

Understanding the Tribulation prophesied by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24

This is a gleaning from what Jesus had declared clearly through his speech when he answered the disciples in chapter 24 in the book of Matthew. This is similar teaching as in chapter 13 in the book of Mark and also in chapter 21 in the book of Luke.

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* The black color points to the verses from the Bible (KJV).

* The black color points to verses from the whole Bible on the same subject (KJV or other Version).

* The red color points to the key verse and words.

* The green color points to Samuel's thoughts.

* The yellow color points and refers to history written by others.

Matthew 24:1-2

And Jesus went out and departed from the temple. And His disciples came to Him to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, there shall not be left here one stone on another that shall not be thrown down.

Luke 19:44

And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall **not leave in thee one stone upon another**; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

From these two verses we see that Jesus prophesied about the events of **a severe and important thing** -the abomination of desolation- spoken of by Daniel.

Matthew 24:3

And as He sat on the Mount 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 world?

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Genesis 49:1

And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in **the last days**.

Ezekiel 7:2

Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD **unto the land of Israel; An end**, the end is come **upon the four corners of the land**.

The land represents Israel and the sea represents the Gentiles. And we can see later on, that Jesus answered and talked about the end of political Israel not the end of the whole world.

Matthew 24:4-5

And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and will deceive many.

Let us see some examples related to Christ's teaching regarding deceivers of many:

1) Acts 5:36

For before these days **Theudas** rose up, claiming himself to be somebody, to whom was joined a number of men, about four hundred, who was done away, and all, as many as obeyed him, were dispersed and came to nothing.

2) Acts 5:37

After this; **Judas the Galilean** rose up in the days of the Registration. And he drew considerable people after him. Yet that one perished, and all were scattered, as many as obeyed him.

3) Acts 8:9

But a certain man named **Simon** had long been conjuring in the city and amazing the nation of Samaria, claiming himself to be some great one.

4) Acts 13:6

And passing through the island as far as Paphos, they found a certain conjurer, a false prophet, a Jew named **Bar-jesus**,

Matthew 24:34 truly I say to you, this generation shall not pass, until all these things are fulfilled.

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This is a **key verse** of the whole chapter, so let us find out how it is fulfilled in Jesus' generation. First of all we can see there were many false prophets appeared in that generation.

Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled, for all these things must occur; but the **end** is not yet.

In this period of age many wars and rumors of wars happened between the Jews and the Romans which ended by the abomination in 70 A.D. which resulted in that the Jews were kicked out from their Land. And hereby, we see that the important and severe event which Jesus pointed to in verse 2 was the End of Israel in their land. See also Ezekiel chapter 7.

Matthew 24:7-8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **famines** and pestilences and earthquakes in different places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Acts 11:28 And one of them named Agabus rising up, he signified through the Spirit that a great **famine** was about to be over all the habitable earth, which also happened on Claudius Caesar's time.

Ezekiel 7:15 The sword is without, and the pestilence and the **famine** within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him.

Josephus tells us that there were more people who perished within the city at the hands of their own people by rebels, suicide, anarchy, and the **famine** than from the hands of the Romans. Why? Jesus told them before He left that a "house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). That house became divided against itself until they killed one another by the hundreds of thousands. The Romans stood and watched them kill one another.

Matthew 24:9-10 Then they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you. And you will be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then many will be offended, and will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Acts 12:1 And at that time Herod the king put forth the hands to oppress some of those of the assembly.

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I want you to see why Matthew refers to this as a tribulation like never before or which never will be again. I thank the Lord that the day of this great tribulation has passed.

After the Romans had killed hundreds of thousands, they just surrounded the city, waited day by day, and watched hunger and famine killing more the people. The hunger set them so crazy that a man would kill another to eat him/her.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets will rise and deceive many.

There are four persons who tried to prophesy and to deceive many –in the same generation of Jesus, see Matthew 24: 4-5 “And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

Matthew 24:12-13 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many will become cold. But he who endures to the end, the same shall be kept safe.

Who endures to the end will be safe!!!

The end, here, does not signify the end of all mankind. It is not the end of the whole world but the end only of their world in the Land of Israel so there was an end for the political land of Israel but there is no end for the dominion of king David because Jesus Christ is the son of David and he is ruling now and forever.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all nations. And then the end shall come.

Acts 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and **prevailed.**

Colossians 1:23 If indeed ye abide in the faith founded and firm, and not moved away from the hope of the glad tidings, which ye have heard, which have been **proclaimed in the whole creation** which is under heaven, of which *I* Paul became minister.

Romans 10:18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes verily, **their sound went into all the earth** and their words **unto the ends of the world.**

Jesus said that before the day, the end of the political land of Israel, the **gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the entire world**, and we find that the gospel of Luke, the book of Acts and Paul's Epistle to the Romans point out clearly that it is done in the same generation of Jesus.

