

Discussion Guide

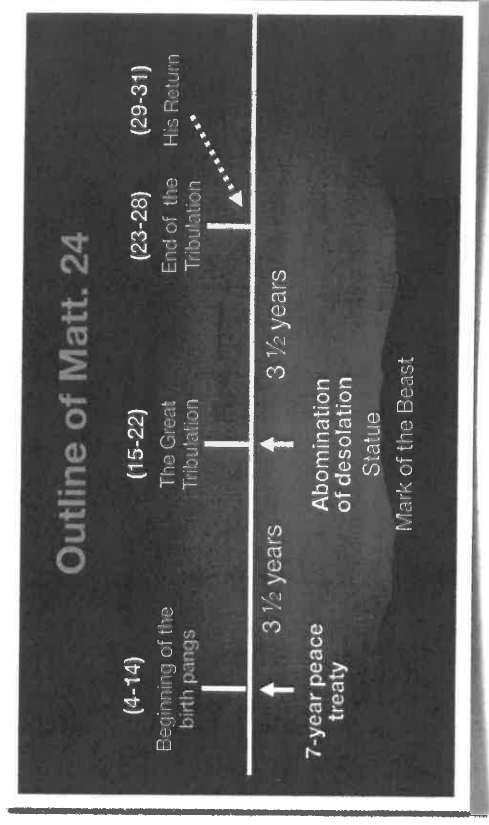
1. Most Christians know very little about the Lord's Return. Why do you believe that is true? What is the current attitude toward prophecy?
2. What do darkness and shaking picture and how do they relate to the end?
3. Some believe that because of the rapture, end time prophecies are irrelevant to current day believers. Discuss how this might be relevant for false converts.
4. What is The Battle of Armageddon? When will it take place and why will it be necessary?
5. Should we be concerned that one's profession of faith does not include grief over sin? Why is this essential?

ANSWERS: Parousia, triumph, Armageddon, mourning

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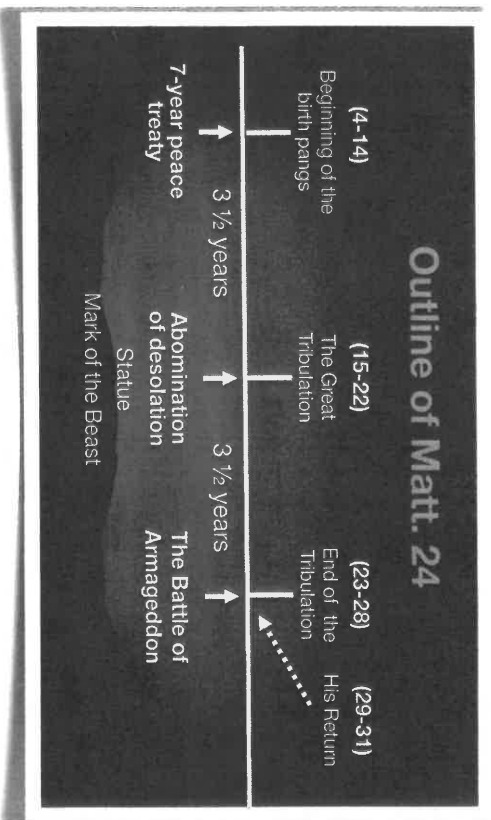
Lesson: Two Hundred thirty six
Series: Signs of the End.
Title: Christ's Return
Text: Matthew 24:29-31
Date: November 29, 2020



28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Horrific carnage at the end of the Tribulation.

1



John speaks of “vultures” (birds)

Revelation 19:17-21 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the **birds** which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the **flesh** of kings and the **flesh** of commanders and the **flesh** of mighty men and the **flesh** of horses and of those who sit on them and the **flesh** of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive

Him, as one **mourns** for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. 11 “In that day there will be great **mourning** in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

If there’s no _____ over personal sin and an understanding of the person and work of Christ, there can be no salvation.

31 “And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

“**angels**”

“**great trumpet**”

In ancient Israel the trumpet was used to announce important convocations (assemblies).

