

DISCUSSION OF MATTHEW 24: 1-34

The Question that we will be discussing is this? Are these Verses talking about Events, that are going to take place in the next few years, before the End of the World, or is it talking about the Events that will take place before the end of the Temple, that is in Jerusalem which was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Roman armies.

Before we start this discussion, I believe that it is very important that we establish a few guidelines, to help us to keep our minds on how to study with an open mind, so our conclusions will be The Truth on this subject. If finding out what is Truth on any given subject is not our number one desire in studying the Bible, then we have completely missed, why we should study.

Guidelines

1. John 8:32 - **“And you shall know The Truth and The Truth will make you free”.**
Here is something else that we must know. All Scripture’s must harmonize, **on any given subject,** or we do not have The Truth. **This means that** there are no contradictions in the Bible. This, must be **One of our** most important guide lines in our search for The Truth.
2. TITUS 1:2 - **“In Hope of Eternal Life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the World began.”**
3. Hebrews 6:18 - **“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the Hope set before us”.**
4. Romans 3:4 - **“let God be true, but every man a liar; As it is written: That you may be justified in your words, and may overcome when you are judged”.** This verse **must also be one of** our important guidelines **in our search for what is Truth.**

Most religious people in the world today, do not use these guidelines in their search for Truth

Question - **How can we know whether this is a true statement? There are many verses, that we could go to, for proof. We will only use one. We read where the Apostle Paul says in GALATIANS 1: 6-7 - “I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the Gospel of Christ”.**

Today we have over 2,000 different gospels, being preached. These churches will not worship together. They all have different buildings to meet in, and God says in 1 Corinthians 1: 1-13 - “Let there be no divisions among you”. Doesn’t this prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that most religious people do not practice Romans 3:4, where it says “let God be true, but every man a liar,” because if we did, all obedient Believers would believe and obey the One Gospel that Paul preached, and practiced, would we not? All we have to do, to know this is true, is just open our eyes and look around. There is a different church on nearly every street corner, preaching different gospels.

Now lets notice in Matthew 23 who Jesus is talking to in Matthew 24. In Matthew 23:13, Jesus calls them scribes and Pharisees. (Verse 25) - Jesus calls them Pharisees and hypocrites. (Verse 29) - He again calls them scribes and Pharisees. And in (Verse 37) Jesus says “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem”. Jesus makes it very clear that He is not talking to the Gentiles, but His message is to the Jews only. (Verse 34) - “I sent you Prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them you shall kill and crucify; and some of them you shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city”. Now in (Verse 35) - He tells them, because of this, “That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the Earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias whom you slew between the Temple and the Altar”.

Now notice what Jesus says in Verse 36. “Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon This Generation”. If we have read these verses with an open mind, then we already know, that in Matthew 24:1-34, that Jesus is talking to the Jews only, about the destruction which is to come upon them, and He is not talking about the End of the World, because He said, this will come upon This Generation.

Question - Could Jesus have made it any plainer on the time period that He is talking about? He has gone to great lengths to show us that this judgment, will come upon the Jews only, and not on the Gentiles, because at the End of the World, judgment will come upon All the World.

Now lets read Matthew 24:1 - “And Jesus went out and departed from the Temple: and His Disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the Temple”. (Verse 2) - “And Jesus said unto them, See you all these things? Verily I say unto you. There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down”. (Verse 3) - “And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the Disciples came unto Him privately, saying, (now we must pay close attention to the questions that these Disciples ask Jesus).

1. Tell us, when shall these things be?
2. What shall be the Sign of Thy coming?
3. When shall the End of the World come

Question - Which one of these Questions, does Jesus answer first?

Answer - Question #1 - When shall the end of this Temple come?

Did we notice here, these Disciples knew exactly what Jesus was talking about here in their first question, When shall these things be? (When one stone will not be left upon another). They knew He was talking about the destruction of the Temple.

Question - **Then why can't we know, that Jesus is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem here in these verses?**

Answer - **We can find the answer to this question in John 8:43, where Jesus Himself answers our Question. Here is his Answer. "Why do you not understand my speech? It is because you cannot hear My Word". Isn't that easy to understand?**

Question # 2 - What shall be the Sign of Thy Coming?

