

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 March 2017..... Matthew 14-16 ..... Who is this Jesus?
- 2) 12 March..... Matthew 17-18 ..... Is Jesus Fully God?
- 3) 19 March..... Matthew 19-20 ..... What is Required?
- 4) 26 March..... Matthew 21:1-17 ..... More Than a Prophet?
- 5) 02 April..... Matthew 21:18-46 ..... What Happens If I Reject Jesus?
- 6) 09 April..... Matthew 22-23 ..... Offered to All?
- 7) 16 April..... Matthew 28a ..... Where is Jesus?
- 8) **23 April..... Matthew 24-25 ..... What About the Future?**
- 9) 30 April..... Matthew 26a ..... How Do We Remember?
- 10) 07 May..... Matthew 26b ..... Do I Have the Strength?
- 11) 14 May..... Matthew 26c ..... Loyal to Whom?
- 12) 21 May..... Matthew 27 ..... Crucified for What?
- 13) 28 May..... Matthew 28b ..... What Do We Do Now?

**INTRODUCTION**

- These apocalyptic chapters in Matthew are tightly coupled with Daniel 9-12, Ezekiel 36-48, Zechariah 8, Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 3 & 25, Mark 13, Luke 21, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Revelation 4-21.
- **Remember.** God told John & Daniel not to reveal everything about their visions of the last days. Therefore, only the last generation will fully perceive the truths of all the prophecies written about it.
- **Common Interpretive Styles (which one are you?):**
  1. Preterists – Most events took place during the 1<sup>st</sup> century
  2. Historicists – Long chain of events from 1<sup>st</sup> to the last century
  3. Idealists – Timeless truths of good trumping evil in symbolism
  4. Futurists – Most events occur in the end times
    - Pre-Tribulation/Pre-Millennial – Christ raptures His Saints before the Tribulation and returns before His Millennial reign
    - Mid-Tribulation – Rapture occurs in middle of the Tribulation
    - Post-Tribulation – Saints go through the Tribulation

| Final Year                              | Notable Doomsday Prophecies   |
|---|---|
| 1967                                    | Jim Jones   |
| 1969                                    | Charles Manson  |
| 1975                                    | Herbert W. Armstrong's fourth and final prediction. & Jehovah Witnesses final prediction  |
| 1982                                    | <b>Pat Robertson.</b> In late 1976 on his 700 Club TV program Robertson predicted that the end of the world would come in this year.  |
| 1994 Sep 6<br>1994 Sep 29<br>1994 Oct 2 | Harold Camping made these predictions for the Rapture of the Church   |
| 1997 Oct 23                             | <b>James Ussher.</b> This 17th-century Irish Archbishop predicted this date to be 6000 years since Creation, and therefore the end of the world.  |
| 1999 Jul                                | Nostradamus   |
| 2000 Jan 1                              | Isaac Newton, Jonathan Edwards, Tim LaHaye, Jerry Falwell, and numerous others  |
| 2007 Apr 29                             | Pat Robertson again   |
| 2011 May 21                             | Harold Camping again  |
| 2011 Oct 21                             | Harold Camping again  |
| 2012 Dec 21                             | <b>Mayan Calendar.</b> The Earth would be destroyed by an asteroid or some other interplanetary object; an alien invasion; or by a supernova.   |
| 2020                                    | Jeane Dixon again   |
| 2060                                    | Isaac Newton again  |
| 2239 AD and 3239 AD                     | <b>Jewish Talmud.</b> According to an opinion on the Talmud, the Messiah will come within 6000 years from the creation of Adam, and the world could possibly be destroyed 1000 years later. [2017 is Jewish year 5778, so 2239 is just 222 years away]. |
| Source:                                 | <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dates_predicted_for_apocalyptic_events">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dates_predicted_for_apocalyptic_events</a> (almost 200 listed)   |