At the end of the Tribulation God will send His angels to gather the elect.

“**from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.**”

Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. 3 “It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

4 “In that day,” declares the Lord, “I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

5 “Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through the Lord of hosts, their God.’

6 “In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

7 “The Lord also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be magnified above Judah. 8 “In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the Lord before them.

9 “And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the **Spirit of grace and of supplication**, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will **mourn** for

into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the **birds were filled with their flesh**.

Matthew 24:29–31 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 “And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

_____ - 24 times (Matt 24:27, 37, 39)

An important sequence

“immediately after the tribulation’

Four brief comic signs

“sun will be darkened”

“moon will not give its light,”

“stars will fall”

“powers of the heavens”

“shaken” [saleuo]

This will be the result of Christ withdrawing His sustaining power.

Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **The Babylonian judgment - a preview of the Tribulation.**

Isaiah 24:1–6 Behold, the Lord lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants. 2 And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor. 3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the Lord has spoken this word. 4 The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. 5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

Many will not repent.

Revelation 16:9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they **blasphemed the name of God** who has the power over these plagues, and they **did not repent** so as to give Him glory.

Some will repent (especially the Jews)

The Lord made a promise to Israel?

Zechariah 12:10–11 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. 11 “In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Their repentance will be forged in protection and rescue.

The battle of _____

“Armageddon” (Revelation 16:16)

Hebrew word - Har-Magedone = “Mount Megiddo”

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the Lord concerning Israel. Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, 2 “Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the **siege is against**

of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And **His kingdom** is one Which will not be destroyed.

How do we know Jesus is the sign?

“then all the tribes of the earth will mourn”

“see the Son of God”

The sight of the Lord, His holiness, and His blazing glory will be unbearably fearful.

“with power and great glory

Man wants to hide from His presence.

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the **presence of Him** who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand”?

Not “the wrath” but “THEIR wrath.”

18 Then it will be that he who flees the report of disaster will fall into the pit, And he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the snare; For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake. 19 The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently. 20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard And it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again. 21 So it will happen in that day, That the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. 22 They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.

How the cosmic disturbances will affect the inhabitants on earth.

Luke 21:25-26 “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,

“dismay”

“perplexity” [aporía]

26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

“fainting from fear”

KJV - “hearts will fail from fear”

Why the cosmic disturbances?

They are expressions of God's hatred of sin and are signs of His coming judgment.

- The darkness that covered the deep before God's creation of light symbolizes chaos in opposition to God's orderly creation (Gen. 1:2-3).
 - Darkness is a place where "workers of iniquity may hide" (Job 34:22). However, darkness does not hide one from God (Ps. 139:1-12; Dan. 2:22).
 - The OT speaks of death as a land of darkness (Job 10:21-22; 17:13; Ps. 88:6).
 - Darkness is frequently associated with supernatural events involving the judgment of God, such as the plagues of Egypt (Exod. 10:21),
 - Darkness was associated with Christ's crucifixion (Matt. 27:45).
 - The day of God's judgment is often described as a day of darkness (Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18-20).
 - Elsewhere darkness forms part of God's punishment on the disobedient (Deut. 28:29; 1 Sam. 2:9; Job 5:14; 15:30; 20:26; Ps. 107:10; Isa. 47:5; Jer. 13:16; Ezek. 32:8).
 - Darkness is used to describe immorality (Prov. 2:13; 4:19),
- There is walking in darkness (John 8:12; 1 John 1:6;

cp. 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:8), and works of darkness (Rom. 13:12; Eph. 5:11).

- Punishment for humans and fallen angels is designated "the outer darkness" (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6, 13).

The light of righteousness and peace will _____ over darkness and conflict.

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky,

What is the sign of the Son of Man?

The disciples asked for "the sign."

Matthew 24:3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be **THE SIGN** of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Jesus answered what "the sign" will be.

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky,

"the sign" will be the "Son of man coming on the clouds"

Daniel 7:13-14 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men