

Matthew 24:4-14 Handbook

Matthew 24:4-14 ESV

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. ⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

What makes the following discourse so challenging is Jesus is going to start prophesying about two different things and two different events at the same time.

- **One event, the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70 was a local judgement, but it ended up becoming a prophetic foreshadowing of a future event.**
- **The future event would be the second return of Jesus... TBD.**

Matthew 24:3 ESV

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Now, what I find fascinating about this is that the disciples are asking questions about the future, but Jesus points them to the _____ first.

- **Jesus is saying, when you see these things, it’s not the end yet.**
 - **It may feel like it’s the end, but don’t be _____.**

Matthew 24:4-5 ESV

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.

FALSE ALARM #1 - FALSE MESSIANIC CLAIMS

These people would be coming “in Jesus’ name” not because they are trying to impersonate Jesus, but rather they are claiming the role and title that belong to Christ.

- They are representing themselves as deity.

Acts 5:36–40 ESV

³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 21:38 ESV

³⁸ Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?”

FALSE ALARM #2 - RUMORS OF WARS

Matthew 24:6 ESV

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

The time period from the 30s and 60s was pretty peaceful in the Roman Empire.

- So, when rumors of war begin to develop in a challenging time immediately following, it could have been easy for the disciples to feel that Jesus’ return was imminent.
- Rumors of war and war has always been a constant throughout history, but regardless, a war has always felt slightly apocalyptic in nature.

FALSE ALARM #3 - ACTUAL WAR

Matthew 24:7 ESV

⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

War is a disturbance of human relationships creating disaster and blood shed.

This may feel like it's the end, but it's not.

FALSE ALARM #4 - FAMINES (WIDESPREAD FOOD SHORTAGE AND HUNGER)

Acts 11:28 ESV

²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

Josephus also mentioned it in his writings. I'll quote him here:

(320) Thus this legislation, which appeared to be divine, made this man to be esteemed as one superior to his own nature. Nay, further, a little before the beginning of this war, when Claudius was emperor of the Romans, and Ismael was our high priest, and when so great a famine was come upon us, that one-tenth deal [of wheat] was sold for four drachmae,¹

¹ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). *The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged* (p. 101). Peabody: Hendrickson.

FALSE ALARM #5 - EARTHQUAKES

There was an earthquake in Asia Minor in AD 61, in Italy in AD 62, In Jerusalem in AD 67.

Acts 16:26 ESV

²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

Matthew 24:8 ESV

⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

FALSE ALARM #6 - PERSECUTION AND HATRED FROM THE WORLD

Matthew 24:9 ESV

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.

Mark 13:9 ESV

⁹ “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.

Luke 21:12–13 ESV

¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

John 15:21 ESV

²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

Delivered up is the same language used Jesus used in regards to how He would be handled.

Matthew 17:22 ESV

²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men,

- **From OUTSIDE**
 - **You can expect hatred, persecution, and martyrdom.**
- **From INSIDE**
 - **You can expect false teachers, apostasy, immorality, and loveless hearts.**
- **The normal Christian life has adversity, suffering, and pain.**

Acts 7:59 ESV

⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Acts 12:2 ESV

² He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Acts 4:3 ESV

³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

Colossians 1:24 ESV

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,

IT'S CROSS NOW, CROWN LATER.

IT'S LABOR NOW, DELIVERY LATER.

FALSE ALARM #7 - MANY WILL FALL AWAY

Matthew 24:10 ESV

¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

The Greek here for fall away is not trivial.

- It's not a slip up or a temporary mess up.
- It's an intentional apostasy... an _____ walking away from God

FALSE ALARM #8 - FALSE PROPHETS WILL ARISE AND LEAD PEOPLE ASTRAY

Matthew 24:11 ESV

¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

These prophets use the name of Jesus to draw people into lies of the _____.

FALSE ALARM #9 - THE LOVE OF MANY GROWS COLD

Matthew 24:12 ESV

¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

Matthew 22:37-40 ESV

³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

POSITIVE #1 - THOSE THAT ENDURE WILL BE SAVED

Matthew 24:13 **ESV**

¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Jesus ends these negative false alarms with two positives, and they are **BIG positives**.

- These positives are so substantial that they outweigh any of the _____.
- The Apostle John referenced himself as a partner in tribulation and

Revelation 1:9 **ESV**

⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Acts 14:22 **ESV**

²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

- It's a grueling marathon.
- It's a marathon you have to finish.
- The Gospel demands distance runners... those who when they come peeling into Heaven have weary souls on their feet from tribulation because they've walked through many fires.
- Perseverance marks the truly saved.

While all these verses warn us of hard times, there remains a great promise for those that endure... **THEY WILL BE SAVED!**

Jesus told us that persecution would actually weed out the Christians from the _____.

Matthew 13:21 **ESV**

²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

2 Corinthians 4:17 **ESV**

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

Daniel 12:12-13 **ESV**

¹² Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. ¹³ But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."

Don't you dare quit now! You've made it too far.

POSITIVE #2 - THE GOSPEL WILL BE PREACHED TO ALL NATIONS

Matthew 24:14 ESV

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- **This IS the mission of the Church and THIS has been happening for the last 2,000 years.**

This is NOT a timeline _____, rather it's THE single activity of the Church throughout this entire age... post resurrection.

Instead of Christians wasting their time trying to decipher current events and if it means it's the end or not... it's implied here that our primary responsibility is to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples.

CONCLUSION

What are you doing with the time you've been given to live in?