## The Gospel According To MATTHEW

### Chapter 24:1-14

***“Global Prophecy of the End Times!”***

**> Chapters 24 and 25 are known as the *“Olivet Discourse.”***

**In chapter 24 Jesus explains the future of:**

***(1) The Jewish Temple (v1-2);***

***(2) Global events leading up to and into “The Great Tribulation” (v4-14);***

***(3) Israel, the coming antichrist, the Great Tribulation, and His Second Coming (v15-31);***

***(4) When will this be, “learn the parable of the fig tree” (v32-35);***

***(5) The moral signs of the times before the “rapture of the church” (v36-51);***

**- In Chapter 25**

***(6) The parable of the “Ten Virgins” (v1-13);***

***(7) The parable of the “Talents” (v14-30);***

***(8) Christ Second Coming and the separating of the sheep and goats (v31-46).***

***> (v1-2) Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple!***

**- Jesus referring to the Temple said, *“that not one stone shall be left upon another.”***

**How could this happen? The temple was one of the most impressive structures in the world, made of massive blocks of stone bedecked with gold ornamentation. Some of the stones in the temple complex measured 40x12x12 ft. and weighing several tons. The temple buildings were made of gleaming white marble, and the whole eastern wall of the large main structure was covered with gold plates that reflected the morning sun, making a spectacle that was visible for miles. The Roman General Titus and his army fulfilled this prophecy in 70 A.D. squelching a Jewish revolt, killing some 1,100,000 Jews. The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who witnessed the event, chronicles the horrible scene in his book the *Jewish War*. We are told that a multitude of Jews ran into the Temple for safety, but a Roman soldier hurled a flaming torch into the Temple creating a fiery furnace, cremating the Jews, also melting much of the gold amongst the stones in the walls. Titus then built large wooden scaffolds around the walls of the temple buildings, piled them high with wood and other flammable items, and set them ablaze. The heat from the fires was so intense that the stones crumbled. The rubble was then sifted to retrieve the melted gold, and the remaining ruins were thrown down into the Kidron Valley, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Jesus.**

***> (v3) The Disciples Ask Three Questions Regarding the Last days***

**(1) *When will these things be?* (The Temple destroyed.)**

**- This information is given in Luke 21:20-24 - *"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.***

**(Warren Wiersbe writes, “This paragraph is peculiar to Luke; there is no parallel in Matthew or Mark in spite of the similar language in Matt 24:16-21 and Mark 13:14-17. However, it is clear that both Matthew and Mark were referring to events in the middle of the Tribulation when "the abomination of desolation" would be set up in the Jewish temple and the Antichrist (the world ruler) would begin to persecute Israel (Dan 9:24-27; Rev 13:1). Jesus warned the people to flee and go into hiding, for "great tribulation" was about to fall.** **Luke's account refers not to a distant event to occur during the Tribulation but to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus and the Roman army in A.D. 70, just forty years from that time (see Luke 19:41-44). This terrible event was in many respects a "dress rehearsal" for what will happen when Satan vents his anger on Israel and the believing Gentiles during the last half of the Tribulation (Rev 12:7-17).)**

**(2) *What will be the sign of your coming?***

**- This is unveiled in Matthew 24:4-31 – In these verses we will see *the sign of global deception, destruction, devastation, disease, disasters, divisions, gospel declaration; then the sign of Israel, rebuilding the Temple, antichrist, abomination of desolation, the great tribulation, and Christ’s second coming!***

**(3) *And of the end of the age*? (Matthew Ch. 24:32 - Ch. 25:46).**

# *> (v4-14) Jesus gives us Seven Signs of The End Times:*

**#1 - (v4-5) Deception (*Spiritual*) - *Many false Christs deceiving many* - The word *deceive* is to *lead away from the truth, to lead into error.* Notice our Lord says that they will come in His name, *Jesus* means “Jehovah is salvation,” *Christ* is “anointed one” or “Messiah.” Throughout history many have called themselves the “anointed one” or “Messiah,” or refer to themselves as the “the way of salvation.” Observe the major religions of the world ranked by number of adherents (estimates): Christianity 33% (includes cults), Islam 22%, Hinduism 15%, Buddhism 6%, other religions 10%, Nonreligious 14%. Within Christianity we are warned about deception by Paul in 2 Cor 11:3-4 - *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!***

**#2 - (v6-7a) Destruction (*Wars*) – *Nation (ethnos) against nation (ethnos), kingdom against kingdom* –Ethnos speaks of ethnic group against ethnic group, we have become well acquainted with the term “ethnic cleansing.” Kingdom speaks of an empire. Currently our world is on the precipice of destruction, surviving two World Wars, and poised for a third. Even the prophet Zechariah foretells the use of nuclear weapons (Zechariah 14:12). The neutron bomb melts (dissolves) its victims – just as God warned 2500 years ago** – ***“Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths”.* This was unimaginable in Zechariah’s day.**

