

The Simple Future, Mathew Ch.24

Humans want to know the future; specifically their individual future, though they will settle for the future of others also. Since the beginning of history we have sought the advice of seers, fortune tellers, prophets, formulas, and any other device which might give us an advantage. God, on the other hand, has been miserly in providing the hard “facts” we desire – for good reason; knowing that we would likely use it solely for our advantage, and not for the sake of his kingdom.

Changes yet to come

Don't be fooled, v.1-14

- The disciples initiate the dialogue, v.1-3 (Mark 13:1-4, Luke 21:5-7)
 - They point out the temple buildings and their grandeur. _____
 - They ask for the sign of his return. _____
- Jesus warns of false Messiahs and doom merchants, v.4-11
 - *Don't be misled*, many will attempt to take advantage of you. _____
 - Don't over-interpret the signs, they're just the beginning. _____

Anticipate the future; a double-entendre', v.15-28

- The sign: the “Abomination of Desolation” (Daniel 9:26-27)
 - The pattern: Antiochus Epiphanes, c. 167BC. _____
 - Titus destroys the temple, AD 70. _____
 - The Dome of the Rock, AD 688. _____
 - The future abomination. _____
- Be prepared to leave immediately, v.16-22
 - Implies an interim tribulation. _____
 - A tribulation cut short. _____
- A second warning regarding false “Messiahs”, v.23-28
 - Some will have great power. _____
 - “You have been warned.” _____
 - The coming of the Son of Man will be undeniable. _____

A bit of advice regarding predators: *Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures (or eagles) will gather.* v.28. (Re: Job 39:19-20)

The Finale, v.29-31

- The signs that appear after the tribulation. _____
- The “sign” of the Son of Man. _____
- The trumpet call. _____

A parable of preparation, v.32-41

- A fig tree in the spring. _____
- “This generation,” v.34. _____
- You will not know the day in advance. _____
- As in Noah's age, they were warned. _____
- One taken and one left, v.40-41. _____

Forewarned, v.42-51

- The householder, had he known . . . _____
 - Get a spiritual security system. _____
- A sensible slave and a lazy slave contrasted.
 - The sensible slave: always preparing for his master's return. _____
 - The lazy slave: With a “later or never” attitude. _____
- One of Jesus' favorite phrases: “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” _____

What we don't get from this passage

- Too many details. _____
- A time line. _____
- A clear picture. _____

What we do get

- An emphasis: “be prepared.” _____
- A warning with examples. _____
- A moral requirement. _____
- A definite end of the age. _____