

Matthew 24

Signs of the end
of the age

Context

Five great discourses in Matthew (5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25)

Context

Mt 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

Mt 23:38 **Look, your house is left to you desolate.**

Mt 23:39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’

Mt 24:1 **Jesus left the temple and was walking away** when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

Today Jerusalem is dominated by the
'Dome of the Rock'



In the time of Jesus, Jerusalem was dominated by Herod's Temple



A model of Herod's Temple from the Israel Museum



Context

In 70AD the temple was completely destroyed

Content

“Tell us,” they said,
“when will this happen,
and what will be the sign of your coming
and of the end of the age?”

Three questions

Content

- “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—” (Matthew 24:15)
- He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing \perp of the temple— \perp he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27)



Antiochus IV Epiphanes
– most would have
considered the
‘Abomination of
Desolation’ to have
taken place in 167BC.
Jesus placed it in the
future



Content

There is considerable debate amongst Christians as to whether this was fulfilled in 70AD or at a future time

Challenge

- “The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.” (Item 7 in the FIEC Statement of Faith)
- The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. (Acts 23:8)
- Are we like the ‘Sadducees’ since we fail to teach on the return of Christ?

Be aware

- The disciples thought the temple would endure
- We have seen some of the pillars of our society shaken; MPs, bankers and journalists
- Jesus left the temple – God would now deal with people through Jesus
- Things that seem solid will fall
- Things that seem impossible will come to pass

Be watchful

- The church
 - Persecution
 - False teaching
 - Falling away
- Israel
 - The fig tree (v32)
 - All Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26)
 - Israel became a nation again in 1948
 - Israel gained full control of Jerusalem in 1967

Be watchful

- Creation
 - Earthquakes

Most Severe Earthquakes (The Guardian)

1. 22 May 1960 – Chile Magnitude 9.5
2. 28 March 1964 – Prince William Sound, Alaska Magnitude 9.2
3. 26 December 2004 – Off the west coast of northern Sumatra Magnitude 9.1
4. 4 November 1952 – Kamchatka Magnitude 9
5. 13 August 1868 – Arica, Peru (now part of Chile) Magnitude 9
6. 26 January 1700 – North Pacific coast of America Magnitude 9 (estimated)
7. 27 February 2010 – off Bio-Bio, Chile Magnitude 8.8
8. 13 January 1906 – coast of Ecuador Magnitude 8.8
9. 1 November 1755 – Lisbon Magnitude 8.7
10. 15 August 1950 – Assam-Tibet Magnitude 8.6

Be watchful

- Creation
 - Earthquakes
 - Signs in the sky
 - Stars will fall

Asteroid's near-miss with Earth

An asteroid will today make one of the closest cosmic near-misses with Earth ever recorded.



The asteroid's path makes it the closest space-rock to pass by the Earth since June 2011 Photo: CORBIS



By Murray Wardrop
12:18PM GMT 27 Jan 2012

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Telegraph
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Be ready

- No one knows the day or the hour
- As in the days of Noah
- If Jesus returned today
- Would he be pleased with us? (v46)

Be faithful

- Some will fall away
- He who stands firm to the end will be saved (v13)
- And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (v14)