**- WORLD WAR II – EST. 84 MILLION CASUALTIES**

**- WORLD WAR II – EST. 23 MILLION CASUALTIES**

**- THREE KINGDOMS WAR (CHINA) - EST. 37 MILLION CASUALTIES**

**(For an extensive list go to Wikipedia -** *List of wars and anthropogenic disasters by death toll)*

**- Communist Body Count: 149,469,610**

**#3 - (v7b) Devastation (*Famine*) –** **An estimated 840 million people went hungry in 2002 according to a U.N. report and is expected to climb another 100 million by the year 2015.**

- **Washington Post article dated April 11, 2017 reports*, “Famine now threatens 20 million people — more than at any time since World War II. As defined by the United Nations, famine occurs when a region’s daily hunger-related death rate exceeds 2 per 10,000 people.”***

**#4 - (v7c) Disease (*Pestilences*) - The estimated total number of people living in the US with incurable STD is over 65 million. Every year, there are approximately 15 million new cases of STDs, a few of which are curable. Let’s look at:**

# - The Five Deadliest Outbreaks and Pandemics in History

## 1. [The Black Death](http://www.history.com/topics/black-death) - A plague so devastating that simply saying “The Plague” will immediately pull it to the front of your mind, in the middle of the 14th century—from 1347 to 1351—the Black Death remade the landscape of Europe and the world. In a time when the global population was an estimated 450 million, at least 75 million are believed to have perished throughout the pandemic, with some estimates as high as 200 million.

## 2. [1918 Spanish Flu](http://www.flu.gov/pandemic/history/) - Approximately 90 years before the [2009 swine flu pandemic killed more than 200,000 people](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/11/study-estimates-2009-pandemic-deaths-203000), reports of an especially dangerous form of influenza began to appear around the world. This first instance of an H1N1 pandemic would be dubbed The Spanish Flu (despite the fact that it didn’t actually come from Spain). It burned out quickly and suddenly, by 1919, with the explanation still unknown today. But it left the global population decimated—with a mortality rate as high as one in five and an estimated one-third of the world population afflicted, as many as 50 million people are believed to have died.

## 3. [HIV/AIDS](http://perspectivesinmedicine.org/content/1/1/a006841.full.pdf+) - Originating in Cameroon and first recognized as a disease in 1981, the earliest documented case is believed to be in 1959 in the Congo. As of 2011 at least 60 million people had been infected by AIDS and 25 million had died. Today its impact varies widely across the world—while in 2008 an estimated 1.2 million Americans had HIV, Sub-Saharan Africa alone was home to 22.9 million cases, with one in five adults infected. About 35.3 million people were believed to have HIV in 2012.

## 4. [The Plague of Justinian](http://www.ancient.eu/article/782/) - In the year A.D. 541, rats on Egyptian grain boats brought a pestilence to the Eastern Roman Empire that would ultimately leave approximately 25 million people dead. The Plague of Justinian quickly tore through the empire. Even the emperor himself—Justinian I, for whom the plague was named—contracted the disease. While he lived, many didn’t, with modern scholars estimating that at one point as many as 5,000 people died per day in Constantinople, the empire’s capital. By its end, about 40 percent of the city’s population was dead—so many and so quickly that bodies were left in piles—joined by about one-fourth of the eastern Mediterranean.

## 5. [The Antonine Plague](http://www.infectiousinformation.com/sample-page/the-antonine-plague/) - Named for Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, who ruled during the outbreak along with co-regent Lucius Verus, the outbreak began in 165 and lasted until 180. An estimated five million people died from what is now thought to have been smallpox. It’s believed to have begun in the Mesopotamian city of Seleucia (in modern-day Iraq) and spread to Rome by soldiers returning from the city’s siege. At one point during the extended pandemic an estimated 2,000 Romans died each day. This isn’t a plague that discriminated—both emperors mentioned above are believed to be among its victims.

***- Honorable mention:*** [**Cholera**](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs107/en/) **- There’s no one outbreak of cholera to point to that’s on the level of any of the above five pandemics. However, since first spreading from Calcutta along the Ganges Delta in 1817, it has killed millions. The World Health Organization estimates that each year that passes sees between 3 and 5 million new cholera cases, killing as many as 120,000 people. Untreated, it can kill in a matter of hours.**

***This commentary originally appeared on the RWJF New Public Health blog.***

***- World Health Organization List of Pandemic, epidemic diseases***

[***Chikungunya***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/chikungunya/en/)

[***Cholera***](https://www.who.int/cholera/en/)

[***Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever/en/)

[***Ebola virus disease***](https://www.who.int/ebola/en/)

[***Hendra virus infection***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/hendra-virus/en/)

[***Influenza (pandemic, seasonal, zoonotic)***](https://www.who.int/influenza/en/)

[***Lassa fever***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/lassa-fever/en/)

