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The Gospel of Matthew #106

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Matthew 24

Matthew 21-23: last week in Jerusalem. Climax in ch 23 of Jesus' confrontation with the scribes & Pharisees: His 7 woes & warnings. Ends with a heart-broken lament in 23:37-39

Remember that Matthew is divided into alternate blocks of narrative & teaching. 5 teaching sections:

1. Changed heart of a disciple: ch 5-7
2. Commissioning the disciples: ch 10
3. What the Kingdom is like (7 parables): ch 13
4. Life in the new covenant community: ch 18
5. Preparation for the near & far Judgments: be ready!
Ch 24-25

Matthew 24 contains much that is very difficult to understand. Much controversy. But take heart! The main lessons are crystal clear:

- I. The world ahead will be full of trouble and danger. You are like sheep in a field of coyotes and cougars. The only safe place is with Jesus as your Savior & Shepherd, especially when a) Judaism & b) the world will be judged.
- II. Jesus is answering the disciples' 2 Qs by showing the connection between the destruction of Jerusalem and the End of the Age. There are 12 signs of these 2 great Judgments. They are all a) fulfilled by 70 AD b) filled UP by the Second Coming of Jesus

III. These 12 signs are all expanded in the Book of Revelation:

- | <u>MATTHEW 24</u> | <u>REVELATION</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. False Messiahs & prophets
v5, 11, 23-28 | ch 13; 16:13-14
19:20; 20:10 |
| 2. Wars & rumors of wars,
Evil disasters v6-7a | 6:4, 8; 9:15-19, etc. |

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| 3. Famines & earthquakes
Natural disasters: v7b-8 | 6:8, 12; 8:5; 11:19,
etc. |
| 4. Persecution of Christians
v9 (cf. Acts) | 6:9-11; 7:14; 18:24;
20:14, etc. |
| 5. Apostasy & lovelessness
v10-13 | ch 2-3 (eg 3:15-16);
6:4; 18:13 |
| 6. Gospel preached to all peoples
v14 | 5:9; 7:9; 14:6 |
| 7. Abomination of desolation
v15 (Luke 21:20: Jerusalem
surrounded by armies)
Cf. Daniel 9:27 | 17:4,5 → ch 18 |
| 8. Great tribulation
v16-22 | 1:9; ch 6; 7:14;
ch 18 |
| 9. Dire heavenly signs!
v29
Cf. Isaiah 13:10-17; Joel 2:28-32 | 6:12-17; 8:10-12 |
| 10. Son of Man coming on the
Clouds v27, 30a
Cf Daniel 7:13-14 | 1:7; 14:14-16 |
| 11. All the tribes on earth will
Mourn v30b | 1:7 |
| 12. Gathering of the elect
v31 | 11:15-18 |

That generation saw the signs fulfilled by 70 AD (v34)! So the future (v35)!

- IV. No one knows when Jesus will come back: 24:36
But after 70 AD, it is possible **anytime**: 24:37
Therefore **Be ready!** 24:38-44 (also 24:45-51 faithful servant; 25:1-13 wise & foolish virgins)

Jesus was exactly correct about the unlikely destruction of Jerusalem 40 yrs later. The signs continue to be filled up in our day. Does this not convince you He will return as He said? In judgment & salvation?

Are you ready? Do you live with this hope & expectation?