Answer - **It is found in Matthew 23:39 - where Jesus says to them, "For I say unto you, you shall not see Me henceforth, till you shall say, Blessed Is He That Cometh In The Name Of The Lord".**

Immediately after the Disciples asked this question, Jesus answers them in Matthew 24:4, "Take heed that no man deceive you". (Verse 5) - "For many shall come in My Name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many". Knowing exactly when Jesus was coming back, was very important to Jesus' Disciples, because Jesus goes to great lengths to prepare them for the false information that they will be hearing. One thing that He has already told them in (Verse 5), "that many shall come in My Name." then in (Verse 24) He says, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false Prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible , they shall deceive the very Elect. (Verse 25) "Behold, I have told you before. (Verse 26) "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: Behold, He is in the secret chambers: believe it not".

In all these Verses, He has given them many signs, to watch for deceivers, and then in (Verse 27) Jesus says, "For as the lightning cometh out of the East, and shineth even unto the West; so shall also the Coming of the Son of man be". In (Verse 28) Jesus likens Jerusalem to a dead carcass, and then He likens the Roman army as eagles gathered around Jerusalem, ready to devour its prey. (Verse 29) Jesus continues on by saying, "Immediately, after the tribulation of those days shall the Sun be darkened, and the Moon shall not give her light, and the Stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the Heavens shall be shaken". (Verse 30) "And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in Heaven".

We must notice Question #2 - What shall be the Sign of Thy Coming? Jesus says in (Verse 30). "And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in Heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man Coming in the

clouds of Heaven **with** power **and** great glory”.

Question - **We know that the fleshly eyes cannot see the Spiritual body of Jesus. So what could this mean?**

Answer - **I believe that when the Jews see the city of Jerusalem encompassed about with**

the armies of Rome, then that is The Sign to the Jews, that Jesus has come. (Verse 30) “ And then shall all the Tribes of the Earth mourn, and they shall

see the Coming of the Son of man”. (Verse 31) “And He shall send His angels with a great sound of trumpet and they shall gather together His Elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other”. (Verse 33)

“So likewise you when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors”. Now isn't that easy to understand?

There are two more words in these Verses that Jesus uses to further teach us who Matthew 24: 1-34 is talking about. One of these words is Tribes and the other word is the Elect. The Tribes are always used to mean the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and the word Elect before Acts 2 means the obedient Believers of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

These two words should help everyone of us to know who Jesus was talking to, in Matthew 24:1-34. He was talking to the Jews, and not the Gentiles. He told the Twelve Apostles when He sent them out to preach in Matthew 10:5, “Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter you not”. (Verse 6) “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. This Verse alone, should tell us that Jesus is not talking to the Gentiles in Matthew 24:1-34

Now lets read the most quoted Verse in the Bible, Matthew 24:6. “And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but The End is not yet”.

Lets be sure that we know when Jesus says wars and rumors of wars who He is talking to. We have already proven from Matthew chapter 23 who Jesus is talking to in Matthew 24:1-34. He said in Matthew 23:6 - O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. We all know who He is talking about when He said this. The Jews. Lets just put the sayings of Jesus into words that we can understand. O, you Jews, you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, but be you not troubled.

Question - **If we believe that Jesus is talking to the Jews and the Gentiles, then why are most believing Gentiles so concerned and troubled about the wars and rumors of wars, that are going on today, when Jesus tells us Gentiles in Matthew 24:6 not to be troubled by it.**

Matthew 24:6 says, **“You shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, but The End is not yet”**.

Question - **The end of what?** One stone being left upon another (Matthew 24:1-2), or The End of the World?

Answer - **Because of what Jesus said in Matthew 24:34. He said, “ Verily I say unto you,**

This Generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled”. **The answer now lies with us. Do we believe what Jesus says? Or do we believe what man says?**

In Matthew 24:33 we read what Jesus tells His Apostles. He says, “So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors”. Jesus is telling His Twelve Apostles that they will see all of these events come to pass. Jesus tells them that during the times of these wars and rumors of wars, in Matthew 24:9, “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake”.

Question - **If Jesus is talking about the End of the World here in Matthew 24: 1-34, then**

Jesus that means all of the Apostles are still alive today and that would make out a liar, would it not?