[***Marburg virus disease***](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/marburg/en/)

[***Meningitis***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/meningitis/en/)

[***MERS-CoV***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/mers-cov/en/)

[***Monkeypox***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/monkeypox/en/)

[***Nipah virus infection***](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/nipah/en/)

[***Plague***](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/plague/en/)

[***Rift Valley fever***](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/rift-valley-fever/en/)

[***SARS***](https://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/)

[***Smallpox***](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/smallpox/en/)

[***Tularaemia***](https://www.who.int/csr/delibepidemics/tularaemia/en/)

[***Yellow fever***](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/yellowfev/en/)

[***Zika virus disease***](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/)

**#5 - (v7d) Disasters (*Earthquakes*) – According to the U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center in 1990 there were 16,590 earthquakes, increasing to 31,419 in 2004.**

***- The 6 biggest earthquakes in the last five years that should make you nervous:***

**1 Chiapas, Mexico, 2017 - An 8.2-magnitude earthquake** [**hit the Mexican state of Chiapas**](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/08/world/americas/mexico-earthquake.html) **on September 7th, 2017. The earthquake killed 61 people in Mexico, 36 of whom lived in the city of Juchitan de Zaragoza. It was the most powerful quake Mexico had experienced in 100 years**

## 2 Ecuador, 2016 - On April 16th, 2016, Ecuador was [devastated by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake](https://edition.cnn.com/2016/04/17/americas/ecuador-deadly-earthquake/index.html). The disaster claimed the lives of 272 people, and at least 2,527 sustained injuries.

## 3 Chile, 2015 - Chile [experienced an 8.3-magnitude earthquake](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/17/earthquake-in-chile-rocks-capital-santiago) on September 17th, 2015. Chile was also the site of the strongest earthquake ever, a 9.5-magnitude quake that occurred in 1960.

## 4 Nepal, April 2015 - On [April 25th, 2015, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32479909) struck Nepal’s capital of Kathmandu, the largest earthquake the country had ever experienced. The tremors caused avalanches on Mt. Everest and resulted in powerful aftershocks, including one reaching a magnitude of 7.3 on May 12. The earthquakes [caused more than 8,583 fatalities](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/17/nepal-earthquake-death-toll_n_7300646.html), making it the deadliest earthquake in the country’s history.

## 5 China, 2014 - More than 600 people died in a [6.1-magnitude earthquake in China’s Yunnan Province](https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/08/devastating-earthquake-in-chinas-ludian-county/100788/) on August 3rd, 2014. The quake also caused landslides and resulted in the destruction of 80,000 homes. More than 120,000 other homes were damaged.

## 6 Pakistan, 2013 - A 7.7-magnitude earthquake wreaked havoc on the [Pakistani province of Balochistan](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-24222760) on September 24th, 2013. [More than 500 people died](https://www.nbcnews.com/science/satellites-reveal-new-views-pakistans-earthquake-island-8C11316004) as a result of the earthquake.

**(v8) *All these are the beginning of sorrows* – *Sorrows* in the Greek is *oodin* - *the pain of childbirth, travail-pain, birth-pang.* Jesus says that these global events will increase in severity and greater rapidity like a woman giving birth; climaxing in the “GREAT TRIBULATION!"**

**#6 - (v9-13) Division (*Social, Political, Religious*)**

**(v9) – Jesus says that Christians will be persecuted, some 4 to 6 million were martyred in the first 300 years of the church, yet in the last century millions have been killed through communism. Stalin killed some 60 million people during his communist reign, and lest we forget Mao’s slaughter of millions in his communist revolution. Today we see a tremendous slaughter of Christians by Muslims in the Middle-East and Africa, and across the world through terrorism.**

**(v10) This verse suggests professing believers will fall away and even turn against “one another” in shocking acts of spiritual treachery. Those who *fall away* in such a manner give evidence that they never were true believers at all. (ref. - 2 Thess. 2:3; Rev. 3:14-22)**

**(v11) Jesus warns us again of many *false prophets* coming to deceive – (ref. – 2 Corin. Ch. 11; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Peter Ch. 2; Rev. 3::14-22)**

**- Listen to Paul’s warning, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.***

**(v12) Lawlessness will abound and the love of many will grow cold – In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 we read, *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!***

**(v13) To endure is to persevere through it all, and the word saved is *soozoo*** – ***which is to save, to keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction.***

***-* Surely Romans 8:37-39 comes to light, *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

**#7 – (v14) Declaration (*Gospel proclaimed to the whole world*) – According to the *United Bible Society* portions or all of the Bible have been translated into over 2,300 languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world’s population; 5.6 billion people now have access to the full Bible in their language. Truly every nation of the world has heard the message of Christmas and Easter, which means THE END IS NOW!**

**> We must continue PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION UNTIL JESUS COMES BACK FOR HIS BRIDE IN THE RAPTURE!**

**Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20 *- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.***