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Matthew 24:15 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand).

What is the abomination of desolation? “Whoever reads” refers to the Jews who were faithful to reading and memorizing the God’s Words. Similarly, let us read more to better understand which is written.

Daniel 8:17 And he came beside my place. And when he came, I feared and fell on my face. But he said to me, O son of man, understand, for the vision is for **the time of the end**.

Luke 19:41-43 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and **wept over it**, Saying, If thou had known, even thou, at least in this **thy day**, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes. **For the days** shall come upon thee, that thine Enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side.

Daniel 7:13 -15 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man [Jesus] came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days [GOD], and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. I Daniel **was grieved in my spirit** in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Why did the Lord Jesus weep over Jerusalem? Why **was Daniel so grieved**? May be Daniel was grieved because he saw in his vision the end of the political Israel. Jesus also wept over Israel because they were his people. But, behold Daniel had a great joy because He saw Jesus come in his vision and now Jesus Christ has dominion and he takes care of all the believers in the whole world not only Israel.

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm a covenant with the many for one week. And in the middle of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease. And on a corner of the altar will be abominations that desolate, even until **the end**. And that which was decreed shall pour out on the desolator.

The 70th week started when the 69th week ended, when Jesus completed 30 years; at that time He started to serve God the father, and after 3 ½ years (half of the week) he was crucified and died on the cross. But he rose again from the dead and he confirmed a covenant with the many; such as his disciples, he family and

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Saul whose name became Paul and many more; (that was in the second half of the week) that was in 3 ½ years].

Matthew 24:16-19 Then let those in Judea flee into the mountains. Let him on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house; nor let him in the field turn back to take his clothes. And woe to those who are with child, and to those who give suck in those days

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Jesus here determines the actual location for the tribulation, that it would be in the city of Jerusalem only, neither in the mountains, nor in the fields and it will be on its ground not even in the housetop.

Josephus, the historian wrote his history books in A. D. 75; he lived right in area during that time. Through his writings, you can see how the hand of God worked. He said Titus and those armies so encompassed the city that it looked as though even the Messianic believers (Christians) were not going to be able to escape. However, God moved on the armies and they withdrew for two or three days and the Messianic believers fled; then the armies moved in and took over the city. The abomination that made the Temple of Solomon desolate was the Roman armies under Titus, the prince, just exactly as Daniel had Prophesied.

Matthew 24:20 But, pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day.

Neither in winter nor in Sabbath, then it should be short days that are less than week to avoid any Sabbath.

Some people may confuse between the tribulation which has short days and the covenant which takes 7 years, 3 ½ years from Jesus starts to chose the disciples (to make the new covenant) to the time of the cross, and other 3 ½ years to finish the covenant with Paul and many believers.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since *the* beginning of *the* world to this time; no, nor ever shall be.

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From this verse we see that Jesus is saying that the tribulation which happened in 70 A.D. will not happen again. Jesus said (no, nor ever it shall be).

Matthew 24:22 And unless those days should be shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened.

Thanks GOD that such tribulation was limited to some days as it showed in Matthew 24:20.

After Jerusalem had been destroyed and the temple had been torn down (not one stone was left upon another), the city was so full of dead, stinking corps of people that the Roman armies started out through Judaea killing everybody everywhere. Jesus had told the Christians to flee to the mountains of Judaea. Josephus said the Romans went up to the very edge of the mountains and God stopped them. If He had not shortened the days of tribulation, there would not have been any flesh left. They would have killed the Messianic believers (Christians), but God protected them.

Josephus and other historians tell us that, to their knowledge, there was not one Christian hurt. Why? God gave them a sign. When they saw the sign, they were to flee, and every believer who fled was protected. If you will believe what God tells you, you will be protected by the hand of God too.

Before God pours one vial of wrath out on spiritual Babylon (fallen religion), He sounds the trumpet and gives every one of His people a chance to flee. He does not want them to suffer the vials of wrath that are coming on Babylon.

Matthew 24:23 Then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ! Or, There! Do not believe it.

So we should not make up other future events related to the second coming of Christ. As we see in Matthew 24, the tribulation had occurred already.

The Great Tribulation had already happened.

Matthew 24:24-27 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders; so much so that, if it were possible, they would deceive even the elect. Behold, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they shall say to you, Behold, He is in the desert! Do not go out. Behold, He is in the secret rooms! Do not believe it. For as the lightning comes out of the east and shines even to the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man.

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1John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and **even now already is it in the world.**

See also Acts 5:36, 37 & Acts 8: 9 & Acts 13:6 for false prophets, we can see how many false prophets and antichrist appear in that same generation.]

Matthew 24:28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered.