Question - **Can we really know how many years, that a generation is during the time of these events in Matthew 24: 1-34?**

Answer - **I believe we can find the answer in Matthew 1:17. God says, “So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from**

David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations”.

So 14 times 3 equals 42 generations from Abraham unto the coming of Christ, is about 1800 years. So we can divide 42 into 1800, and we will get about 42 years. This is only an average based on some 1800 years. We all know during these 1800 years, that the life span of man has changed several times from generation to generation because we have the history of this recorded for us in The Old Testament. I hope we all believe the Bible account of the years in a generation.

During Abraham’s generation, the numbers of years would be more than the years that were in Jesus’ generation. Now lets see how close in years that Jesus’ prophecy is to A. D. 70. From 33 A.D. is 37 years. So we can easily see, that Jesus’ time frame, fits

perfectly with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Question - How does the Word of God's definition harmonize with what man says, when he refers these events of Matthew 23: 1-34 to the End of the World?

Do we remember that Romans 3:4 said, "Let God be true, but every man a liar"? Do we need to say more?

There are other verses that we need to read, that I believe, is very helpful here in our understanding of these Verses in Matthew 24: 1-34.

They are found in 2 Peter 3:7-10. (Verse 7) "But the Heavens and the Earth , which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men". (Verse 8) "But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day".

(Verse 9) "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". (Verse 10) "But The Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the Earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up".

Question - What event is the Apostle Paul referring to here?

Answer - We all will be in total agreement on this question. It means the End of the World. Then we will have a real problem in harmonizing Matthew 23: 1-24 with 2 Peter 3: 7-10, if we believe that both scriptures are talking about the End of the World.

Question - How would we harmonize what Jesus said in Matthew 23: 15-16 with what the Apostle Peter says in 2 Peter 3: 7-10? Jesus said, "When you see the events begin to happen, flee to the mountains". Peter says " The World will melt with fervent heat".

Answer - Do we see the problem that we have? There will be no mountains to flee into, because they have been burned up.

Lets not forget, that the same Apostle Peter was with Jesus on the Mount of Olives when Jesus told them about Matthew 24: 1-34. Peter heard every word.

Question - Now if Jesus was talking about the End of the World as most religious preachers are preaching today, then why would Peter teach us something completely opposite to what he heard Jesus teach?

Answer - **It would make no sense at all. Please listen carefully to this. If we believe that the Teaching of Jesus in Matthew 24: 1-24 was talking about the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem, and that this was the first judgment against the rebellious Jews, then all of these events that Jesus teaches in Matthew 24: 1-24 will harmonize perfectly, and 2 Peter 3:10 remains an absolute Truth.**

The Question that should be in every one's mind is, how did man ever come up with such a doctrine when he has no Verses in the Bible to prove his teachings. They believe that the Roman armies completely destroyed the Temple, and Jerusalem, and the Jewish Nation, and their country.

What I am now going to say is what I have seen, and heard these many years that I have lived. It started off with men who believed that they had been given a gift to preach. And, along with that, they desired fame and fortune. They also knew, for this to happen you must first write some books on some very controversial subjects, with just enough Truth in it, to attract people's attention. They knew, that you must have television exposure, before you can get famous, so you can sell books and get rich. This was seen by many who had the same desires. This started the ball rolling.

Now we have hundreds of television preachers, and many, many thousands of books, that they have written on all kinds of subjects, and they have made millions of dollars, in book sales. Just look in any big shopping center or any book store, and you can see for yourself, that this is true. You cannot get rich selling Bibles today unless, you are selling your own translations. There are some things, that will not make a person famous, or rich, and one of them is preaching Truth, or selling books with only The Truth written in them. Examples, How famous was Jesus, for teaching The Truth? How famous were the Apostles for teaching The Truth? The Apostle Paul wrote many books on The Truth, but he had to make tents, to provide for himself.

