

Hello, let's start with a prayer.

Jesus, I pray that every word spoken be anointed by the Holy Spirit. I pray this teaching on your Word will not return void, but it will accomplish the purposes of God. In Jesus name, Amen.

In a couple of weeks Christians will celebrate the birth and the first coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. I hope you all have a very blessed and healthy Christmas with your families. But today I want to focus on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 24, Jesus told His closest friends, His disciples about the signs of the end time or some call it the "great tribulation" period leading up to and prior to the Second Coming of Jesus to earth. I am going to try and demonstrate how these words Jesus spoke almost two thousand years ago reflect many events that are occurring in our world today. I want to show how relevant these prophetic words of Jesus are today and how they apply to you and your families lives and futures.

I have taught many times that God's Word says that we suffer for the lack of knowledge. So I am going to give you knowledge about what God's Word says is going to happen to this earth as we enter the end time or great tribulation period of this world. It is my Christian duty to impart my knowledge or explanation of these scriptures in order to prevent many from suffering.

In Matthew 24, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?"

Now what I notice in this scripture is that Jesus is not talking to a great multitude or teaching these events publicly in the temple, but He tells His closest companions in private about the signs of the end times. These are the men that he worshipped and prayed with. Why does Jesus limit this prophetic conversation to just His inner circle?

I think Jesus is revealing that this knowledge is straight talk between close friends. Jesus is setting the tone and the context by which we should read these scriptures and interpret them today. In other words, Jesus was not going to leave any doubt as to what the signs of His return and of the end times would look like. Jesus was being very specific. He knew that he would be crucified soon and He wanted to be sure that the disciples knew exactly what to expect and to teach the future generations and to record in the Bible for His followers what they would

actually have to endure during this period of time. Jesus is not mysterious and vague. He is basically telling it like it will be, no sugar coating.

This private conversation that Jesus has with His best friends does not mention any "secret rapture". Jesus does not reference any covert, closet, or restricted gathering of His believers prior to His second coming. I can't imagine Jesus not disclosing such an important detail about a "secret gathering together" of His believers prior to His actual second coming to His most intimate followers. I think if such an important event as a "secret rapture" was going to take believers up in the air and remove them off the face of the earth prior to or during the great tribulation in a separate event from His actual second coming that Jesus would have spelled it out and made that rescue of believers very distinct from His second coming. Jesus has no reason to be mysterious or vague about anything. He is warning His best friends. You don't talk in riddles when you are trying to warn your family or friends about something as important as the end of time and the second coming of Jesus.

Now I know many of my listeners have been taught that there will be a "secret rapture" of God's believers prior to or during the tribulation time, in fact, I was taught that as a child. Some believers get very upset when you try to explain that they will not escape the tribulation, but they will have to endure the tribulation. The other point is that you won't lose your soul if you believe in a rapture or not. However, I already see believers very disillusioned by the persecution and plagues and government over reach and break down of society that is currently going on in the world and wondering why Jesus has not raptured them out of here yet. Listen next week and I will explain the source of this false teaching.

Remember, Jesus is very adamant in Matthew 24 about being deceived in the end times. So, if you are a Christian that believes that you and your loved ones that are saved will be rescued off the earth and escape the tribulation, would that change the way you might prepare for your future. If you thought that you might have to actually endure the tribulation to the end, would you change some things in your life. If you believed that you or your children or your grandchildren would have to deal with the choice of taking a mark of the antichrist or be killed, would that change what you teach them.

Would you get a little confused, and even angry with God or your Bible teachers, if you were looking to escape the extreme hardships of the tribulation and the reign of the antichrist and you are actually forced to endure persecution, imprisonment, and even death for the sake of the gospel? The kind of persecution that will be given out during the great tribulation will be the worst that the earth has ever experienced. Are you going to be physically, mentally, or spiritually prepared for that kind of hardship, if you are looking to escape?

I just want you to think about this with some common sense. Why does Jesus tell His closest friends about all the horrors of the tribulation, if believers will not have to experience it and try to survive it? Why didn't Jesus just say, "Oh don't worry about the end time and tribulation, because I am going to secretly catch you up into the clouds and take you off the earth in a separate event called the rapture?"

My actual second coming and return won't come until after the tribulation and my believers won't even be here. So don't waste my time asking me when the end shall come or a sign regarding the end of the world because it will be of no relevance to Christians who have already been snatched away in secret. You should be asking me about a sign of when the secret rapture will occur. But Jesus never mentions a separate or secret return to his disciples that precedes His actual second coming return after the great tribulation. Why doesn't Jesus mention a rapture to His followers, the future preachers of the gospel to the whole earth, because there won't be a secret gathering of the saints prior to Jesus second coming after the great tribulation. Jesus is only coming back to this earth at the end of the great tribulation and that coming will be His actual second coming and it will not be a secret.

In Matthew 24 here is what Jesus told the followers who would be responsible to preach the gospel and the truth to the whole world about His second coming and return. As you listen to this scripture, notice that Jesus is telling His most faithful believers that they are going to have to endure some pretty rough stuff not escape from it.

"Don't let anyone deceive you,  
And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.  
Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.  
But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.  
"Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.  
And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people.  
Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.  
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.  
And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

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.

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:

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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.

Jesus very strongly warned them to not be deceived about this time in history. Jesus went into a very descriptive conversation, outlining the details of the signs of His second coming and the end of the world because He knew that His followers would be ON THE EARTH and that believers would have to know how to prepare for persecution, and the antichrist, and famines, and plagues, and the breakdown of society, and deception, and martyrdom.

Remember, Matthew 24 is almost entirely in the Words of Jesus. Jesus spoke plainly to His disciples in this passage. It was Jesus warning His inner circle of friends, because He knew His followers would be ON THE EARTH and have to endure the worst tribulation the world has ever seen.

I have to end this teaching for today, but listen next week as I continue to teach the TRUTH about the second coming of Jesus.

Now I want you to focus on the condition of your own soul. You see we are all born with a missing piece. And it doesn't matter how good we try to be or how successful we are in life. We will never be complete without Jesus. That is why there are NOT many ways to heaven. You can't get there through Buda or Mohammed or Krishna or any other religious figure. Only Jesus said, I Am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will gain eternal life.

You see Jesus is the only one to voluntarily surrender His life for the benefit of others. It was not the Jews or the Romans or the iron nails that held Jesus on that cross. It was love that kept Jesus on that cross. Love for mankind and not just for believers, but for sinners too. Jesus had the authority to call down angels to deliver him from death on that cross, but He didn't use His authority. Jesus is the only one who laid down His life sacrificially and then had the power to resurrect Himself from the dead again. You may ask, how did Jesus have such a great and unique power to resurrect Himself. It was because Jesus was connected to the greatest power source in the universe, His father, Almighty God, through relationship. You need to know that it is not religion that has the power to resurrect the dead, but that it is a relationship with Jesus the Son of God that has the power to offer eternal life. No other religious leader or prophet can claim this.

If you have not discovered the one true pathway to eternal life and if you do not know where you would spend eternity if your soul was required of you today. I

want to give you an opportunity to accept Jesus as your Savior. Just repeat this prayer with me.

Jesus, I confess I am a sinner. I humble myself. I repent of my sins. Please forgive me of my sins. Jesus come into my heart and become my Lord and Savior. In Jesus name, amen.

Thank you and God bless. Sponsored by Lane Covenant Enterprises, LLC