

*It's the end of the world
as we know it*

Matthew 24-25

It's complicated

- The Nature of “Apocalyptic” writings
 - Very foreign to Western people
 - Imagery



It's complicated

- The nature of biblical prophecy
 - Prophetic time: Chronos and Kairos
 - Multiple fulfilments



*Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.
(24:1)*

Josephus on Herod's Temple

The cloisters -(of the outmost court) were in breadth thirty cubits (13.2 metres), while the entire compass of it was by measure six furlongs (1.2 km), including the tower of Antonia; those entire courts that were exposed to the air were laid with stones of all sorts" (Jewish War 5. 5. 2).

*‘Do you see all these things?’ he asked.
‘Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be
left on another; every one will be thrown
down.’ (24: 2-3)*

Jesus is unimpressed with splendid buildings



As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' (24:3)

Vital verse (24:36)

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Events that happen when God Judges (24:1-44)

- False messiah's (4-5; 23-28, 29)
- Persecution, apostasy and blasphemy (9-13; 15)
- Political chaos and Cosmic events (6-8, 29-30)
- Witness to the world (14)

Events that happen when God Judges (24:1-44)

- Religion is judged (15)
- Salvation for the elect who persevere (31)
- Judgement will come suddenly (2, 36-44)

Parables on how to live during this time

Chapter 24:45-25:46

- Do what God has set us to do – parable of the conscientious and wicked servant (24:45-51)
- Be ready for Christ's return – parable of the bridesmaids (25:1-13)



Parables on how to live during this time

Chapter 24:45-25:46

- Be active in God's work
– parable of the talents
(25:14-30)
- Recognise Christ in the hungry, thirsty, stranger, needy, the sick, the prisoner – parable of the sheep and goats
(25:31-46)



So?

- We should around the masters work and doing in a way that honours him - servants and talents
- We should be ready and watching for his coming: the signs are not a guarantee of time scale but indicators – bridesmaids
- God's work is among the most poor, and vulnerable of society – sheep and goats

Let's pray

Not Yet the End (24:4-14)

- Obstacle of false Messiahs (4-5)
- Human obstacles (6-7)
- Natural obstacles (7-8)
- Expect persecution and apostasy (9-13)
- True disciples will spread gospel to all nations (14)

Tribulation in History (24:15-28)

- No religious symbols, however precious will provide refuge from God's judgement (15)
- Believers should flee judgement with all haste (16-20)
- God has compassion even in the midst of awful distress (21-22)
- Don't believe anyone, when Christ returns even the sky will declare it (23-28)

Jesus' Return (24:29-31)

- The effects of Jesus' revelation will be cosmic and obvious (29)
- The nations will respond to his coming with terror (30)
- Christ's followers will be delivered (31)

The Day nor Hour (24:32-44)

- The desolation of the Temple is the final prerequisite for the kingdom before the cosmic signs (32-35)
- The day will catch most unaware (36-44)

Christ's servants judged (24:45-51)

- To whom much is given much is required
- Some servants will not be ready, as with the religious establishment at his first
- Jesus requires his servants to serve the fellow servants, those who exploit them will be condemned