Question - **What kind of book does a man have to write, to be a money maker?**

Answer - **Something that sounds religious, that you cannot find in the Bible, and the American people will spend their money on it, and read it, and believe it. Then they will tell all of their friends and loved ones. Then they too, will buy one of the books. The next thing that will happen, is we will see another church building being built, and everyone of them are now happy, with another man made church in the world.**

Now let me go back to the Question on how did such a doctrine get started. Answer - It takes a deceptive mind and a fame and fortune desire. Please notice when we have, these three ingredients that it makes a perfect place for Satan to set up shop, and start running his false doctrines through people's minds. Satan knows, how many years, a generation is during the time of Christ. So he must first come up with something, to take man's attention from Matthew 24: 1-34.

So here is what happened. There is now no Jewish Nation, and now there is no Jewish country that they can call their own. Fact, in 1947-1948 the Israelites were given their land back, and the Jews all come together to live in their new country. Then immediately, man came up with this new doctrine, and introduced it to the world. It was that Matthew 24: 34 went into effect as soon as the Jewish Nation was restored to their own land and kingdom. This was accomplished by the end of 1948. So the time was right to change the meaning of what Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24: 34 about all these events, will come to pass during this generation.

Now listen to this. **Here is, what it was changed to. These false teachers taught that man had, misunderstood what Jesus said in Matthew 24:34. Now they say, God has spoke to them a new revelation. That the prophecy in Matthew 24: 34 meant, one generation from the time that the Jews became a nation, the Second Time. This new revelation from man swept the religious world like wild fire. Books were written, and sold by the millions. Most religious people, could not get enough of reading these books. So then the false teachers figured out in their deceptive minds, when the World would come to an End. So they wrote more books with titles like, “ New Revelations Are Still being Revealed”. and “ The End Of the World Is Now Known”. They wrote, read this new book on prophesies being explained. The book writer’s are getting richer and more famous every time they write a new book. Here is their new revelation that they said, they had received from God.**

Listen carefully. They say, a generation is about 40 years, so we can add 40 years to 1948, and that will be 1988. So then they started preaching and teaching, for everyone to prepare themselves for the end of the World. The one’s who believed this false doctrine, gave millions of dollars to these men and their churches, getting ready for the end of the World in 1988. We all know by now, that was a false doctrine. What happened to these false teachers and this false doctrine? Most of the false teachers and their false doctrine are still here today, and they are getting richer and more famous every day.

Some may be wondering how did these men survive after telling such a lie, and still keep the respect of their followers? The way this was done is they just came out and said, we have misfigured. Well we all know that, because the world is still standing. This kept their follower satisfied, and then they set another date. They misfigured that time too. But they did not lose their followers.

Lets all read 2 Timothy 4:2-4, (Verse 2) “Preach The Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”. (Verse 3) “For the time will come when they will not endure Sound Doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (Verse 4) “And they shall turn away their ears from The Truth, and shall be turned unto fables”. Can we think of any words, that God could have used in these verses to describe the hearts of most religious people of our world today?

I would like to read from Zechariah 13: 1-3, (Verse 1) “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness”. (Verse 2) “ And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts., that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the Prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land”. (Verse 3) “And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

Question - Please, **someone** tell me what this means **other than** what God says here?

After the self proclaimed prophets reads these verses, how could they turn a deaf ear to these words from God, and just keep on prophesying?

The reason is given in John 8: 43. They cannot hear The Words of God. To prove this, all that we have to do, is read Matthew 24: 35-36, (Verse 35) “Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away”. (Verse 36) “But of that Day and Hour knoweth No man ,No, not the angels of heaven but My Father only”. Verse 36 tells us that no one knows when the End of the World will come, but The Father only. Not even His Son Jesus knows that. Yet many of these book writers will write, I know, I have the answer, just read my book, and then they smile all the way to the bank. Sometimes we are so gullible, when we are too lazy to study for ourselves.

Jesus says in Matthew 15: 14, “And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch”. So Jesus has warned us.

Question - **After we have studied Matthew 24: 1-34 are we going to follow God’s teachings, or will we continue to follow man’s teachings?**

Now lets continue our discussion in Matthew 24: 13. Jesus says, “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. When most religious people read this Verse, the first thing that runs through their mind is, this has to be talking about the End of the World with out any further studying. Now lets us our common sense, and the Scriptures, and then maybe we can come up with the Truth.

