

Matthew 24

Sometimes I hear people say that the world must be coming to an end soon because of all the signs— natural disasters, man-made disasters, wars, sickness, etc. For those who believe in the Word of God, it may be a misunderstanding of Matthew 24, so let's do a study of that chapter.

- In verses 1-2, Jesus predicted the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.
- In verse 3, His disciples asked Him two questions:
 - When will the Temple be destroyed?
 - When will be the end of the world?

In verses 4-35, Jesus answered when the Temple would be destroyed:

- Those claiming to be Christ will come and go—do not believe them.
- Wars and rumors of war will occur.
- Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.
- Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes will happen in various places.
- Christians will be killed and many will fall away.
- Many false prophets will arise and deceive many.
- The gospel will be preached in the entire world.
- Then the end will come.
- When you see signs similar to the “abomination of desolation” spoken by Daniel the prophet then you will know the end is coming.
- Those in Judea should flee to the mountains.
- If you are on your housetop, do not go into your house to pack.
- If you are out in the field, do not go back to your house.
- It will be very hard if you are pregnant or have small children.
- Hope that it does not come in the winter or on the Sabbath.
- Those alive today will not die until they see this happen.

The last six bullets above make it quite clear that Jesus is NOT talking about the end of the world. What good would it do to flee to the mountains? What difference would it make if women were pregnant or had small children? What does the weather or the day of week have to do with the end of the world? And unless there are some very, very old people walking around, this major event already happened. Jerusalem, including the Temple, was destroyed in A.D. 70, 40 years after Jesus spoke these words. There would be lots of signs!

In verses 36-51, Jesus then answered when the end of the world would be:

- But of THAT day and hour no one knows, not even the angels, but the Father only.
- It will be like in the days of Noah when they were eating and drinking and had no idea the flood was coming.
- Watch, because you do not know what hour the Lord is coming.

In other words, there will be NO signs of the end of the world. It will come quickly and unexpectedly. Are you ready?