

Matthew 24 notes

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Signs of Christ's Return (*New American Standard Bible*)

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

In pointing out the temple buildings, Yeshua's talmudim show they still don't get it:

- God's kingdom is not wrapped up in edifices and titles.
 - "The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD" (Jer. 7:4)
 - "Call no man 'rabbi' ... 'good teacher' ... 'father' ..." (Matt. 23)
- God's kingdom is about humility and reconciliation: God with man, man with man. It's a running theme throughout Matthew's account and the key to understanding Matt. 24.
 - **Matt. 18:** Guidelines for restoring relations between people, a determinant for continued reconciliation between God and us. Messiah offered the "peace treaty" and guides us in learning to love it and live our lives by it.
 - **Matt. 19:** In marriage flirtation is dangerous and lust deadly to the relationship, as are such dalliances with "rulers" of our lives beside God. That is what is behind God's Torah, as Deuteronomy 5 emphasizes.
 - **Matt. 20:** It's not about your aspirations to power in God's kingdom, it's about God's appointment of you — anointing — to a position.
 - **Matt. 21:** The people recognize the king, but the leaders can't and will lose their leadership as a result, as foretold in the parables of the fig tree and vineyard managers.
 - **Matt. 22:** Humility leads to reconciliation. As in the parable of the wedding banquet, we must accept the invitation (what we're doing now isn't as important or enjoyable as the "banquet") and accept the "wedding clothes" (our deeds are "unclean").
 - **Matt. 23:** Arrogance changing God's Torah based on what "seems right" and "makes sense" or "is expedient" and malevolence in blocking the people from a relationship with Him earns those who do so, and doubly so the leaders, the absence of God's presence and the assurance of His wrath.

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?"

The talmudim want to know:

1. When will the temple be destroyed?
 - a. History is a key to the future: Arrogance and malevolence instead of humility and reconciliation (or mercy) doomed Israel to:
 - i. Wander in the wilderness for 40 years
 - ii. Be split in two and God's holy place at Shiloh
 - iii. Suffer desolation of the temple thrice:
 1. by Nebuchadnezzar
 2. by Antiochus IV
 3. by Titus
 2. The ninth day of the fifth month (from Wikipedia at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha_B%27Av)
 - a. According to the Mishnah (Ta'anit 4:6), five specific events occurred on the ninth of Av that warrant fasting:
 - i. The twelve scouts sent by Moses to observe the land of Canaan returned from their mission. Two of the scouts, Joshua and Caleb, brought a positive report, but the others spoke disparagingly about the land which caused the Children of Israel to cry, panic and despair of ever entering the "Promised Land". For this, they were punished by God that their generation would not enter the land. Because of the Israelites' lack of faith, God decreed that for all generations this date would become one of crying and misfortune for their descendants, the Jewish people. (See Numbers 13–14)
 - ii. The First Temple built by King Solomon and the Kingdom of Judah were destroyed by the Babylonians led by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE and the Judeans were sent into the Babylonian exile.
 - iii. The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, scattering the people of Judea and commencing the Jewish exile from the Holy Land.
 - iv. According to the Talmud in tractate Ta'anit, the destruction of the Second Temple began on the ninth and was finally consumed by the flames the next day on the Tenth of Av.
 - v. Following the Roman siege of Jerusalem, the razing of Jerusalem occurred the next year.
 - vi. Bar Kokhba's revolt against Rome failed in 135 CE. Simon bar Kokhba was killed, and the city of Betar was destroyed.
 - b. Later calamities on the ninth of Av
 - i. In 1290, King Edward I signed an edict to expel the Jews from England
 - ii. Sabbatai Zevi, the false Jewish messiah, was born on Tisha B'av in 1626.
 - iii. In the First World War, Germany declared war on Russia on August 1, 1914, Tisha B'av.
 - iv. On July 31, 1941 coinciding with Tisha B'Av, under instructions from Adolf Hitler, Nazi official Hermann Göring ordered SS general Reinhard Heydrich to make all the necessary preparations for the Final Solution.
 - v. The first transports reached Treblinka and the extermination of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto began on July 23, 1942.
 - c. Some calamities that occurred shortly before or after the ninth of Av:

