

Matthew 24 - Part 3

In Matthew 24:36, the Lord transitions from talking about the destruction of Jerusalem to talking about His second coming. This section addresses the second question asked by the apostles in Matthew 24:3.

There appear to be at least three key differences between the Lord's second coming and the destruction of Jerusalem.

A difference in time

- Whereas there will be several warning signs before the destruction of Jerusalem, the second coming of Jesus will be like the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39). It will be sudden and unexpected! Many people will be caught unprepared.
- The second coming of Jesus will be like a thief in the night (Matthew 24:42-44). What thief warns his victims ahead of time before his arrival?
- The second coming of Jesus will be like a master returning to his house (Matthew 24:45-51). Those slaves caught unprepared to receive Him will be punished!

A difference in scope

- Whereas Matthew 24:4-34 is limited to judgment on Jerusalem, the second coming of Jesus will impact the whole world! This is similar to what occurred in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39).
- The second coming of Jesus will impact all nations (Matthew 25:31-34).
- The whole planet will be destroyed when the Lord comes again (2 Peter 3:9-10).

A difference in judgment

- Whereas the destruction of Jerusalem was a judgment on Israel when the Lord personally returns, there will be a total separation of the righteous and the wicked.
- This is what occurred in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39).
- This is what the Lord is alluding to in the example of those working in the field (Matthew 24:40-41). It is also what He is alluding to in the example of the faithful and unfaithful slaves (Matthew 24:45-51), and the parables of the ten virgins and talents (Matthew 25:1-30).
- When the Lord returns, He will separate the righteous from the wicked like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46).

Conclusion:

Which group are you in? Are you a sheep or a goat? Also, are you prepared for the Lord's return if it occurred on this day?

Shawn Jeffries