Question - **What had caused this discussion?**

Answer - **Jesus had just told the Disciples, that the time would soon come, when there would not be one stone left upon another in the Temple. If we were one of these Disciples, who had just asked Jesus when would these things be, what event would we think about? The end of the Temple ,or the End of the World?**

When I think about these things, I believe that Jesus is talking about the end of the Temple. Now if we will only believe what Jesus says in Matthew 24: 34, we also will believe that Jesus is talking about the end of the Temple. Now lets notice another very

important verse, and that is Matthew 24:14. “And this Gospel of The Kingdom shall be preached in all the World for a witness unto all nations; and then shall The End come”.

Jesus in this verse, tells His Apostles a very sure Sign of when The End will come. He says, The End will come, as soon as the Gospel is preached to all the World.

Question - Why is this verse so important to God?

Answer - This is the final event that must take place, before God will render his judgment against the Jewish Nation. God will manifest His love to every living Jew in the World, by preaching the Gospel to them, so they will have an opportunity to repent of their sins, and become an obedient believer.

Now lets read Mark 16:15-16. Here Jesus tells His Apostles, (Verse 15) “Go you into all the World, and preach the Gospel to every creature”. (Verse 16) “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”.

Now lets read Acts 8: 1-4. (Verse 1) “And at that time there was a great persecution against the Church which was at Jerusalem”. (Verse 4) “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching The Word”. Please, do not miss the teachings of these Two Verses, because they are showing us how God is fulfilling His plan, to give all the Jews an opportunity to believe The Gospel and be saved, and as soon as God can accomplish this, the end of the Israelite Nation being the chosen people of God, will come to an end by the destruction of Jerusalem.

Question - Does the Bible tell us when God gets this accomplished?

Answer - Yes He does. Lets turn our Bibles to Colossians 1: 5-6, (Verse 5) “For the Hope which is laid up for you in Heaven, whereof you heard before in the Word of the Truth of the Gospel”; (Verse 6) “Which is come unto you, as it is in all the World; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day you heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth”; (Lets not miss what the Apostle Paul is saying here). He is saying, the Truth of the Gospel has already been preached to all the World.

Now lets read Colossians 1: 23, “Be not moved away from the Hope of the Gospel, which you have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under Heaven, whereof I Paul am made a minister”. Again Paul is saying, that the Gospel has already been preached to all the world. Romans 10:17-18 and Romans 16: 26 ,say the same thing. Now lets do the math, and see if what we have just read, harmonizes with what Jesus said in Matthew 24:34. Jesus said this in A.D. 70.

Question - When was the judgment brought upon the Israelites?

Answer - A.D. 70

Question - **How many years, was that from Matthew 24:34?**

Answer - 37 years. **That harmonizes**, perfectly with what Jesus said in Matthew 24:34, **“That This Generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled”**.

We now have the opportunity to choose, from what one of our guideline verses said in Romans 3:4. Are we going to “let God be true, But every man a liar”? Or are we going to let man be true, and God a liar? Most religious people have already made their choice. They chose to believe what man has said. Please, take a moment and think about this. How foolish can man get? It goes further than this. These people, then teach this false doctrine to their children, and to their friends, and loved ones. Now lets read Matthew 24:20. “But pray you that your flight be not in the Winter”.

Question - **If this event is talking about the end of the world**, what difference would it make which Season of the year it was, **because it will all take place in the twinkling of an eye. The rest of Verse 20 is also very interesting if it is talking about the End of the World. Lets read it. “neither on the Sabbath Day”**.

Question - **Does this word Sabbath Day cause a red flag to jump up. if this verse is talking about the end of the World?**

Answer - **The Sabbath Day was kept under the Law of Moses and only by the Jews. the Gentiles were never required to keep the Sabbath Day. This alone should be enough to prove to any open minded person that Jesus was not talking about the End of the World in this verse. This Verse 20 will harmonize perfectly with what Jesus said in Verse 34. “This Generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled”, because there were still some Jews at this time, who were still keeping the Sabbath as a Holy Day.**

Question - **Why would Jesus say to His disciples, to pray that their flight be not on the Sabbath Day?**

Answer - **Lets read Nehemiah 13:19. “And it came to pass, that when the gates of the Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I (God) commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after The Sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates.**

Question - **Why would it be so important for these gates to be open during this time?**

