

# Sermon Notes – May 26, 2019

## Review

- ⇒ We've seen in our study of Matthew that the writer is taking us step-by-step to his grand finale – what we call “the Great Commission” in which we see the resurrected Christ in all His authority and glory commissioning His followers to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
- ⇒ Last week with Ben McCardell we listened to Jesus bring a solemn warning against “external-only” religion that majors in the minors & hides a wicked heart.

## Today's Text: Matthew 24:1-51

Today we begin a two-part look at the “Olivet Discourse,” without a doubt one of the most significant and hotly debated texts in prophetic literature. D.A. Carson says, “Few chapters of the Bible have called forth more disagreement among interpreters than Matthew 24...” Another writer calls this text “the most difficult section in Matthew.” The setting is described in 1-3 (**READ**).

## Keys to Unraveling Prophetic Literature

- ⇒ The occasion: Herod's Temple was amazing in Jesus' day, and it wasn't even finished! The massive project was begun in 20 B.C. and, like most of great buildings of antiquity, it was under construction for \_\_\_\_\_. Note the disciples' questions, and remember their mindset as reflected in Luke 19:14 & Acts 1:6.
- ⇒ In this text, Jesus appears to address TWO \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment, and, as is often the case, both are woven together:
  - The coming destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
  - The “End Times” or “Last Days”
- ⇒ What is “Prophetic Foreshortening?” Example: Luke 4:16-21 and Isaiah 61:1-2. Bible prophecy often has both a “\_\_\_\_\_” and a “\_\_\_\_\_ fulfillment” that, from a distance, look closer.
- ⇒ Two more important distinctions between types of prophecy:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy – “This is THAT” (like Micah 5:2)

Stay Awake! The Son of Man is Coming!  
Matthew 24:1-51  
Pastor Jay Mosser

- \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy – “This story is like THAT story” (Jeremiah 31:15 & Matthew 2:18). Ramah was used as a gathering place for Jewish captives. The stories are similar. Matthew asks, “Do you see it?”
- ⇒ With that in mind, let's **READ the entire chapter** and feel the overall impact.
  - ⇒ One writer helpfully *suggests* the following breakdown of the chapter:
    - “Big Picture,” from Jesus' resurrection to the “Second Coming”: 4-14, 27-28, 42-44 (“birth pains”).
    - Fulfilled in 70 A.D.: 15-26, 32-35 (the fall of Jerusalem – warnings, those who fled, those who waited too long).
    - Focused on the “Second Coming”: 29-31, 36-41

## Questions About the Olivet Discourse

- ⇒ Are we in “\_\_\_\_\_”? Answer: Yes. See Acts 2:14-17; Hebrews 1:2
- ⇒ Has the gospel gone to the whole world? Answer: Yes, and No. (O'Donnell)
- ⇒ Is the “tribulation” in v. 21, the “Great Tribulation”? Answer: No, and Yes (a fore-shadowing of an even greater event as in 29-31).
- ⇒ Is “the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fig tree” the re-birth of the nation of Israel in 1948? If so, how long is a generation or who is “this generation”? Great questions!

**P.S. Come next week for more on this topic from Matthew 25!**

## Response to God's Word

God gives prophecy for several key purposes:

- ⇒ First, that we will accurately see Him as the sovereign LORD over human history and all that is! In other words, the main purpose of prophecy isn't so much that we would figure everything out (24:3), but that we would see HIM clearly and worship!
- ⇒ Second, God gives prophesy so we will know HOW to live as God unfolds His purposes & plan; specifically, in this text:

**“STAY AWAKE! BE READY! BE INVOLVED IN GOD'S MISSION!”**

Does this describe YOU?

**Next Sunday: June 2, 2019**

**“A Call for Watchfulness & Faithfulness”**

**Matthew 25:1-46; Pastor Jay Mosser**

**Answer Key:** ▪ decades ▪ seasons ▪ near ▪ far ▪ Exact ▪ Similar ▪ the last days ▪ budding