

Matthew 24:3-14
Three Questions

1. When will these things be?
 - a. What “things”?
 - i. 23:38 – “Behold! Your house is left to you desolate” and Luke 19:43-44
 - ii. The destruction of the Temple and of Jerusalem in AD 70 was only a foretaste, because it did not signal the return of Jesus
2. What will be the sign of your coming?
 - a. The disciples knew the Kingdom of God would not be established until the kingdoms of this world were destroyed
 - b. The prophets describe the destruction that will immediately precede Messiah’s coming to rule
 - c. Luke 19:12-27 – Jesus taught that he would return to heaven before coming back
3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?
 - a. The Kingdom of God exists in its fulness now only in heaven, so we pray, “Your kingdom come on earth, even as it now is in heaven.”
 - b. In this current age, Satan is the ruler of this fallen world (1 Corinthians 2:6-8 and 15:20-25, Ephesians 3:10 and 6:12, Colossians 2:15) – but not apart from the sovereign control of God (Luke 22:31-32)
4. The rest of Matthew 24 and the parables of Matthew 25 reveal the answers to these questions.
5. But why did Jesus describe for the apostles at time that would not come until long after they would die; and of what use are his answers to us if “the end” is not in our lifetime?
 - a. The apostles, and we, face the same threats he warns about, though perhaps not as intensely as they will in the days his words are fulfilled.
 - i. False Messiahs (and false Gospels) – see Romans 10:3, 2 Corinthians 11:4, Galatians 1:6-9: If we lose sight of the Gospel, the coming wrath of God will fall on us as well
 - ii. Wars and unrest (‘rumors of wars’) – God calls us to peace, not anxiety
 - iii. Famines and earthquakes (and forest fires and hurricanes and tornados too!): Nature is in pain as well due to Adam’s sin (Romans 8:19-22)
 - iv. Hatred from the people of this world, who hate and oppose God and all who belong to God (John 15:18-20)
 - b. Jesus warns us of these things for 2 reasons
 - i. So we will not be taken by surprise
 - ii. To encourage us to trust him – the ultimate winner
6. How can we face such dangers and remain faithful and joyful?
 - a. Because we know God loves us (Hebrews 13:5, 1 John 3:1)
 - b. Because we know He upholds us (John 6:37, 10:27-30)
 - c. Because we know the joy that is coming to us (John 16:20-22, Romans 8:18)
7. How are we to live? Trusting in the love God has already shown us in Jesus Christ and knowing that He is for us (Psalm 56:9-11)