Answer - **Jesus had just told his disciples, there would be wars going on around Jerusalem, and you will need some place to flee, to escape your enemies, and**

if

the gates be shut, **you cannot escape. We can easily see**, this has nothing to do with the End of the World, **but has all to do with the destruction of Jerusalem.**

Now lets continue our discussion in Matthew 24: 1-34. (My prayer is for every one who reads this lesson, is reading it with one desire in mind, and that is, to learn the Truth of Jesus' message in these Verses). **Please, watch** all of the words **that Jesus uses in Matthew 24: 29-30.** (Verse 29) **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the Sun be darkened, and the Moon shall not give her light, and the Stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the Heavens shall be shaken”.** (Verse 30) **“And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in Heaven: and then shall all the Tribes of the Earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory”.** Now lets discuss some of the words that Jesus uses in these Two Verses. What about the word Tribes?

Question - **Who is referred to in the Bible when the word Tribes are mentioned?**

Answer - **The 12 Tribes of Israel. and then it says, “And they shall see the Son of man Coming in the clouds”.**

Question - **Who are they in this verse?**

Answer - **The 12 Tribes of Israel. To prove is these two verses that Jesus is not talking about the End of the World, Lets read Revelation 1:7 where John is talking about the End of the World. John says, “Behold He cometh with clouds;**

and

Every eye shall see Him, **and they also which pierced Him: and all Kindreds of the Earth shall wail because of Him.**

Question - **Did we notice, the difference in the words of Jesus, and the words of John?**

Jesus says, All Tribes shall mourn, and John says, All Kindred of the Earth shall wail. Now lets notice something else Jesus says. The 12 Tribes shall see Jesus when He comes in the clouds. John says, Every eye shall see Him. Isn't it wonderful how Jesus and His Apostles makes their teaching so clear and plain where any open minded, person will have no problem in understanding their teachings. Now lets discuss something else that Jesus talks about in these two verses.

Question - **Do we remember Question #2, that the disciples asked Jesus? They asked him, What shall be the Sign of Thy Coming?**

Answer - **Lets read Matthew 24:30 again. “And then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in Heaven”. Notice, Jesus could not have made it any plainer that He did in letting the Disciples know that he now was answering their Second Question, because He uses the exact same words that His Disciples had used.**

There is something else that we must discuss in these Two Verses, and that is “Then shall appear the Sign of the Son of man in Heaven”. Most religious preachers and teachers believe this means, at the End of the World. There is only one true way to find our answer, and that is, to go to the Scriptures. Lets turn our Bibles to Joel 2:28-31. (Verse 28) “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions”.(Verse 29) “And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit”. (Verse 30) And I will show wonders in the Heavens and in the Earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke”. (Verse 31) “The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the Moon into blood, before the great and terrible Day of the Lord come”. It sure would help us in finding our answer to our

Question if God had just spelled it out to us exactly when this Verse was to be fulfilled. Now lets continue our search by staying with the Scriptures, and not with man.

We need to read Acts 2, so we will know what is going on. And we will discover that the 12 Apostles are preaching the first Gospel sermon, after Jesus had died and ascended back to Heaven. This day was one of the Jewish days, that they were to keep Once a year called the Day of Pentecost.

All of the Jewish males from 20 years of age, and upward, were commanded to be present in Jerusalem on this Feast Day. There were present that day, Jews from every nation under Heaven.

The Apostles were preaching unto them in languages that they had never studied. And the mockers said, these men are full of new wine. Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and said, these men are not drunken as you suppose. Now lets listen close to what Peter says in Acts 2: 16-20. (Verse 16) “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel”. (Verse 17) “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams”. (Verse 18) “And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy”. (Verse 19) And I will show wonders in Heaven above, and signs in the Earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke”. (Verse 20) “The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the Moon into blood, (Now lets pay close attention to the rest of the verse) before that great and notable Day of The Lord come”.

Lets not forget what we are trying to prove by all of these scriptures, that we have just read and that is, does every time that the scriptures say, “And they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds”, does that mean, the End of the World?