| Passage         | Comments  |
|-----------------|---|
| Matthew 24:1-13 | <p><b>Signs of Christ's Return</b><br/>                     God relinquishes His attachment on His possessions when His people profane Him and them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is most precious to God? <input type="checkbox"/> His Holy name? Or <input type="checkbox"/> People? <input type="checkbox"/> Or His Temple and Temple artifacts?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Remember – God has no qualms about wiping out entire people groups of men, women, &amp; children, if they refuse to repent of their horrendous sins</li> <li>♦ Recall “Shiloh” – Israel saw the ARK of the Covenant as a lucky charm ..... <a href="#">1Sam 4:1-8</a></li> <li>♦ God used the capture of the ARK &amp; the destruction of Shiloh, God's temporary temple compound, to get His people to repent in Jeremiah's day or else God would destroy them along with Solomon's Temple. But they did not, so He did ..... <a href="#">Jer 7:12-15</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• God has no problem destroying &amp; removing Israel from their promised land for the sake of His name. <a href="#">Ezk 20:44</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Now, He is about to do the same again.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv1-2. Herod completed the temple in 64 AD, and Rome destroyed it in 70 AD after years of unrest                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Some of the Temple blocks of granite were 37x12x18 feet (about the size of our S/S class room)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv4, 11. Deception comes in many forms. We are commanded NOT TO BE DECEIVED:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not to be deceived by man .... <a href="#">Mat 24:4,11</a>; <a href="#">2Thes 2:3</a></li> <li>2. Not to be deceived by Satan.....<a href="#">Rev 12:9</a></li> <li>3. Not to be self-deceived ..... <a href="#">1Cor 3:18</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>• How do we keep from being deceived?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Know the truth so you can spot a counterfeit</li> <li>♦ Devote yourself to prayer – pray without ceasing – watch &amp; pray...</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v13. The one who endures to the end will be saved                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Easy Believe-ism.</b> Our modern tendency for “easy believe-ism” declares people saved by walking the aisle, saying the “sinner's prayer”, getting baptized, and/or having their name on the membership role. BUT those are no guarantees of salvation.</li> <li>♦ Prior to the modern era of the Altar Call (1800's), Christians only figured someone was saved by their fruit and by their endurance under persecution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |



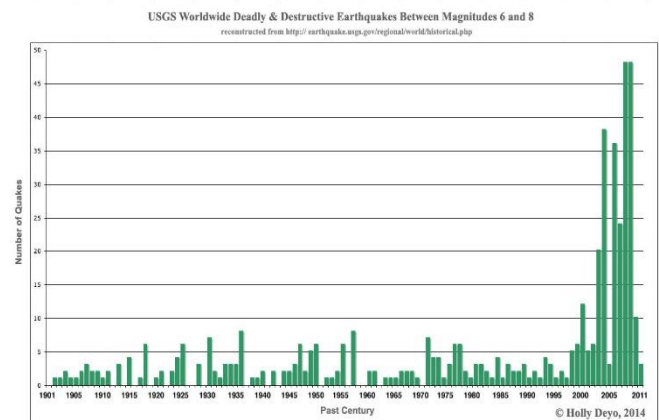
| Passage       | Comments  |
|---------------|---|
| Matthew 24:14 | <p><b>The Gospel Must First be Preached to ALL the World</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "...then the end will come"</li> <li>• Current estimates reflect 40% of the world is still ignorant of the Gospel (Middle East, China, India, Africa)</li> <li>• God sends an Angel to accomplish this task... <a href="#">Rev 14:6</a></li> </ul>  |
| 24:15-28      | <p><b>Perilous Times</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv15-20. <b>Abomination Desolation.</b> Probable near-term allusion to the Romans destroying Herod's Temple in 70 AD (<a href="#">Luke 20:21</a>; <a href="#">Dan 11:31</a>; <a href="#">12:11</a>). Possible end times allusion to <a href="#">Rev 13</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why should Christians flee and not fight?</li> <li>♦ v20. Can we really pray for our flight not to occur during the Winter months or on a Sabbath? Why else would God put it in His word? <b>Note:</b> This does not mean our prayers will change the date when this abomination occurs, but only when one is forced to flee from it or its aftermath.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv21-22. "...there will be a great tribulation, such as not occurred EVER" – Definite allusion to <a href="#">Rev 13-18</a>.</li> <li>• v24. False Christs and false prophets will work GREAT signs &amp; wonders! (cf <a href="#">Rev 13:13-14</a>; <a href="#">16:14</a>; <a href="#">19:20</a>). Will these be supernatural signs that break laws of nature? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> The best Satan can do is called lying wonders (<a href="#">2 Thes 2:9</a>). He cannot work creative signs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v28. What does it mean "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather"? (cf <a href="#">Job 39:30</a>; <a href="#">Ezek 39:17</a>). Commentaries are all over the place with this idiom. Possible meaning is that it is a done deal.</li> </ul> |
| 24:29-31      | <p><b>Glorious Return &amp; Gathering of the Elect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Tribulation Rapture saints latch onto this verse.</li> <li>• From a Pre- or Mid-Tribulation Rapture perspective, this passage alludes to those who become believers during the Tribulation and survive to be gathered and to enter into the Millennial Kingdom alive and well</li> </ul>   |
| 24:32-41      | <p><b>Parable of the Fig Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v36. Not even the Son of Man knows the time of His return...SAY WHAT? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Jesus emptied Himself (Phil 2:7) of His divine nature to some capacity so He could still be 100% God while being 100% Man.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| 24:42-51      | <p><b>Be Ready for His Coming</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our mission, since we now know all this information now, is to be ready for His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming..... HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Do we <input type="checkbox"/> Pray more? <input type="checkbox"/> Witness more? Or do we <input type="checkbox"/> Stockpile provisions? Or is it YES to <input type="checkbox"/> All?</li> <li>♦ How else should we prepare? _____</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| 25:1-13       | <p><b>Parable of the Ten Virgins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jewish tradition conveys the Father of the Bridegroom determined when the Bridegroom was ready to go get his bride – and it could be late at night. So all wedding participants (e.g., bridesmaids) had to be prepared at any time of the day or night to join in the wedding party</li> </ul>  |
| 25:14-30      | <p><b>Parable of the Talents – Lesson on Heavenly Rewards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be degrees of rewards based on our level of effort while hear on earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Some will get into Heaven with no rewards for their earthly service (e.g., Thief on the Cross who performed only one work – He believed)..... <a href="#">Lk 23:43</a></li> <li>♦ Others will receive few rewards..... <a href="#">1Cor 3:12-15</a></li> <li>♦ Some will be richly rewarded..... <a href="#">Lk 6:20-23</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

