### Matthew

## Chapter 24

1Well, after Jesus had left the Temple, his disciples came up to him and were pointing admiringly towards its buildings.  
  
2So he said to them:  
  
 ‘Do you see all these things?  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth: there won’t be a stone left on top of a stone here that won’t be thrown down.’  
  
3Then, as he was sitting in a quiet spot on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came up to him and asked:  
  
 ‘Tell us when these things will happen. What will be the sign?’ of your coming and the end of the world? [Possibly spurious words]  
  
4And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘Watch out so that no one misleads you; 5for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Anointed’, and they’ll mislead many.  
  
 6‘You’ll also hear of wars and reports of wars, but don’t let that frighten you, for these things must happen too… But that isn't the end. 7Yes, nations will be rising against nations and kingdoms against kingdoms, and there’ll be famines and great shakings in many places… 8Yet, these will just be the beginnings of the birth pangs.  
  
 9‘Then people will hand you over to be persecuted and killed… You’ll be hated by all the nations on account of my name. 10And because many will be stumbled, they’ll dislike each other and they’ll even betray each other!  
  
 11‘There’ll also be false prophets that will arise and mislead many; 12and because of the increasing of lawlessness, the love of the majority will grow cold.  
  
 13‘However, those who endure to the end will be saved.  
  
 14‘For this good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole habitation of mankind as a testimony to all the nations before the end arrives.  
  
 15‘So when you see the disgusting destroyer that was spoken of through the Prophet DaniEl standing in the Holy Place (let the reader pay attention to this), 16those [living] in Judea should flee to the mountains!  
  
 17‘The man who’s standing on his roof shouldn’t go down to remove things from his house, 18and the man who’s standing in his field shouldn’t [go back home] to get his clothes.  
  
 19‘Also, woe to those who are pregnant and those who are nursing babies in those days… 20They should keep praying that their time to run doesn’t arrive in the winter or on a Sabbath!  
  
 21‘For a difficult time will then arrive that will be unlike anything that has happened since the beginning of this arrangement until now, nor should ever happen again!  
  
 22‘And if those days weren’t going to be shortened, no flesh could be saved… But for the sake of the elected, those days will be shortened.  
  
 23‘Then if anyone should say:  
  
 ‘Look! [He’s] here!’  
  
 ‘Or:  
  
 ‘There! It’s the Anointed One!’  
  
 ‘Don’t believe it! 24Because, false anointed [ones] and false prophets will arise. They’ll perform such great omens and signs that they could possibly mislead even the elected!  
  
 25‘Now, I’ve warned you!  
  
 26‘So if people should say:  
  
 ‘Look! He’s in the desert!’  
  
 ‘...you shouldn’t go there. Or [if they say]:  
  
 ‘Look, He’s in that barn!’  
  
 ‘...you shouldn’t believe it [either].  
  
 27‘For as lightning flashes across the skies from the east to the west, that’s how you’ll know that the Son of Man is nearby… 28[Just] like when vultures gather at a carcass.  
  
 29‘Then immediately after that difficult time:  
  
 ‘The sun will grow dark,  
 The moon won’t give out its light,  
 The stars will fall from the skies,  
 And the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’  
 [Isaiah 13:10]  
  
 30‘Thereafter, the Son of Man’s sign will appear in the skies, and all the tribes of the land will beat themselves in grief as they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds in the sky with great power and glory.  
  
 31‘For He will send his messengers [blowing] loud trumpets that will then collect his elected from the four winds… From one end of the skies to the other.  
  
 32‘Now, learn this from the story of the fig tree:  
  
 ‘When its young branches grow tender  
 And it starts putting out leaves,  
 You know that summer is near.’  
  
 33‘So when you see these [things start to happen], know that it’s near… At the doors!  
  
 34‘I tell you the truth: This people won’t pass away until these things have all been fulfilled. 35Although the skies and the lands may all pass away, my words won’t pass away!  
  
 36‘Yet, no one knows the date and time, not the angels in the heavens or the Son… Just the Father. 37For as it was in the days of Noah is how it’ll be at the arrival of the Son of Man.  
  
 38‘Back in the days that led up to the Downpour, the people were all eating and drinking, getting married and being taken in marriage, right up to the very day that Noah entered the Chest. 39Yes, they were unaware until the Downpour came and swept them all away!  
  
 ‘And that’s how it’ll be when the Son of Man arrives.  
  
 40‘Then, where there are two men in a field, one will be taken along while the other is abandoned. 41Also, where two women are grinding [grain] at one mill; one will be taken along, while the other will be abandoned.  
  
 42‘So [you should all] stay awake, since you don’t know the day that your Lord will arrive.  
  
 43‘I want you to recognize this:  
  
 ‘If the master of the house had known in which watch the thief would be coming, he would have stayed awake and not allowed his house to be [broken into].  
  
 ‘44So always prove yourselves ready; for the Son of Man will arrive at a time that he isn’t expected.  
  
 45‘Who is the faithful and sensible slave that the master has put in charge of his household to provide them their food at the right times? 46That slave will be blest if he’s found doing this when his master arrives… 47I tell you the truth; he’ll put him in charge of everything that he owns!  
  
 48‘However, if that bad slave should ever say in his heart:  
  
 ‘My master is late in arriving...’  
  
 49‘...and then he starts beating his fellow slaves and eating and drinking with the drunks... 50That slave’s master will arrive on a date and time that he isn’t expected, 51and he will cut him down and assign him among hypocrites, where he’ll weep and grind his teeth.’