

MATTHEW 24, PART 1

Review

1. According to Matthew, who is Jesus? What did He come to do? How did He do it?
2. What was the central instruction in Matthew 21-23?

Matthew 23:37—24:3

3. What is the significance of the hen image? Compare Deuteronomy 32:11-12.
4. How does 24:1 echo Ezekiel 10?
5. Jesus is asked two questions in 24:3 (not three!). Here they are:
 - a. When will “these things” be?
 - b. What will be the sign of “your coming” and “of the end of the age”?

Key 1 to Reading Matthew 24: THE TEMPLE

"I tell you, something greater than the temple is here" (Mt. 12:6). Throughout the book, Jesus has promised the destruction and replacement of the temple (Mt. 4:5; 12:5-6; 21:12-15, 23; 23:16-17, 21; 24:1; 26:55, 61; 27:5, 40, & 51).

Key 2 to Reading Matthew 24: INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS

Although Jesus is asked about "when," He responds with "what." He commands:

1. Doctrinal sobriety (24:4)
2. Emotional stability (24:6)
3. Moral solidarity (24:9-14)

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Key 3 to Reading Matthew 24: APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

Central Affirmations of Apocalyptic Theology (adapted from Fleming Rutledge)

1. Divine agency is central; humanity cannot fix our fallen mess alone.
2. Sin and Death are Powers who have invaded the world and established their dominion. The incarnate Son did not arrive in neutral territory; His entrance called out the demonic forces.
3. The coming of Jesus Christ is a heavenly apocalypse (*revelation*), signaling the overthrow of the Powers on earth (1 Cor. 10:11).
4. This divine apocalypse has brought the end of an old age and the dawn of new creation (1 Cor. 10:11).

9/11 as an Example

The flying dragon with smoke from its tail attacked the twin mountains. Toppling to the earth, the end of the world had come.