| Passage    | Comments   |
|------------|--|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ YET, none of us will be jealous of the rewards of others, because we will ALL be undeserving of even being in Heaven standing righteously before a Holy God and being called friends, brothers, sisters, and joint heirs with Christ</li> <li>♦ <b>Special Note.</b> God rewards GREATLY for even the smallest amount of obedience..... <a href="#">Lk 6:35</a><br/>So, when we obey the speed limit, speak kind words, encourage one another – expect GREAT rewards.</li> </ul>  |
| 25:31-46   | <p><b>The Judgment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv31-32. God created His Throne (on Day 1 of Creation) for the sole purpose of judgment..... <a href="#">Ps 9:7</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Recall that Heaven is God's Throne..... <a href="#">Mat 5:34</a></li> <li>♦ And He stands up off His Throne when he judges. In other words, He takes judging very seriously.. <a href="#">Is 3:13</a></li> <li>♦ The one time Jesus stood up off His Throne is when He welcomed Stephen into Heaven..... <a href="#">Acts 7:56</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv34-40. The righteous will be rewarded and recompensed for all their sufferings..... <a href="#">Ps 9:8</a></li> <li>• vv41-46. The wicked will be discarded into the Lake of Fire reserved "for the devil and his angels"..... <a href="#">Ps 9:17</a></li> </ul> |
| FINAL NOTE | <p><b>Many scholars believe there are no more prophecies to be fulfilled for the Lord to Rapture His Church. The Rapture can occur at any time (for those of us who believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fulfilled prophecies..... 3,268</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unfulfilled prophecies [End Times &amp; Eternity].. 3,140</li> </ul>   |

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS.**

- Why did Matthew write his Gospel? Answer: To keep us from deception and to provide us with hope of better things to come.
  - ♦ [24:25](#) – I told you in advance so you would not be deceived
  - ♦ [24:33](#) – So when you see these things, Christ is very near
- Why does God keep such vital information of His return a mystery?
  - ♦ Possibly so Satan cannot thwart His plans, nor can man.
  - ♦ **Consider this.** Satan was created on Day 1 when God created the Heavens ([Gen 1:1](#)), which includes His Throne ([Mat 5:34](#)) and all the angelic hosts [only God is eternal]. Like us, Satan can only make some guesses when the Lord's return might be. After all, even Jesus, while in the flesh, "emptied Himself" of His divine nature in some capacity, and was not aware of the day or the hour when He would be returning.

**NEXT WEEK: Matthew 26:1-35.** We begin the final countdown to our Lord's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. True to Matthew's mode-of-operandi, he provides just the pure facts with little fanfare.



Earthquake frequencies have been escalating in recent history  
**Matthew 24:7 “..there will be famines and earthquakes.”**