

The Kingdom Of Heaven
Precursors To The End Times
Matthew 24.1-8

[Historically our Lord is talking to the Jews, His Disciples, while in Jerusalem and departing from the Temple.]

[Notice our Lord says,]

[Matthew 24:1-2 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.]

[Now notice carefully the Questions asked as they guide our understanding of the answer given by our Lord.]

*[Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?]***

[Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us what we should expect concerning the End Times or the End of this Church Age. The Teachings of our Lord and the Word of God do not leave us wondering. Just diligently and honestly study the Word of God and you will find much revealed about what is coming upon this corrupt world.]

[A Great Volume in God's Word reveals much about Things To Come.]

[There are,]

- **[The Parables of our Lord – The Kingdom Parables in Matthew 13 and other passages.]**
- **[The Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 & 3]**
- **[The Major and Minor Prophets and the Key Words and Phrases of the Bible]**
- **[The Clear Revelation of our text Matthew 24.]**

[The Word of God is permeated through and through with Teachings (Doctrine), Warnings, and Descriptions that point us toward the End Times.]

[As we begin to work our way through Matthew 24 we will discover much of what our Lord Jesus Christ taught about the End Times and it all begins here in the beginning of this text with the **Precursors To The End Times.**]

[What do we mean by Precursors To The End Times?]

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[We mean that we are not in the Actual End Times yet. We are still in the Church Age. But there are things that let us know that we are very close to The End Times.]

[Precursors to the end are preparations that must take place in order for the prophecies concerning the End Times to be Literally Fulfilled.]

[The End Times begin with the End of the Church Age and the Beginning of the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation Period is a Seven Year Period of time that precedes the Millennial Reign of Christ.]

[Some things that let us know we are very close to the End Times,]

- **[The Re-establishment of Israel as a Nation – May 14, 1948]**
 - [World War I prepared the land for Israel – Before WWI **The Ottoman Empire** controlled Jerusalem – Muslims]
 - [World War II prepared the Jew for Israel]

[These are Precursors to the fulfillment of Bible Prophecies.]

- **[Jerusalem the Capital of Israel – President Trump Declared Jerusalem the Capital of Israel on December 6, 2017.]**

[This is a Precursor to the fulfillment of Bible Prophecies.]

- **[The Great Falling Away]**

*[2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, . . .]***

[Our nation left the Word of God (The only real truth) behind in the late 1950's and left prayer behind in the early 1960's and has work hard to kick God out of public society ever since.]

[We are living in this falling away.]

[This prophecy is being literally fulfilled today and is a Precursor to the fulfillment of End Time Bible Prophecies.]

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- [Perilous Times]

*[2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come.** ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**]*

[The Famine of the Word of God]

*[Amos 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD:** ¹² **And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.]***

[The Severe Judgment, Warning, and Calling of God]

*[Amos 4:6-12 **And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.** ⁷ **And also I have withholden the rain from you,** when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. ⁸ So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.** ⁹ **I have smitten you with blasting and mildew:** when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.** ¹⁰ **I have sent among you***

the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. ¹¹ *I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.*
¹² *Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, **prepare to meet thy God**, O Israel.]*

[Yes, this is written to Israel, but a wise and understanding individual will understand that this is how God sends warnings to people. We see much of these things in our world today.]

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[The rejection and departure from the Word of God has brought us into these Perilous Times and the Famine of the Word of God in fulfillment of Amos 8.]

[This is a Precursor to the fulfillment of End Time Bible Prophecies.]

- **[Preparations for the Fulfillment of Prophecies]**
 - **Preparations for the Mark of the Beast** – There was a report of a Manufacturer embedding
 - **Preparations for World Wide economic control** – The control of all spending and buying. There is a coming cash less society that will be welcomed by most people as a good thing, yet giving the government complete control of all buying and spending on an individual basis.
 - **Preparations for a One World Religious System** – When Christian Pastors say things like there is no difference between the Koran and the Bible we know that the One World Religious System is close at hand.

[These are Precursors to the fulfillment of End Time Bible Prophecies.]

[These are just the preparations that build toward the fulfillment of the Word of God. Today in most Bible Colleges and Seminary's and the Pastors they produce, using the Devil's modern translations, Bible prophecy is no longer preached and taught. Most Christians know nothing of what the Word of

God says about The End Times.]

[Many Bible Colleges and Seminaries will openly declare that the things I will teach concerning the End Times from the Word of God are considered Heresy in their teachings. They do not hold the Word of God so they cannot teach and believe the Word of God.]

