusalem.

Vs. 16

Turn to Luke 21:20-24,

We call this time period in the last half of the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation

The armies come down led by Antichrist and destroy Jerusalem

Zechariah 14:2, “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”

There shall be some left.

Rev. 11:1 – notice there is a temple and an altar

Vs. 2 – The outer court

Vs. 3

These two men witness and work for the Lord and are killed in the streets of Jerusalem.

The witnesses of God are dead – vs.7

Antichrist comes down to Jerusalem—defeats God’s 2 witnesses—and sets himself up in the Temple to be worshipped

Rev. 12 – introduces us to one group of people and 3 personalities

Vs. 1 – reminds us of Joseph’s dream – Gen. 37:9-11

Sun – was his father, Jacob

Moon – was his mother, Rachel

The 12 stars were Joseph and his 11 brothers

Vs. 2

Vs. 3 – Red – Satan

Vs. 4

Vs. 5 – helps us to identify what we are looking at

The man child – who will rule with a rod of iron – has to be who?

The Lord Jesus Christ!

This woman brought forth a man child

Read notes in Bible

Now, I know who the child is – but who is the woman?

I have a hunch who the woman might be. If it is a specific individual – Mary

But if it is not Mary, who might it be?

Let's keep reading

Vs. 6 – unbelievable – same number of days – 3 ½ years

That makes me suspicious that woman is not Mary

Now God pauses here and gives us some information before returning to this woman

Vs. 7 – War between Michael and his angels and Satan and his angels. Michael's name means "who is like God," and he is the only angel called specifically an archangel in the Scriptures.

Vs. 8

Vs. 9 – Now we know who the dragon is

I have all 3 of the individuals identified now – Jesus Christ (male child), Satan (the dragon), and the third personality is Michael and he is specifically named

In verse 9 Satan has five titles. “Dragon” indicates his fierce nature, “serpent” his crafty character. “Devil” means accuser or slanderer and “Satan” means adversary. He is also called “the deceiver of the whole world.”

Vs. 10 – That’s what the devil is doing now

The devil is not omnipresent – he’s quick, but he can only be in one place at a time
He is primarily revealed here and in the book of Job to be constantly, around the clock, in heaven

The devil is cast down to the earth

The earth is his only sphere of operation

At this defeat of Satan (which occurs at the middle point of the Tribulation) brings him to earth.

“the accuser of our brethren.” Ironside used to say, “Satan is the accuser of the brethren; let’s leave the dirty work to him!”

Vs. 11 – Overcome him - But there is a way of victory over Satan – only one Way.
The blood of the Lamb – it is the only sufficient price for man’s sin.

Notice the complete self-sacrifice even to the point of being willing to die – genuine believers.

They had an inward faith and outward testimony.

Vs.12 – There is great joy in Heaven, but the voice from Heaven announces woe on the inhabitants of the earth because the devil has been barred from Heaven and will wage his total warfare on the earth.

He knows he doesn’t have much time left.

Vs. 13 – cannot be Mary

The woman is the nation of Israel – vs. 1

Vs. 14 – Vs. 6 – she fled – 3 ½ years

Eagles' wings indicate rapid flight, which will be necessary for Israel to escape the attacks of the dragon through his agents

Apparently these fleeing people will find asylum in some place in the wilderness which will give them a certain amount of natural protection for time, times, and half a time, or three and one-half years →

Isaiah 26:20, “Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”

Vs. 15- 16 Satan will launch his attack with a flood, apparently in order to try to drown people out of their wilderness refuge. God in turn will cause something to make the earth open in order to consume the water of the flood and thus save the persecuted people

Vs. 17 – A remnant will providentially protected in the wilderness.

Some flee into the wilderness asylum; some do not, and it is upon them that Satan unleashes his attack in verse 17

Satan brings his armies of the world and his great leader—the Antichrist—down on Jerusalem

The “man of sin” will harass Jews and murder them—try to finish what Hitler started. Hitler marked the Jews—gold Star of David.

And it will be the time to flee for Jerusalem residents

From Matt 24 verse 16 it is clear that Jews would need to run for their lives from Jerusalem. The Man of Sin, or Antichrist, as a second and greater Hitler, will hate Jews

and will set out to exterminate them, because they will not agree to worship him as God. A hidden and secret sanctuary will be found by Israelites who flee for their lives from Jerusalem (Rev. 12:14).

Since God first called . . . , Satan has sought to destroy God's chosen people, the Jews, and their God-ordained nation of Israel. To have destroyed the Jews would have been to destroy God's redemptive plan for mankind, because "salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22).

That statement in vs. 16 is a warning of the severity of the holocaust to come and an exhortation to **flee** from it.

Because of their proximity to the profaned Temple . . . **those who are in Judea** will be in the greatest and most immediate danger . . .

. . . *fugitive*, a person who takes flight in order to escape danger. The only hope will be to run for safety, . . . take refuge in the **mountains**.

From Zechariah we learn that not every Jew will be successful in the attempt to escape.

