

EXPERIENCING THE KING LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

THE STUDY OF MATTHEW

The Return of the King

Matthew 24.1-35

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Context

Final week of Jesus life on earth:

1. Jesus comes into Jerusalem as King (Mt 21.1-27)
2. The King's True Subjects (Mt 21.28-22.14)
3. Jesus, our King and Messiah (Mt 22.15-46)
4. Condemnation of religious leaders (Mt 23.1-39)
- 5. The future (Mt 24-25)**

Matthew 24.1-3

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ² “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”



Matthew 24.1-3

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”



1. Precursors (Mt 24.4-14)

⁴ Jesus answered: **“Watch out that no one deceives you.”**

(1) ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. **[False Messiah]**

(2) ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **[Wars]**



1. Precursors (Mt 24.4-14)

(3) ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **[Hostilities]**

(4) There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **[Natural disasters]**

⁸ All these are the **beginning of birth pains.**



1. Precursors (Mt 24.4-14)

(5) ⁹ “Then you will be handed over to be **persecuted** and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **[martyrdom]**

(6) ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **[Apostasy, betrayal]**

(7) ¹¹ and many **false prophets** will appear and deceive many people.



1. Precursors (Mt 24.4-14)

(8) ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **[Backsliding]**

(9) ¹⁴ 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. **[Preaching of gospel]**



2. Destruction of the Temple (Mt 24.15-20)

¹⁵ “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’^[a] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

[a] Cf. Daniel 9.27; 11.31; 12.11

Abomination that causes desolation?

**Cf. Dan 9.27;
11.31; 12.11)**

**Antiochus
Epiphanes
installing altar
to Zeus in the
temple
(168 BC)?**

**Destruction
of the Temple
in AD70?**

Other possibility?

Cf. Mt 23.38

^{23.38} Look, your house is
left to you desolate.

3. Return of the King (Mt 24.21-35)

²¹ For then there will be **great distress**, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

²² “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³ At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

3. Return of the King (Mt 24.21-35)

²⁶ “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming (*Parousia*) of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

(1) Time of great distress (from temple destruction to parousia), (2) the return of the King will be for all to see.

3. Return of the King (Mt 24.21-35)

²⁹ “Immediately after the distress of those days
“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ [cf. Isa 13.10; 34.4]

The final judgment of the
nations, esp. the
superpowers of our time

3. Return of the King (Mt 24.21-35)

³⁰ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The consummation
of Christ's Kingdom.

3. Return of the King (Mt 24.21-35)

³² “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³ Even so, when you see **all these things**, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, **this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.** ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

3. Return of the King (Mt 24.21-35)

“It is crucial to observe the fulfillment of all these preliminary events [in vv.4-28] prior to AD70. This fulfillment will explain how 24.34 can be true. It demonstrates that everything necessary for Christ’s return was accomplished within the first generation of Christianity, so that every subsequent generation has been able to believe that Jesus could come back in their times.”

Blomberg, C. (1992). [*Matthew*](#) (Vol. 22, p. 357). Broadman & Holman Publishers.



Implications

- 1. *Certainty of Jesus' words.*** End of the temple. Certainty of his words!
- 2. *Certainty of the King's Return.*** He is already enthroned. Do you believe? Would you embrace this certain hope?
- 3. *Certainty of victory.*** Know the precursors, not be deceived. Stand firm & witness. Are you ready?