- i. The Alhambra decree expelling the Jews from Spain went into effect on July 31, 1492, the 7th of Av 5252, two days before Tisha B'Av.
 - ii. In 1955, El Al Flight 402 was shot down over Bulgarian airspace on the 8th of Av.
 - iii. The AMIA Bombing (Asociación Mutua Israelita Argentina) by terrorists in Buenos Aires, which killed 85 and wounded more than 120, occurred on July 18, 1994, the 10th of Av.
 - iv. The Gulf War began on August 2, 1990 — the 11th of Av — with the Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. It ended on Purim.
 - v. The Second Lebanon War began on July 12, 2006, the 16th of Tammuz, and continued until 14 August 2006, the 20th of Av.
 - vi. Israel's unilateral disengagement plan from the Gaza Strip and northern Samaria began on 15 August 2005, the 10th of Av. This event is sometimes described as a "calamity," although many would disagree. It was originally due to commence the day before, on the 9th of Av, but was deliberately postponed to avoid coinciding with Tisha B'Av.
3. When will You return?
 - a. **Matt. 23:38, 39** — "Your house is left to you desolate. You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the LORD.'"
 - b. **Daniel 11-12 & Zechariah 14:** God steps in on the Day of the LORD when Yerushalayim and His people are being overrun — conquered — from without and from within.
 4. When will the end of the age be?
 - a. The prophets and sages connect Messiah's coming with the Day of the LORD, and Yeshua does too (see verse 29).

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. 6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

1. One of the hallmarks of the time of the end preceding the Day of the LORD is rampant deception.
 - a. Several false messiahs arose in the 40 years between Yeshua's ministry and the destruction of the temple. Others arose in the 60 years between the destruction and death of Bar Kopba and the Roman Diaspora.
 - b. **Matt. 24:4-5** — And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.
 - i. **Dan. 11:29-39** — "At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. 30 "For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. 31 "Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. 32 "By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. 33 "Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. 34 "Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. 35 "Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time. 36 "Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 37 "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. 38 "But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. 39 "He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.
 - c. **Matt. 24:10-12** — "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold."
 - i. Examples of false prophets — anti-Christ
 1. **2nd Thess. 2:1-17** — Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

2. **1st John 1:18-24** — Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
 3. **2nd John 4-11** — I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. 5 Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.
- ii. How do you know if a prophet's words or those of close family are true?
 1. **Deut. 13** — 1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you. 6 "If your brother, your mother's son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods' (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, 7 of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), 8 you shall not yield to him or listen to him; and your eye shall not pity him, nor shall you spare or conceal him. 9 "But you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 "So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 11 "Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you. 12 "If you hear in one of your cities, which the LORD your God is giving you to live in, anyone saying that 13 some worthless men have gone out from among you and have seduced the inhabitants of their city, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods' (whom you have not known), 14 then you shall investigate and search out and inquire thoroughly. If it is true and the matter established that this abomination has been done among you, 15 you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it and all that is in it and its cattle with the edge of the sword. 16 "Then you shall gather all its booty into the middle of its open square and burn the city and all its booty with fire as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God; and it shall be a ruin forever. It shall never be rebuilt. 17 "Nothing from that which is put under the ban shall cling to your hand, in order that the LORD may turn from His burning anger and show mercy to you, and have compassion on you and make you increase, just as He has sworn to your fathers, 18 if you will listen to the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all His commandments which I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.
 - d. **Matt. 24:23-25** — "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance. "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them."
 - i. **Rev. 13:11-18** — Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be

able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is 666.

9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12 Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14 "This good news of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

* Which are the 70 nations, and what does that have to do with the "good news being preached to the whole world"?

- "Whole world" = Roman world?
- To he who overcomes... (see Rev. 2-3).

15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17 "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. 21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

* What is the "abomination that causes desolation"?

- All the preceding temple desolations resulted from the abomination — the "stink" — of Israel's rebellion against God in hatred of those who are weaker, selfishness and appealing to false gods.
- The faithful will be caught unprepared and will have to flee with haste.
- Why would God-tuned observers flee when they see the "abomination that causes desolation" on a "wing of the temple" or "where it should not be" if that meant Roman standards posted in the temple? That would be far too late to flee. I wonder whether the fleeing was to be in response to the dangers from within Yerushalayim instead of from without.
- Luke 21:20 suggests this "abomination" would be the Roman army that finally did sack the city in A.D. 70: "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near."
- Only Matthew records Yeshua's call for prayer that this flight not be "on a Shabbat."

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. 27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures [lit. "eagles"] will gather.

