

PROPHECIES OF JESUS' SECOND COMING

Matthew 24:3-44; Mark 13:21-32; Luke 21:25-36

STRUCTURE

Key-person: Jesus

Key-location: Jerusalem

Key-repetitions:

- Signs: Disciples asked Jesus for signs of his coming and the end of the age (Mat 24:3). Signs mentioned by Jesus: Many will claim to be the Christ (Mat 24:5); persecution (Mat 24:9); lying prophets will deceive many (Mat 24:11); wickedness will increase (Mat 24:12); gospel will be preached to every nation (Mat 24:14); sun will become dark, moon will not shine, stars will fall, and heavenly bodies will be driven from their courses (Mat 24:29). Not signs of the end, but like first pains of childbirth: wars; people starving; earthquakes (Mat 24:7-8).
- Warning: Watch out; don't let anyone deceive you (Mat 24:4); I've warned you, the Son of Man will come like lightning (Mat 24:26-27); keep watch; you don't know when your Lord will come (Mat 24:42).
- Jesus' followers will suffer: they will be arrested, persecuted, put to death, and hated (Mat 24:9).
- Deception: Jesus warned his disciples to not let anyone deceive them (Mat 24:4); false Christ will deceive many (Mat 24:5); lying prophets will deceive many (Mat 24:11).
- Separation: in Noah's day, people were eating, drinking, and getting married when Noah entered the ark (Mat 24:37); two men will be in the same field – one will be taken and the other left (Mat 24:40); two women will be grinding – one will be taken and the other left (Mat 24:41).

Key-attitudes:

- Disciples' admiration for the temple buildings.
- Disciples' shock when Jesus said the buildings would be destroyed.
- Disciples' curiosity about when things would happen.
- Jesus' seriousness when he spoke about his second coming and the end of time.

Initial-situation:

During the second half of Jesus' third year of public ministry, he made three trips to Jerusalem. The first trip was for the Feast of the Tabernacles. Jesus' second trip to Jerusalem was for the Feast of Dedication. Jesus claimed that God was his father, and Jews picked up stones to kill him.

Jesus went back across the Jordan River. Jesus returned to Bethany where he resurrected Lazarus from the grave. The Sanhedrin began to plot to kill Jesus. Therefore, Jesus withdrew to a secluded village.

Jesus made his third trip to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. On Sunday before Passover, Jesus made his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. On Monday, Jesus expelled those who were buying and selling in the temple. Religious leaders began looking for a way to kill him. Tuesday morning was filled with confrontation between Jesus and the religious leaders.

Initial-problem:

On Tuesday afternoon of Passover Week, Jesus walked away from the temple. His disciples called his attention to its impressive architecture.

Final-situation:

Jesus spoke about his second coming with his disciples and warned them to always be ready, because the Son of Man will return at an hour when no one expects him.

BIBLE STORY

Prophecy of the Second Coming and the End of the World

On Tuesday afternoon of Passover Week, Jesus walked away from the temple. His disciples called his attention to its impressive architecture. Jesus asked, "Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, every stone in that building will end up in a pile of rubble."

Later, Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives. His disciples privately came to him and requested, "Tell us when these things will happen. What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (Mat 24:1-3).

Jesus answered, "Watch out; don't let anyone deceive you. Many will come claiming, 'I am the Christ.' They will deceive many.

"Don't panic when you hear of wars and threats of wars. Such things are not signs of the end. Nations will go to war against each other. Some people will starve to death; some places will experience earthquakes. These things are like the first pains of childbirth.

"Then you'll be arrested, persecuted, put to death and hated by people of all nations because of me. At that time, many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate one another. Many lying prophets will appear and deceive many people. Wickedness will increase and cause the love of most to grow cold. Stand firm to the end and you'll be saved. This gospel of the kingdom will be preached all over the world and told to every nation. Then the end will come (Mat 24:4-15).

"I've warned you ahead of time. The Son of Man will come like lightning which lights up the whole sky from east to west.

