

## “Where Are We In Time?”

### The Signs of the End Time according to Jesus – **TURMOIL, CONFLICT and TERRORISM**

As we look at Matt 24 concerning Jesus’ words about the signs of the end times, we look further into the disciple’s questions to Jesus which are also our questions.

**Review:** We see in Matt. 24, the Roman government was occupying Israel and the people were tired of the oppression put upon their way of life: Socially, religiously, financially.

They were preoccupied with the future wanting to know when was this going to end and the Lord set up His government.

How will we know when all the political turmoil will end?

### The same scenario is happening today.

Last week we saw the first and greatest danger Jesus spoke of to come as a sign of the end of times was DECEPTION.

Matt. 24:3 “As Jesus sat upon the Mt. of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying: Tell us **when** shall these things be? and **what** shall be the **sign** of Your coming, and of the **end** of the age?”

They wanted to know:

- **“When”** – exactly will these events take place?
- **“What”** – specific details of what they would see?
- **“Signs”** – when and what are we to look for that will happen to let us know of the end of the age?
- **“End”** – the summation or wrap up and closure of the age.

Jesus indicated there would be **“SIGNS”** as markers along the road to the journey to the end of the age.

The age we are living in is described by the Bible as The Last Days:

Acts 2: 17-18 “God says: In the **last days** I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Young men will see visions. Your old men will have special dreams. In those days I will pour out My Spirit on My servants, men and women, and they will prophesy.”

- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was the trigger that opened the door to the beginning of the Last Days.
- This age we are now living in had a specific beginning [Day of Pentecost] and will have a specific ending [When the Lord returns for the Church – Body of Christ].

- This will give birth to the next age – The Bible calls it The Tribulation – a 7-year period.

1. Matt 24:4-5 “Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that no man **deceive** you. Many will come in My Name. They will say, I am the Messiah, and they will **deceive** many people.”

Jesus gave the chief, foremost, most indicative sign that we are now living in the end of the age.

**DECEPTION** – A moral deception or confusion of people who once walked in a solid path but are now wavering – wandering away from the truth they once held.

- Because of deception, they have become **inclusive, embrative, open minded to new things** leading them away from the solid path of Biblical truth they once embraced.
- Jesus calls this deception – moral wandering, straying into confusion.

Paul echoes this warning of deception coming upon the world but also the enemy’s efforts to deceive even the elect.

1 Tim. 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaks clearly says that in the last times some will turn away from **the faith**. They will obey spirits that tell lies. And they will follow the teachings of demons.”

“The Faith” this is not faith for salvation, or faith for healing or finances or something – but is **The Faith** = the clear sound teaching of scripture.

There will be a departure from the teachings of the Bible:

Amos 8:11-12 echoes the prophet Amos

“Behold, the days come, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.”

The pressure will be on leaders within the church to:

- Not be so strict.
- Not be so narrow minded, exclusive that there is other truths in religion that lead to salvation.
- Be more open-minded – perhaps your interpretation of scripture is wrong.
- Change their positions as to what is right and the Biblical way of living.

Paul says this is the activity and work of seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.

**Jesus says more signs of the end of the age:**

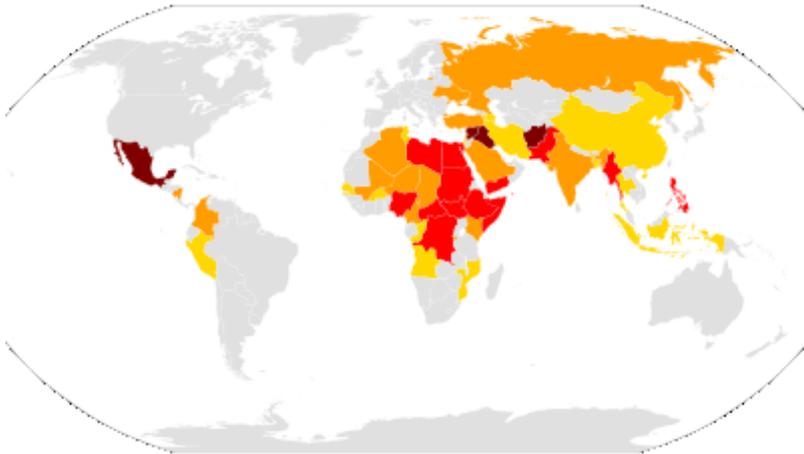
2. Matt. 24:6 “You shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you not be troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”

- Jesus begins to speak of world – wide catastrophic events that will happen at the end of the age.