Zechariah 13:8-9a, "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein [66% will die]. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. . ."

. . . the massacres of Jews by the Romans in A.D. 70 and by the Nazis during the World War II will pale by comparison. Two out of every three Jews in the Holy Land will die under the fury of Satan and his Antichrist

Satan will make all-out war on the saints, butchering all he can find (Rev. 13:7) until his evil hosts are "drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus" (Rev. 17:6).

Some will succeed in their flight to **the mountains**, probably to the east and south of Jerusalem, perhaps to the cliff caves around the Dead Sea and in the hills of Moab and Edom and possibly to a place called Petra.

Matthew 24 :17

Our Lord called for urgency, stressing the need for immediate flight by insisting that, for example, a person **who is on the housetop** should **not even go down to get the things out that are in his house**. Most . . . houses of Jesus' day had outside stairways leading to **the housetop**, where the family often went in the evening to relax and cool off from the work and heat of the day. . .do not waste – even the small time to go back into the **house** to retrieve a few precious **things** . . . No material possession will be worth the risk of the slightest delay. Nor should a person **turn back to get his clothes**. . . . he should leave it there and run. [Vs. 18]

Believers' only sensible option will be flight

Vs. 19

It will be an especially tragic and burdensome time for pregnant women, **those who are with child**, and nursing mothers with small **babes**. Women in such conditions [will] be at greater risk of being captured and killed.

Verse 19 does not mean that there is any plague upon childbearing, but only that the woman heavy with child or a woman carrying a baby would be handicapped in fleeing for her life.

Vs. 20

. . . even slightly inclement weather could be an hindrance

Likewise, Jews are to pray “that your flight be not in winter” because of the extra suffering entailed.

Neither on the Sabbath day.” It appears that the remnant of Jews in Palestine will also observe again the Jewish Sabbath.

Thus orthodox Jews, trying to observe their rules, would, on the Sabbath day, be caught and slaughtered by the raging persecution of the Man of Sin.

. . . to flee **on the Sabbath** . . . legalistic Jews who are not fleeing might try to stone or otherwise impede those whom they believe to be profaning **the Sabbath** . . .

This will usher in a period of intense persecution and tribulation. Jesus said, “For then shall be great tribulation” (vs. 21)

Vs. 21

God’s message for Israel is that things are going to get immeasurably worse before they become better. That nation and its people will suffer treachery, desecration of the rebuilt Temple, indescribable persecution, and brutal slaughter that will be totally unparalleled in history.

Verse 21 plainly says, “For then shall be great tribulation.” Not an ordinary time of trouble, but the one specially prophesied event “such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

World conditions will be so terrible that men will wonder if any relief will come . . .

Vs. 22 - “Except those days should be shortened” (vs. 22).

Do not think that the tribulation will be less than the prophesied period, but that it will be suddenly, and miraculously ended. Otherwise, “there should be no flesh saved,” that is, Jews would all be literally killed.

. . . stopping instantly . . . God will also supernaturally shorten the daylight hours in order to give His fleeing people the added protection of more darkness.

Rev. 8:12

during the Great Tribulation the heavenly bodies that give light to the earth will be radically altered in ways that will progressively reduce the daylight . . .

Vs. 23

Those who heed Jesus' advice to flee into the mountains and are protected by God from harm will also be especially vulnerable to false teaching and promises. Having left their homes with only the clothes on their backs, they will not have the least security of material possessions. Many of them will have left families and friends behind and will be strangers to each other.

It seems evident from Jesus' warning here that false teachers will infiltrate the company of those who flee. Those false teachers . . . hope to entice Jews and believers away from their refuge and into the hands of Antichrist.

Remember, when God's people left Egypt, there were leaders in that crowd that tried to lead the people back to Egypt.

Vs. 24-26

The refugees will hear such claims as, "**Behold, here is the Christ,**" or "**There He is.**"

. . . the **false christs and false prophets** will even perform **great signs and wonders**, giving . . . evidence to support their claims. . . they would **mislead, if possible, even the elect.**

If told that the Messiah has come in the desert, don't go

If told He is in a secret place, don't go

Because when He comes, it will be visible – as lightning flashing across the sky

Behold, I have told you in advance . . . Jesus said.

Until the Lord appears in that predicted and unquestionable way, those who are hiding should remain where they are.

The Man of Sin will come, but so will Jesus Christ.

Let us stand for closing invitation

Every eye closed

So terrible will it be that if God doesn't cut the time, there would be no one alive

For the elect, those saved during this tribulation period

Believers will beg for Christ to return – believers today could care less if He returned or not

“Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor. 5:11). Christ will one day come in terrible judgment, the unbeliever should be motivated to repent and receive Him as Lord and Savior. The obedient Christian will be motivated to faithfully present the gospel to unbelievers . . .

The only way then and now to overcome Satan and our sins is by the blood of the Lord
Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ shed it on the cross of Calvary

Cleanse you – wash away your sins

You can be forgiven and become a child of God

Observable results:

Witness aggressively to the Jews – what a horrid time for them!