"Right after those days of distress, the sun will become dark, the moon will not shine, stars will fall from the sky, and heavenly bodies will be driven from their courses.

"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All nations will weep when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. At the sound of a loud trumpet, the Son of Man will send his angels to gather his elect from one end of the world to the other" (Mat 24:23-31).

Warning to Be Ready

Jesus continued saying, "No one knows the exact day or hour. Angels in heaven don't know; the Son doesn't know. Only the Father knows.

"The Son of Man's coming will take place in days similar to when Noah lived. Before the flood, people were eating, drinking, and getting married up to the day Noah entered the ark. They didn't know anything was happening until the flood came and took them all away. That's how it will be when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be in the same field; one will be taken away and the other left. Two women will be together grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken away and the other left (Mat 24:36-41).

"Therefore, keep watch. You don't know when your Lord will come. Understand this: If the home owner had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch to prevent the break-in. So you must always be ready, because you don't know when the Son of Man will come" (Mat 24:42-44).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When the disciples admired the impressive architecture of the temple, what shocking statement did Jesus tell his disciples?
2. What questions did the disciples ask Jesus?
3. What warnings did Jesus give his disciples?
4. What events could mislead the disciples into thinking the end had come?
5. Why do Christians need to guard against deceptions?
6. What will mark the second coming of Jesus?
7. In what ways is the Flood in Noah's day similar to the Second Coming of Jesus?
8. How can you stay ready for Jesus' return at any time?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Impressive worship centers do not impress God.** The disciples called Jesus' attention to the temple's impressive architecture. Jesus calmly commented that every stone in that building would end up in a pile of rubble. Jesus is concerned about the people who worship him instead of impressive buildings of worship (Mat 24:1-2).
2. **Christians should be less concerned about knowing when Jesus will return, and more concerned about being prepared for his return.** Jesus didn't tell his

disciples when he would return, but he warned them to keep watch and always be ready for his return (Mat 24:36-44).

3. **Christians should not be surprised when they face persecutions.** Jesus predicted that his followers would be severely persecuted by those who hated what he stands for (Mat 24:9).
4. **Christians need to test all teachings about Jesus' Second Coming by Bible study, and they need to remain faithful to him to prevent themselves from being deceived.** Jesus warned his disciples to not let anyone deceive them (Mat 24:4), that false christs will deceive many (Mat 24:5), and lying prophets will deceive many (Mat 24:11).
5. **One clear sign of Jesus' return will be his appearance in the clouds which will be seen by all people everywhere.** If someone tells you that Jesus has returned, but you didn't see it, he hasn't. Jesus' return will be unmistakable (Mat 24:24-28; Mk 13:26). See Revelation 1:7.
6. **The knowledge that Jesus' return will be sudden and unexpected should inspire people to always be prepared.** The main lesson of the Parable of the Two Men in the Field and the Two Women Grinding with the Hand Mill, is that Jesus' return will be swift and sudden (Mat 24:40-42). When Jesus returns, people will be stuck with the choice they have already made about him. That choice will determine their eternal destiny.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Chant:

Words in **bold and underlined** are stressed. Stress words by stretching them out instead of increasing volume.

ALL	
<p>“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” (Matthew 24:42-44 NIV).</p>	
GROUP 1	GROUP 2
Therefore <u>keep</u> watch	Keep <u>watch</u>
Because you <u>do not</u> know	You do not <u>know</u> on what day your Lord will come.
<u>If</u> the owner of the house had known	at what <u>time</u> of night the thief was coming,
He <u>would have</u> kept watch	and would <u>not have let</u> his house be broken into.
If the owner of the house <u>had known</u>	He would have <u>kept watch</u>
So you also must be ready, <u>because</u>	Because the <u>Son of Man</u> will come at an hour when you do not expect him
<u>Be ready</u>	The Son of Man will come when you <u>do not expect</u> him.
ALL	
<p>“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” (Matthew 24:42-44 NIV).</p>	