

Matthew 24:15-28, 32-35

Handbook

Matthew 24:15–28 ESV

¹⁵ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Matthew 24:32–35 ESV

³² “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 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.

We must answer these questions to discover if these are events that have already happened, or if they are specific prophecies about future events.

- It’s important to figure this out because if we don’t, how do we know if we are talking about things to come or not?

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK

TO WHO IS JESUS TALKING TO?

1. The first reason is the pronoun

2. In addition to the pronoun we have specific references to **geographical**

3. If this were about the end of the world, why would Christ command people not to go get their necessities and valuables?

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

This abomination can rightly point to the acts of the destruction of the Temple in AD 70 along with the Roman paganism that would infiltrate the space during the raid as they carried images and idols with them on this journey.

Mark 13:14 ESV

¹⁴ “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Luke 21:20–21 ESV

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it,

Daniel 11:31 ESV

³¹ Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

Daniel 12:11 ESV

¹¹ And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.

And it does appear like something similar is going to happen again.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–4 ESV

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

This discourse is clearly regarding the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem in AD 70.

Matthew 24:2 ESV

² But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

Matthew 24:34 ESV

³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

This generation would not pass away until they saw these events transpire.

These events were truly historic and tragic.

Matthew 24:21-28 summarizes the tragedy in what could be a double prophetic fulfillment. Meaning it applies to two events... one in AD 70 and the other at the end of the age.

WHAT ARE THEY TO DO?

1. FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS

Matthew 24:16 ESV

¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

2. PRAY

Matthew 24:20 ESV

²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

3. DON'T BE DECEIVED BY FALSE TEACHERS

Matthew 24:23-24 ESV

²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it.

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:27-28 ESV

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

WHAT ARE WE DO TO WITH THIS FULFILLED PROPHECY?

IMPERATIVES: (CANVAS)

- 1. v16 - flee**
- 2. v17 - not go down**
- 3. v18 - not turn back**
- 4. v20 - pray**
- 5. v23, 26b - do not believe**
- 6. v26a - do not go out**

7. v32 - learn

Here is how these 7 imperatives fit into the three categories:

1. OBEDIENCE

a. v16 - flee

b. v17 - not go down

c. v18 - not turn back

2. PRAY

a. v20 - pray

3. DISCERNMENT

a. v32 - learn

b. v23, 26b - do not believe

c. v26a - do not go out

1. OBEDIENCE

These imperatives focus on Jesus' disciples taking Him at His Word.

- Here's the focus... take Jesus at His Word that it will come to pass and when it does happen, do precisely as He says.

Do you obey even when all of your faculties tell you to do something else?

Do you trust in what Jesus says even if it doesn't make logical sense in the _____?

Do you know who the most unhappy person in the _____ is?

- A Christian that is disobedient to _____.

2. PRAYER

3. DISCERNMENT

The single greatest key to discernment is _____.