In our Text we discover,

A. The Course of the Culture (vs 4-9) There will be,

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Matthew 24.1-8

1. **Deception** (vs 5; 23-27) [– “For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”]

- **[False Christ’s will arise.]**

- 1) [Many will stand up and say, “. . . *I am Christ . . .*” (vs 5)]

Matthew 24:23-28 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. ²⁴ **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.** ²⁵ Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶ **Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.** ²⁷ **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.** ²⁸ **For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.**

- 2) [Others will arise and say, “. . . *here is Christ . . .*” (vs 23)]
- 3) [Many will be able to do miracles (vs 24) – “. . . *great signs and wonders . . .*”]
- 4) [Jesus says, “. . . **believe it not.**” (vs 26)]

Rev 6.12

[When Christ comes:]

- [The heavens will roll back as a scroll (Rev 6.12-17; cf. Isa 34.4-5).]

*[Revelation 6:12-17 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ **And the heaven departed as a***

***scroll when it is rolled together;** and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷ **For the great day of his wrath is come;** and who shall be able to stand?]*

Rev 19.11

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- A. The Course of the Culture – There will be,**
1. Deception – False Christ's

- [He will lead His hosts to earth at His second advent (Rev 19.11-16).]

*[Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**]*

Matt 24.27

- [There will be no doubt concerning His return and presence (vs 27).]

[Matthew 24:27 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.]

[Deception indeed abounds today. We are deceived by:]

- **[Denominationalism** – So many different belief systems, all based on the same Bible, all teaching different things. One is almost overwhelmed when they try to discover the true Church of Jesus Christ.]
- **[Translationalism** – So many different translations of the Bible, all claiming to be based on the best possible manuscripts. One is almost overwhelmed just trying to figure out if they really hold the Word of God. Confusion concerning God’s Word has been one of Satan’s methods since the Garden of Eden. He said to Eve, “. . . *Hath God said . . .*”]

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- A. The Course of the Culture – There will be,
1. Deception – False Christ’s

[There are multitude of deceptions today, all that endeavor to overwhelm the Church and the Great Commission Christian.]

2. **Confusion** (vs 6-8) [– “*And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*”⁷ *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*”⁸ ***All these are the beginning of sorrows.***”]

- [There will be wars and trouble.]
- [There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes.]
- [These are just the beginning of sorrows.]

[The world claims to be getting better, but everything around us tells us that it is continuing to fall apart. And indeed it is.]

[The Catastrophies we see in our world are hulmark signs of the chastisement of God and the Biblical warnings of the coming Judgment of God and we read in Amos 4.6-12.]

- **In Amos 4.6 God sent Famine -** “cleanness of teeth” and “**yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**”
- **In Amos 6.7-8 God sent Drought –** Withheld the rain affecting the crops and “. . . **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**”
- **In Amos 6.9 God sent Blasting and Mildew –** Heat (global warming) and **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**
- **In Amos 6.10 God sent Pestilence and** **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**
- **In Amos 6.11 God sent Catastrophy like Sodom and Gomorrah** and **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**
- **In the End what is God’s declaration in Amos 4.12? **Prepare to meet thy God****

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- A. The Course of the Culture – There will be,
1. Deception (vs 5) – False Christ’s
 2. Confusion (vs 6-8)

[For all those who love the “Peace and Safety” preachers, the Ear Ticklers, The Word of God loudly declares,]

*[1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; **then sudden destruction cometh upon them,** as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.]*

[You need to know without any doubt that one day,]

[Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.]

[What you choose to believe, what you have chosen to understand as true, wont matter in that day, you will bow your knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. **Are You Ready For That Day?**]

3. **Persecution** (vs 9; 2 Tim 3.12; Matt 16.24-26) [– “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.”]

2 Tim 3.12

[Christ warned us about the continuing persecution of his followers. The faithful will suffer persecution. Jesus says, **“Then shall they deliver you up . . .”** The Word of God records,]

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- A. The Course of the Culture – There will be,
1. Deception (vs 5) – False Christ’s
 2. Confusion (vs 6-8)
 3. Persecution (vs 9)

[2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.**]

[**Matthew 16:24-26** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, **and take up his cross**, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?]

[The persecution of true believers is alive and well in our world. More Christians have died for their faith in the last century than in all of the centuries preceding it to the resurrection of Christ.]

[It is a reasonable assumption that persecution in the from of ridicule and restraint is visiting American born-again believers today and will escalate in the future if God’s children do not quickly arise with the gospel message. The professors of Christ in our culture need to become the confessors of Christ in our culture.]

Sermon Two

[Now, Consider the result of the Course of our Culture]