

Matthew 24:3-14. Christ Foretells the Signs of the End.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

Jesus foretells the signs of the end, including the destruction of Jerusalem and the second coming, and warns his disciples of trials and afflictions.

Scripture: Isaiah 11:6, Matthew 24:1-44, John 6:67, John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:1

Topics: "Eschatology", "Second Coming"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer reflects on the poignant scene on Mount Olivet where Jesus foretells the future to his disciples, particularly focusing on the impending fate of Jerusalem, a city he had deeply cared for despite its upcoming trials and condemnation. The disciples, James, John, Peter, and Andrew, inquire about the timing of these events and the signs of Jesus' return and the end of the world, prompting a dual response from the Lord regarding the destruction of Jerusalem and his second coming. Despite the expectation of peace with the arrival of the Prince of peace, Jesus warns of ongoing wars, persecutions, and trials before his ultimate reign.

Transcript

How interesting was the scene upon Mount Olivet when the Savior sat there instructing his disciples concerning things to come! The prospect he beheld must have filled his heart with sad thoughts. It was Jerusalem, that crowned the opposite heights--Jerusalem! the city over which he had wept only a few days before--Jerusalem, that city in which he had done so many miracles--Jerusalem, that city in which he was so very soon to be tried and condemned.

When we look upon a place which we have often visited, we think of past events; but when Jesus looked upon Jerusalem he thought not only of the past, but also of the future.

The disciples did not leave their Master to meditate alone upon that mount. Four of them approached and proposed some important questions. The names of these four are recorded by Mark--they were James and John, Peter and Andrew, the fishermen of Gennesaret. The inquiries they made were these--"When shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?" What things did they refer to in their first question? A little while before their Lord had said, when gazing on the magnificent buildings of the temple, "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." It was natural that the disciples should desire to know when these wonderful events would

happen; they said, "When shall these things be?" Had they asked no other question, it would have been clear that the whole of the Lord's answer related to the destruction of Jerusalem; but they added a second inquiry, "What shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?"

The Lord answered both these inquiries as he sat upon Mount Olivet. It is difficult for us to know certainly what part of the answer relates to the destruction of Jerusalem, and what part relates to the second coming. Before Jerusalem was destroyed, there were many wars and persecutions; and there are wars and persecutions still. What mournful signs these are, of the coming of Christ! When he was born at Bethlehem, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men." This song would have led us to expect that wars would cease now that the Prince of peace was come. But eighteen hundred years have rolled away, and violence still prevails upon the earth. The joyful song in the fields of Bethlehem is very unlike the mournful discourse upon the Mount of Olives. Yet both are true. When the Babe that lay in the manger shall sit upon his throne, the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Meanwhile there must be trials, and afflictions, and temptations. Jesus has faithfully warned us beforehand. He has told us that many will be offended, and that many will be deceived, and that the love of many will grow cold. When we read these prophecies we should offer up such a prayer as this--"May I never be offended, or deceived, or cooled in my love!" When we hear of any who have turned back from following the Lord, let us think of the touching words he once spoke to his apostles, "Will you also go away?" Surely none will feel so much ashamed to see him again as those who professed to walk with him a little way, and to love him for a little while, but whose feet grew weary, and whose love waxed cold! O how they will wish that they had never heard his name, nor listened to his voice!

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