

MATTHEW 24

NLET

JESUS' COMMENT ABOUT THE STONES OF THE TEMPLE BUILDINGS AROUSES QUESTIONS.

1 And, having gone out, the Jesus, was going away from the Temple¹.

And, the disciples *that were* His approached Him² to point out to Him the buildings of the Temple.

2 Now, ³ the Jesus ⁴ said to them, "Do you not see all these things⁵? Assuredly, I say to you, here a stone shall by no means be left upon another stone which shall not be taken down!"

3 Now, while He was sitting on the Mount of the Olive Trees, the disciples that were His approached Him privately, saying, "Tell us:

- When shall these things be? And,
- What shall be the sign of the Arrival that is YOURS and of the⁶ Consummation of the Age?"

JESUS PROPHECIES THE COMING OF FALSE MESSIAHS AND THE JEWISH WARS AGAINST ROME (66-73 A.D.)

4 And, responding, the Jesus said to them, "See to it that no one leads you astray!

5 For, many shall come with reference to the Name that is Mine, saying, 'I Am⁷! The Anointed One!' And, many shall be lead astray.

6 Now, you are about to hear of wars and rumors of war. Keep on observing! Stop being stirred up! It is necessary that all things⁸ come about. However, not yet is the End!

¹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'having gone out, was going away from the Temple' here instead of 'having gone out from the Temple, was going away'.

² 25% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the direct object 'Him' here.

³ 96.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the Name 'Jesus' here.

⁴ 96.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the participle 'responding,' here.

⁵ 75% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'all these things' here instead of 'these things all'.

JESUS PROPHECIES THINGS THAT SHALL FOLLOW THESE FALSE MESSIAHS AND JEWISH WARS UNTIL THE END

7 For, an ethnicity shall be raised up against an ethnicity and a kingdom against a kingdom.

And, *there* shall be

- famines, and
 - plagues,⁹ and
 - earthquakes
- in various places.

8 Now, these things are a beginning of birth pangs.

9 Then, they shall hand you over to tribulation. And, they shall kill you. And, you shall be ones who are being hated by all of the Ethnicities on account of the Name *that is* Mine.

10 And then, many shall be caught in a deathtrap.

And, they shall hand one another over.

And, they shall hate one another.

11 And, many false prophets shall be raised up. And, they shall lead many astray.

12 And, because lawlessness has been increased, the love of the many shall be snuffed out.

13 Now, the one who has remained firm to a consummation shall be saved.

14 And, this, the Excellent Announcement of the Kingdom, shall be heralded in all the inhabited world for a testimony to all the Ethnicities.

And, then the End shall come!"

⁶ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here.

⁷ 'I Am' – The Greek words Ἐγώ εἰμι can certainly be simply translated as 'I am.' However, often in the New Testament Jesus uses this unique expression to indicate the divine person Who appeared to Moses in Exodus 3:14. This 'I Am' was the Son of God. These false 'anointed ones' perhaps appropriated this name to further their wicked ends.

⁸ 94.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'all things' here.

⁹ 99.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'and plagues,' here.

JESUS BEGINS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION ABOUT THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE BUILDINGS, PROPHECYING THE
FIRST¹⁰ OF ACTUALLY TWO¹¹ SIGNS THAT WOULD OCCUR BEFORE
THE LEVELING OF THE TEMPLE
AND THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

15 So then, whenever you might see **‘the Abomination of the Desolation’**¹² – namely, the utterance by agency of Daniel the prophet – having lastingly stood in a place – *that is*, a holy place (let the one who is reading be thinking *it* through), 16 then let the *ones* in the *region of Judea* flee as far as ‘the hills’¹³.

17 Let the *one* upon the housetop not stop going down¹⁴ to take the *things* from the house *that is* his.

18 And, let the *one* in the field not turn back to take up and bring along the outer garment *that is* his.¹⁵

19 Now, woe to the *women* having a *baby* in belly and the *women* who are nursing in those – *that is*, the days!

20 Now, keep on offering prayer that the flight *that is* yours might not come about in winter or on a Sabbath.

21 For, then tribulation – *that is*, a great tribulation – shall be, such as has not lastingly come about from a beginning of *Created Order* until now, nor might it ever come to be *afterward*. 22 And, if the days – *that is*, those *days* – shall not be shortened, all flesh shall not ever be saved.

Now, on account of the Elect the days – *that is*, those *days* – shall be shortened.

