

SERMON OUTLINE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

'Behold your King'

Matthew 24 v15 - 51

'The Olivet Discourse' - 2

Jesus spoke again and again about his second coming - his return at the end of time. For example - see Jn 14 v1 - 3. Key point - what Jesus says (and promises) always comes to pass because he is God. See v35. This is underlined for us as Jesus speaks here about these 2 judgements of God - the judgement of God which came upon Jerusalem in AD 70 and the judgement of God which will come upon the whole earth at the end of time in his own second coming.

Key point - the judgement of God upon Jerusalem points us forward to the judgement of God at the end of time with the first judgement being both a foretaste and guarantee of the second judgement. For us, Jesus is projecting us back to the first judgement, and then (on the basis that that judgement took place as he said it would) projecting us forward to the second judgement at the end of time. Verse 35 is the link verse. In other words, what Jesus says is to be believed - trusted and acted upon.

Application - see v42 & 44.

Key verse - Acts 17 v31.

1. THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD UPON JERUSALEM

Context - see v1 - 3a. Jesus gives the disciples his answer - see v15a. The 'abomination that causes desolation' took place in 168 BC when the temple was desecrated. The point that Jesus is making is that something like this was going to happen again - and it did, in AD 70. This was to be the sign that God's judgement was about to come down upon Jerusalem. Notice what Jesus underlines about this:-

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEVING IN IT

See v32 - 33.

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING FOR IT

See v16 - 22.

Note the warning which Jesus gives. See v23 - 26. The destruction of the temple would not mean the coming again of Jesus. This is what the disciples had thought. See v3. To underline this, Jesus went on to say what his second coming will be like:-

(i) Jesus will come suddenly

See v27.

(ii) Jesus will come visibly

See v29 - 30. We'll know it when he comes again - no-one will need to tell us.

(iii) Jesus will come finally

See v31.

Key point - the judgement upon Jerusalem won't be the end. See v34 - Jesus kept his word. As the first judgement came - so the second judgement will come.

2. THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD AT THE END OF TIME

See v36. Whenever that day is, Jesus has 2 things to say about it:-

A. THAT DAY WILL BE A PERFECTLY ORDINARY DAY

See v37 - 39. Whatever it is, we'll be doing what we normally do.

B. THAT DAY WILL BE A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED DAY

See v43.

Application - see v42 & 44. Key question - what does it mean to keep watch and what does it mean to be ready?

If you are not a Christian - you need to become one. Key point - the day of the coming again of Jesus will be a day of separation. See v40 - 41.

If you are a Christian - in your spiritual life everything needs to be right with God.