**“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars...”**

- He didn’t say you would see them or personally experience them, but because of media coverage in today’s world – we definitely hear of many upheavals and uprisings worldwide.
- Our ears and eyes are filled with information that happens globally. We are **bombarded** and saturated to **overflow with information**.

**Ongoing-armed conflicts in 2018; updated September 2018.**



**Major wars, 10,000 or more deaths in current or past year:**

- Major wars, 10,000 or more deaths in current or past year
- Wars, 1,000–9,999 deaths in current or past year
- Minor conflicts, 100–999 deaths in current or past year
- Skirmishes and clashes, fewer than 100 deaths in current or past year

Luke 21:9 adds another word to the list of events:

“When you hear of wars, and **commotions**, **be not terrified**: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not yet.”

- **COMMOTIONS** – *akatastasia* - “describes an upheaval, a revolution; a commotion.”
- We are seeing these commotions everywhere.

- In the end of the age, we are going to hear of commotions, upheavals, revolutions going on over the entire planet.

But Jesus said: “Be not **terrified**:

- **Terrified** – Grk. word for **TERRORISM** - a terrifying event.
- “Be not affected by these things, they are coming to pass gradually.”
- We are living in a society inundated with an ear full of information of world-wide events which gradually over time begins to how we live, how we travel, how we think, until we are terrorized by acts of terrorism.

In the N.T. there were many acts of terrorism:

- Many local uprisings against the Roman government.
- Caused panic and people to be at unrest.

Luke 21:6 “...**but the end is not yet.**”

- Even though there is news of conflicts, wars, commotions and acts of terrorism, this doesn't mean this is the all-important sign that the end is imminent.

3. Matt. 24:6 “...see that **you not be troubled**...”

- The words Jesus was using here are saying to us – “See that you not be troubled.”
  - “**See**” – means “**Determine** that you be not troubled.”
  - You're not going to be rattled, startled or terrorized:
- Prov. 3:25-26 “You have no reason to fear a sudden disaster or the destruction that comes to the wicked. You can trust the Lord to protect you. He will not let you fall into harm.” ERV
- Jesus is saying: We cannot let ourselves submit to the fear which tries to pervade the world at the end of the age.

4. Matt. 24:7-8 “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All of these are the beginning of sorrows.”

- “**Sorrows**” *oodin* = “a woman in labor; labor pains' contractions.”
- As a woman's contractions come closer and harder before giving birth, the signs of the end of the age will increase in frequency and severity.
- There will be an increase of events that pile up on top of one another and get harder and harder to deal with.
- When we see this increase and more pressure, this is the sign we are coming to the end of the age.
- This age will end and give birth to another age – The Great Tribulation Period.

Jesus did not say these things, nor do I bring them to your attention to SCARE YOU – but to PREPARE YOU.

I realize the world is blind to these events and tries to explain them as natural causes, or due to man violating the earth and global warming or polluting the environment. And we should be conscious of this and do our best to be good stewards of the planet as God's people.

But – where do we stand as God's people knowing these things are predictions from the lips of Jesus Himself to help prepare us and encourage us and motivate us to reach a dying world for His Kingdom's sake.

I ask you the question that the Apostle Peter asked of his day:

2 Peter 3:1-14

“I write to you; in which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

That you may be mindful of the words, which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior:

Know this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning the creation.

The heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word, are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

SEEING THEN THAT ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE DISSOLVED, WHAT MANNER OF PERSON OUGHT WE TO BE IN ALL HOLY CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS, LOOK FOR AND HASTING TO THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD, WHEREIN THE HEAVENS BEING ON FIRE SHALL BE DISSOLVED, AND THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT?

Nevertheless, we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness reigns.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of Him in peace and without spot, and blameless.”