

San Juan church of Christ

1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C
Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 249-8116
www.sanjuanchurchofchrist.org

What Does God's Word Say About...

The Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Part 1

The text used in this two-part series is found in Matthew 24:4-38. Matthew chapter 24 is one of most misunderstood passages in the Bible. In the previous chapter, Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees, "You serpents, you brood of vipers... the guilt of all the righteous blood shed from the blood of righteous Able to the blood of Zechariah, you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things [the guilt of all the righteous] will come upon THIS generation. Behold, your house [temple] is being left to you desolate!" (Matt. 23:33, 35-36, 38). Later when Jesus and the disciples came out from the temple Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, not one stone here [referring to the temple] will be left upon another, which will not be torn down" (Matt. 24:1-2).

In this study we want to examine the correct application Jesus gave in answering the two questions the disciples had of Jesus in verse 3: 1) tell us, when will these things happen?, 2) and when will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age? The destruction of the temple was such a notable event that the disciples could only think of it happening with the second coming of Christ. Jesus clears up their misunderstandings and answers their questions in order. First, He tells them about the various signs [verses 4-15] which would be given prior to the destruction of the temple, false teachers, wars and rumors of wars, famines and earth-quakes, many tribulations and killings. In verse 14 Jesus said, the "gospel of the kingdom [church] shall be preached in the whole world...and the end will come" [destruction of the temple]. Paul verified Jesus' promise when he wrote in Colossians 1:23, the gospel "which WAS [past tense] proclaimed in ALL creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."

When Jesus said in verses 15-16, "when you see the Abomination of Desolation [the Roman Empire led by Titus] which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet (Dan. 9:26-27), standing in the holy place [Jerusalem] then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains;" When Jesus returns, His coming will be universal, or worldwide, and will not be restricted to just Judea, and there will be no time or reason to flee to the mountains (2Thess. 1:7-9). Jesus said in verse 20, "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath". Since the Sabbath is no longer in effect in the New Testament (Col. 1:14; Gal. 5:1-4), this cannot refer to the Lord's second coming, but to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. Part 2 in this study explains there will be no signs prior to Christ's return and the end of the world!