23 Then, if ever any might say to you, ‘Look! Here is the Anointed One!’ or, ‘Here *He is!*’, do not even begin to believe *him!*

JESUS DESCRIBES HOW DIFFERENT HIS COMING SHALL BE
FROM THE COMING OF FALSE PROPHETS

24 For, false anointed ones and false prophets shall be raised up. And, they shall do signs – *that is*, great ones – and wonders with the intent, if possible, to lead even the elect astray.

25 Look! I have told you in advance!

26 So then, if ever they might say to you, ‘Look! He is in the desolate place!’, do not even begin to go out; or, might say, ‘Look! He is in the storerooms!’, do not even begin to believe it!

27 For, just as the lightning comes out from the quarter of sun-rising and shows itself as far as the quarter of sun-setting, in the same manner also¹⁶ the Arrival of the Son of the Man shall be also.

28 For,¹⁷ where if ever the carcass might be, there the eagles shall be drawn together.

29 Now, immediately after the Tribulation of the days – *that is*, those days – the Sun shall be darkened. And, the Moon shall not give the moon-light *that is* its. And, the stars shall be made to fall from the Heaven. And, all the powers of the Heavens shall be shaken.

30 And, then the divine Sign of the Son of the Man shall appear in the¹⁸ Heaven.

And, then all the tribes of the Earth shall beat themselves with grief.

And, they shall see for themselves the Son of the Man coming upon the clouds of the Heaven with power and glory – much of *it!*

31 And, He shall dispatch the angels *that are* His with trumpet sound¹⁹ – a great sound.

¹⁰ The first sign of the impending destruction of the Temple (and Jerusalem) was the slaughter of 8,500 Jews by a faction of Idumean Jews in the Temple.

¹¹ Matthew and Mark do not record the second sign – that is, the siege of Jerusalem – which was executed by the Roman army under Titus, beginning at Passover of 70 A.D. See Luke 21:20.

¹² Daniel prophesied two abominations which would desolate the Temple, one in Daniel 11:31 and one in Daniel 9:27. Both turned out to be ungodly sacrifices in the Temple – a pig was sacrificed in the Temple by Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.); and, later, Jewish people were slaughtered in the Temple by Pompeii in 64 B.C..

¹³ ‘the hills’ – The Greek word here can be translated as either ‘hills’ or ‘mountains’. Jesus did not identify which ‘hills’ these were at this time. Nonetheless, the Christians were enabled to follow this bidding of Jesus. Eusebius 3, 5 reports that the congregation in Jerusalem, following a revelation received by reliable men before the war against Rome, migrated to Pella in Perea, located

in the eastern foothills of the Jordan valley. As far as one can judge, this must have been done at the very time when bloody Jewish factions in the city were making an abomination of the Temple.

¹⁴ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘stop going down’ (a present imperative verb) here instead of ‘do not go down’ (an aorist imperative verb).

¹⁵ Utmost haste to get out of the city and avoiding coming into the city were urgent because immediately after the Idumeans slaughtered so many fellow Jews in the Temple they posted men at the gates who were ordered to kill anyone who was trying to leave Jerusalem AND anyone who was trying to enter the city.

¹⁶ 50% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word translated as ‘also’ here.

¹⁷ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the conjunction ‘For,’ here.

¹⁸ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article ‘the’ here.

¹⁹ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include ‘sound’ here.

And, they shall gather together the elect *that are* His from the four quarters – from a farthest point of heavens to a²⁰ farthest point of them.

JESUS TELLS THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

32 Now, from the fig tree learn the parable: Whenever already the branch *that is* hers might come to be soft to the touch and the foliage grows out, you are coming to know for yourselves²¹ that the summer fruit is NEAR.

33 In the same way also you, *for your parts*, whenever you might see these *things* – *that is*, ALL of them²², you keep on coming to know that He is NEAR – behind a door!

JESUS ASSURES HIS DISCIPLES THAT THEIR RACE AND HIS WORD WILL CONTINUE TO THE END

34 Assuredly I say to you, ²³ the race – *that is*, this one – shall by no means pass away until all these *things* should come about.

35 The Heaven and the Earth shall pass away²⁴; but, the Word *that is* Mine shall by no means pass away.

JESUS DECLARES

THAT NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR OF HIS COMING

36 Now, concerning the Day - *namely*, that Day – and hour, no one knows; neither do the heavenly messengers of the Heavens, ²⁵ except the Father *Who is* Mine²⁶ only.

JESUS DESCRIBES

HOW THE SITUATION BEFORE THE FLOOD AND THE SITUATION BEFORE HIS RETURN SHALL BE SIMILAR

37 Now,²⁷ just as the days of the Noah, in the same way also²⁸ shall the Arrival of the Son of the Man be.

38 For, just as²⁹ in the days – *that is*, ³⁰ the days before the Cataclysm – they were

- ones who were eating, and
 - ones who were drinking,
 - ones who were marrying, and
 - ones were giving *their daughters* in marriage³¹,
- until the day Noah entered into the Ark.