* What does the reference to the carcass and eagles gathering mean? Where do the corpses fit into the signs and wonders?

Rev. 19:7-21 — "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." 10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." 17 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 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.

The Glorious Return: 29 "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.

Sun darkened, moon not give its light, stars falling are all common expressions of final divine judgment, especially on the Day of the LORD (see Joel 2-3).

- Joel 2** — Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, 2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. 3 A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. 4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. 5 With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle. 6 Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale. 7 They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. 8 They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. 9 They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief. 10 Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. 11 The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome. And who can endure it? 12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; 13 And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil. 14 Who knows whether He will not turn and relent And leave a blessing behind Him, Even a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God? 15 Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her bridal chamber. 17 Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?' " 18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people. 19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations. 20 "But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things." ... 28 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. The Day of the LORD 30 "I will display R113 wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. 31 "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.
- Rev. 6:12-17** — I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 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?"
- Isaiah 13:6** — Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt. 8 They will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame. 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming. Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light. 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. 12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger. 14 And it will be that like a hunted gazelle, Or like sheep with none to gather them, They will each turn to his own people, And each one flee to his own land. 15 Anyone who is found will be thrust through, And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword. 16 Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces Before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished. Babylon Will Fall to the Medes 17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold. 18 And their bows will mow down the young men, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children. 19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. 21 But desert creatures will lie down there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there. 22 Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers And jackals in their luxurious palaces. Her fateful time also will soon come And her days will not be prolonged.

Parable of the Fig Tree: 32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven [nor the Son], but the Father alone. 37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 "Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

1. Here's the parable of the fig tree again, just as in chapter 22. The new leaders must know how to read the signs or risk becoming like the fading leadership.
 - a. Eusebius records that followers of Messiah Yeshua fled Yerushalayim during the four years Cestius Gallus, legate of Syria pulled troops from the city before Titus came in.
 - b. Those who were watching the signs of the times were left.
 2. "No one knows the day or the hour" or "but of that day and hour no one knows"
 - a. Is this a prohibition against date-setting for the Day of the LORD?
 - i. ἡμέρα (hemera) = day
 - ii. ὥρα (hora) = season, appointed time, certain time, hour
 - iii. Is "the day or the season" parallel to "in winter or on the Shabbat"?
 - iv. By what means would man receive information the angels and possibly even Messiah Yeshua don't have?
 - b. However, Yeshua's return is compared to the "days of Noah."
 - i. God started a 120-year countdown to the flood (see Gen. 6:3). At that point, Noah knew when the Day of the Flood was.
 - ii. Only Noah and the seven believing members of his family were aware of the reality of the Day of the Flood. The rest were taken, washed away by the floodwaters.
 - iii. God gave us several countdown meters, but they all seem to start under conditions ripe for ignoring the "season."
 1. "Time, times and half a time" (Dan. 7:25, Dan. 12:7, Rev. 12:14)
 - a. Time of protection for the Woman (in Revelation)
 - b. Time of "shattering of the power of the holy people" (in Daniel)
 2. 1,260 days (Dan. 12)
 3. 1,290 days (ibid.)
 4. 1,335 days (ibid.)
 5. 7 "sevens" to bring in "everlasting righteousness" = 7 years = 3.5 years of a "firmed covenant" divided by a "breaking of the deal" (Dan. 9:27)
 - iv. These days like the days of Noah will end at the appointed time, so there always is hope, faith that no matter how bad things get God will bring it to an end.
- * What does the reference to "one will be taken and one will be left" in Matt. 24:41 really mean?
- This section compares the 1,260- to 1,335-day time of the end from the start of the clocks mentioned in **Dan. 12** to the time of the end from the time God started the 120-year clock to the Flood.
 - **Matt. 24:39** says people who were consumed with their daily lives and ignoring God's warning to repent of the rebelliousness that leads to violence "did not understand" what the construction of the boat, the arrival of the animals and the closing of the door really meant God was serious about the 120-year probation until the Flood waters "took them all away."
 - Parallel to the time of the Flood, those who will survive will be in the "ark" of God's will. The rest will be "taken away" by the calamities of the Day of the LORD.

Be Ready for His Coming

42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. 45 "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 47 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 "But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; 50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, 51 and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The need for spiritual and mental readiness at all times is exemplified by the parables of the Ten Virgins and the Talents in Matt. 25.