We have just read in two different Scriptures readings, where it was not talking about, the End of the World. Malachi 4: 5 is another Verse, that says the same thing and does not mean, the End of the World. When we read, “The Day when the Lord comes”, it usually carries with it the meaning of judgment, and destruction . In Matthew 24: 27-30, that is

exactly what it means. Judgment and destruction to the disobedient Jews, while they were under the Old Law , and also while they were under the New Law from A.D. 33 to A.D. 70.

In Matthew 24: 31, Jesus says, “And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His Elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other”. In Mark 13: 27, He is writing about the same event and he writes, “From the uttermost part of the Earth”.

A note of interest on this subject is found in a well know Jewish historian writer whose name is Josephus, who was a Jewish priest. He was captured by the Roman armies, while they were destroying all of the cities in and around Jerusalem. He wrote a very large book called the “Book of Josephus”, on all of the happenings during these times. Here is what I read from that book. There was not a single obedient Jew that died during that siege. They all fled to a Jewish city of the east side of the Jordan river. The name of that city was Pella.

Question - How could this be possible?

Answer - Jesus just told us. He sent His angels to accomplish this task. So now it is our choice, on whether we want to believe it or not.

Question - When did this take place?

Answer - Jesus gives us the answer in Matthew 24: 34. “That it would take place in That Generation”. We now have another choice, to believe or not believe.

I believe in Matthew 24: 35, there is a major change in Jesus’ writing. Lets notice, Jesus has answered the Apostles first two questions, which were, Question #1 - When shall come the end of the Temple? Question # 2 - What shall be the Sign of Thy Coming? I believe in Verse 35, He now begins to address Question #3, which was, When shall the End of the World come? In Verse 35, Jesus says, “Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away”.

Question - What is Jesus talking about here?

Answer - He is talking about the End of the World. He is talking about the same things that Peter was talking about in 2 Peter 3: 9-10, where Peter tells us how God will destroy Heaven and Earth. Jesus says in Verse 36, “But of that Day and Hour knoweth No man, No, not the angels of Heaven, but My Father only”.

Question - What day is Jesus referring to here?

Answer - The Day when God will destroy the Heavens, and the Earth. We need to read Mark 13:32, where Mark says, “But of that Day and that Hour knoweth No man, No, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but The

Father”.

Please, pay close attention to what Jesus is saying in these verses, because it sheds a lot of light on our discussion of Matthew 24: 1-34, on what day was Jesus talking about in these verses. Was it the end of the Temple, or the End of the World?

Something that we must notice in these verses is, that Jesus knew every event that was going to happen before the end of the Temple, which happened during the destruction of Jerusalem. He explains it in detail to His Disciples. So in Verse 36, Jesus did not want them to be confused about the Day which He was talking about. He makes that very plain by saying, “No one knows when the End of the World is coming, but My Father only”. But, Jesus certainly knew when the end of the Temple was coming.

After this discussion on Matthew 24, I honestly feel that this Chapter was made so simple by the words of Jesus, why was there any need to have a discussion on it? The reason I did it, was because I was asked to.

In closing, there is a Scripture we must read, which will tell us exactly what has happened. It is found in 2 Timothy 4: 1-4. The Apostle Paul says, (Verse 1) “I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His Appearing and His Kingdom”. (Verse 2) “Preach The Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”. (Verse 3) (We must listen very closely to this verse) “For the time will come when they will not endure Sound Doctrine; (which means Truth) but, after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears”. (Verse 4) “And they shall turn away their ears from The Truth, and shall be turned unto fables”.

These words of Apostle Paul, should cause everyone of us to rethink this discussion that we have just had, and help us to see the importance of studying the Scriptures, with an open mind. We must seek The Truth of God’s Word, because of what Paul has just warned us against, in these verses. Only, by knowing The Truth of God’s Word, can we be set free from the false doctrine, that is currently being taught by false teachers, throughout the world, in which we are now living in.

The most serious Question that we can ask ourselves right now is, Are we following what God says in His Word? Or, are we following the teaching of men? The destination of our souls will depend upon it. No wonder Paul says in 2Timothy 2: 15 , “Study to show thyself Approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”.

Let us not over look, all of the teaching in this verse. This verse also teaches us, that if we do not study God’s word, we do not stand approved unto God.

Thank you for reading this discussion on Matthew 24 with an open mind.

In Christian Love;

Herb Trout