39 And, they did not come to know until the Cataclysm came.

And, it lifted and took away all together.

In the same way also the Arrival of the Son of the Man shall be.

40 Then, two shall be in the field. The³² one is being taken up; and, the one is being sent away.

41 Two *women* are grinding in the millhouse³³. One is being taken up; and, one is being sent away.

JESUS URGES HIS DISCIPLES

TO BECOME FULLY AWAKE AND PREPARED

42 So then, become fully awake; because, you do not know at what hour³⁴ the Lord *Who is* yours is coming.

43 Now, you know THIS – that, if the head of the household had lastingly known at what watch the thief

²⁰ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.

²¹ 25% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'you are coming to know for yourselves' (a present middle voice verb) here instead of have 'you are coming to know' (a present active voice verb).

²² 65% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'these things – *that is*, all of them' here instead of 'all these things'.

²³ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not have 'that' here.

²⁴ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'shall pass away' (a future middle plural verb) here instead of 'shall pass away' (a future middle singular verb). Note: this sentence has a plural subject.

²⁵ 94.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the words 'nor, does the Son' here.

²⁶ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the possessive pronoun translated as 'that is Mine' here.

²⁷ 99.7% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

transmission (f35), include the conjunction 'Now,' here instead of 'For,'.

²⁸ 99% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word translated as 'also' here.

²⁹ 99.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word translated as 'just as' here instead of 'As'.

³⁰ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the demonstrative pronoun 'those' here.

³¹ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'ones who are giving out their daughters in marriage' here instead of 'ones who are giving *their daughters* in marriage'.

³² 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the the definite article 'the' here.

³³ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'in the millhouse' here instead of 'with the millstone'.

³⁴ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'hour' here instead of 'day'.

comes, he would have been fully awake. And, he would not have permitted *him* to have lastingly dug through³⁵ the house *that is* his.

44 For this reason also, you, *for your parts*, come to be prepared *ones*. Because, you do not recognize³⁶ at what hour the Son of the Man is coming.

JESUS DESCRIBES THE FAITHFUL AND SENSIBLE SLAVE

45 Who, then, is the faithful slave – and, sensible *one*? *The one* whom the lord *that is* his³⁷ appointed over the body of attendants³⁸ *that are* His, that he gives³⁹ them the nourishment *that they need* at the proper time?

46 Blessed *is* the slave – *namely*, that *slave* whom the master *that is* his, having come, shall find doing thus⁴⁰!

47 Assuredly, I say to you that he shall appoint him over all the possessions *that are* His.

JESUS DESCRIBES

THE CHARACTER AND FATE OF THE WORTHLESS SLAVE

48 Now, if ever the worthless slave – *that is*, that *one* –

- might say in the heart *that is* his, 'The lord *that is* mine⁴¹ delays to come⁴²!' 49 and
- might begin
 - to beat the fellow-slaves⁴³,
 - to both eat⁴⁴, and⁴⁵
 - to drink⁴⁶ with the ones who are getting drunk,

50 the master of the slave – *namely*, that *one* – shall come on a day which he does not expect and at an hour which he does not come to know.

51 And, he shall cut him in two. And, he shall assign his destiny with the hypocrits. There, weeping and gnashing of teeth shall be."

³⁵ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'to have lastingly dug through' (a perfect, active infinitive) here instead of 'to be dug through' (an aorist, passive infinitive).

³⁶ 99% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'at what hour you do not recognize' here instead of 'at what you do not recognize hour'.

³⁷ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the possessive pronoun translated as 'that is his' here.

³⁸ 94.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have "body of attendants" here instead of "household of slaves".

³⁹ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have "gives" (a present tense infinitive here instead of "gave" (an aorist infinitive).

⁴⁰ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'doing thus' here instead of 'thus doing'.

⁴¹ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the word order 'the lord that is mine' here instead of 'my the lord'.

⁴² 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the infinitive 'to come' here. On the basis 0.5% two manuscripts - X, and B) the NU omits it.

⁴³ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the possessive pronoun that might translated 'that were his' here. The NU includes it.

⁴⁴ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have "to eat" (a present tense infinitive) here instead of "might eat" (a present subjunctive verb).

⁴⁵ 30% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have τε (an enclitic particle translated here as 'and') here instead of the conjunction δε.

⁴⁶ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have "to drink" (a present tense infinitive) here instead of "might drink" (a present tense subjunctive verb).