When we search the history in the period after 70 A.D. we will find how the political Jews were kicked out (banished) and how the Messianic faith (Christianity) changed the entire world.

Matthew 24:29 And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

(Whoever reads, let him understand) Some interpreters believe that these signs are natural cosmic signs. Let us ask the Jews themselves what could Jesus meant by thme: the sun, the moon and the stars!!

Genesis 37:9, 10 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the **sun** and the **moon** and the **eleven stars** made obeisance to me. And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, what is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall **I** and **thy mother** and **thy brethren** indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

[The sun = Jacob the moon = Rachael the stars = the tribes.]

Psalms 89:35-37 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the **sun** before me. It shall be established for ever as the **moon**, and as a **faithful witness in heaven**. Selah.

God said that the seed of David shall endure forever, and so it was, after the end of the political Israel in the year 70 A.D., Jesus Christ (the seed of David) reigns now and forever.

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Isaiah 24:23 Then the **moon** shall be confounded, and the **sun** ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

The sun ashamed and the moon confounded, that means that they are symbols of Israel not the physical (cosmic) sun and moon.

Joel 3:14, 15 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The **sun** and the **moon** shall be darkened, and the **stars** shall withdraw their shining.

Some interpreters could think about the physical sun, that when it stops its light, the moon will be darkened, yes that is true, but what about the physical stars why they dim their brightness? This point directs us to understand the spiritual meaning of the Sun, the Moon and the stars rather than the cosmic literal meaning.

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.

Again did you take a time to think how is the moon becomes blood?

Revelation 6:12-13 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Please take a moment and compare:

The sun became (not dark) but as sackcloth, the moon became (not dark) but as blood, the stars fell unto the earth and the fig tree (which is used always in the Bible as a symbol of Israel) casted her untimely figs.

Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon are under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Yes what amazing this picture that the people of Israel, represented by a queen has the sun (Israel) as a coat, and the moon (Rachael) at her feet and her crown has 12 stars (which they are the 12 tribes).

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

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But the new city does not need the earthly (cosmic) objects; it does not need Israel as a sun or Rachael as a moon neither the 12 tribes to light it up, because the LAMB is the light thereof.

Matthew 24:30 And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the **clouds** of the heaven with power and great glory.

The tribes of the earth = the tribes of Israel. The clouds = the glory.

Isaiah 19:1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon **a swift cloud**, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a **cloud of witnesses**;

Matthew 26:64 Jesus smith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, **hereafter(in other translation – from now-)** shall ye see the Son of man **sitting on the right hand of power**, and coming in **the clouds of heaven**.

[Sitting on the right hand of power = thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands (Heb 2:7). The clouds of heaven = the believers the witnesses.]

Matthew 24:31 And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The great sound of a trumpet points to: that the coming event which belongs only to the Jews.

Exodus 19: 13 When the **trumpet** soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

Leviticus 25:9 Then shalt thou cause the **trumpet** of the jubile to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the **trumpet** sound throughout all your land.

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Judges 3:27 And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a **trumpet** in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

Jesus Christ shall gather his elects.

Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine **elect**, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

2Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the **elect's** sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the **strangers** scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Revelation 7:2-4 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Matthew 24:32-33 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even at the doors*.

That is near as Jesus said, it is the end of political Israel; no more the sun neither the moon nor the stars.

Matthew 24:34 Truly I say to you, **this** generation shall not pass until all these things are fulfilled.

In order to know which **generation is meant by Jesus** in this verse let us read these verses:

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and **to seal up the vision and prophecy**, and to anoint the most Holy.

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Matthew 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, ye **shall not have gone over the cities of Israel**, till the Son of man become.

Matthew 11:16 But whereunto shall I liken **this** generation?

Matthew 16:28 Verily I say unto you, **there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death**, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, **hereafter (from now)** shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Luke 9:27 But I tell you of a truth, there be **some standing** here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

Luke 11:30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to **this** generation.

Luke 17:25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected **of this generation**.

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that **he tarry till I come**, what is *that* to thee? Follow thou me.

Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Matthew 24:35 the heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away. **36** but of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father. **37** but as the days of Noah *were*, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** for as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until *the* day Noah entered into the ark. **39** and they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40** Then two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. **41** two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. **42** therefore watch; for you do not know what hour

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your Lord comes. 43 But know this, that if the steward of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through. 44 Therefore you also are ready, for in that hour you think not, the Son of Man comes. 45 who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has made ruler over His household, to give them food in due season? 46 blessed is that servant whom his Lord shall find him doing so when He comes. 47 truly I say to you that He shall make him ruler over all His goods. 48 but if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delays His coming, 49 and shall begin to strike *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken, 50 the Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he does not look for *Him*, and in an hour which he does not know. 51 And He shall cut him apart and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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