

Matthew Lesson 24

Yeshua is marching toward the execution stake, and as He does, we see His heart for people. Last week we heard Yeshua condemn the teaching of those leaders who were leading the people of Israel for their own power or gain or prominence. He wants people's hearts changed. He wept over Jerusalem and the treatment of those whom had been sent with the true message of G-d. He prophesied, See, your house will be left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

Imagine hearing these words for the first time. What is Yeshua saying to them?

These words must have echoed in the minds of the disciples, for in Matthew 24 the disciples will have some questions for Him.

And we begin Matthew 24 with these words:

Matthew 24:1,2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, **Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down.**

Is this a new idea that the temple will be destroyed?

Daniel 9:25,26 Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.

When the disciples looked at this temple, they saw a structure that had been rebuilt at the time of Ezra and was a humble structure compared to the temple built by Solomon. But this temple had been under renovation for about 50 years, and it is said that this structure was splendid and vividly beautiful. Some stones brought in to enhance it weighed up to 60 tons. The inlaid gold caused the temple to glow much of the day.



But Yeshua is agreeing with Daniel and telling the disciples that this structure will be destroyed.

******What does this tell you about what is important to God? Does G-d care more about structures or people and their actions?

So now the disciples ask 3 questions:

Matthew 24:3 While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. Tell us, they said, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?

These are the questions that everybody wants to know, and the disciples are asking Yeshua face to face. Notice they ask for the sign of His coming, when He is sitting right there with Him. Are they now seeing that the Messiah will come two times as the Scriptures and the Rabbis say that there would be a suffering Messiah - or Messiah ben Joseph and a King Messiah - or Messiah ben David, who would rule and reign.

Isaiah 53:3-5 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows³ and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

******This was, of course describing, the first coming - Messiah ben Joseph. The Jewish commentaries agree with this as it is stated in Tractate Sukkah⁵²

The Gemara asks: **Granted, according to the one who said that the lament is for Messiah ben Yosef who was killed, this would be the meaning of that which is written in that context: “And they shall look unto Me because they have thrust him through; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son”** ([Zechariah 12:10](#)).

II Samuel 7: 12,13 When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

**And here His answer will begin:

Matthew 24:4-8 And Jesus answered them, *See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.*

These verses sound like

Jeremiah 30:4-7 These are the words Adonai spoke concerning Israel and Y'hudah: Here is what Adonai says: We have heard a cry of terror, of fear and not of peace. Ask now and see: can men give birth to children? Why then, do I see all the men with their hands on their stomachs like women in labor, and every face turned pale? How dreadful that day will be! There has never been one like it; a time of trouble for Ya'akov, but out of it he will be saved.

The "**birth pains**" talked about by Yeshua are called "**Chevley Masshiach**" in Hebrew. This means The Birth Pangs of the Messiah. - The times when we will know that His Kingdom is about to come. You have to go through labor to get the baby, and we have to go through chevley Masshiach to see His Kingdom come.

It is important to note that kingdom against kingdom is better translated ethnic group against ethnic group. We are seeing this happen right now at an exponential rate. Things like **critical race theory** and other strategies are meant to pit people group against people group.

And we are seeing people against the laws of society - we are becoming lawless at an alarming rate and watching riots in our streets to diminish or completely do away with our police departments.

We also see Middle East groups, Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, fighting against Israel. These are people groups, not nations actually fighting against $\frac{1}{2}$ brothers!!!

Incredibly crucial are Yeshua's words: **See that you are not troubled.** And the following verses are why some think that the previous verses were the beginning of the tribulation:

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Matthew 24:9-27 ⁹“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the ^[a]elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

²³“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

²⁶“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; *or* ‘Look, *He is* in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

It is critical to know how He will come, so we are not fooled.

Going back to verse 8 we need to see the connection that Yeshua specifically tells us these are the beginning of **birth pangs**.

Immediately after these words, He gives a time frame - He used the word **"Then."** That word leads us to believe there is a sequence to what He is telling the disciples. We have to remember that the disciples asked specific questions - What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age? So these are the questions He is answering. He is telling them, now things are going to heat up. He says, When you see standing in the holy place the abomination that brings desolation.... This is connected to:

Daniel 9:27 And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.

Again we see the Shemita - 7 day cycle - In the middle of the week (of years) "he" stops the sacrifice from happening. This would be the 3 1/2 year mark of the tribulation. This means that beginning now that troubles will increase. It is very interesting to note that the sages wrote about this in the Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 26a-b-28b "...five things occurred to our fathers on the seventeenth of Tammuz. ...Two of them were: the continual offering was stopped, and an image was erected in the Temple."

This was when Antiochus Epiphanese set himself up as G-d and desecrated the altar by slaughtering a pig on it.

And of this day, **2 Thessalonians 2:8-10** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival. The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and FALSE wonder, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them....

And now He gives more information about what will happen when He comes:

Matthew 24:29-31 Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Now we know there will be a solar and lunar eclipse, stars (astroids) will fall the heavens are going to be disturbed - shaken.

And He will appear in heaven and all will see Him. His angels will blow shofars and gather the elect wherever they are.

Daniel 7:13a In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.

Daniel was shown this day.



Isaiah 27:13 And in that day a great ram's horn will sound, and those who were perishing in Assyria will come forth with those who were exiles in Egypt. And they will worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

Isaiah was shown this day. and Now Yeshua is confirming what these prophets were shown and what they wrote.

Revelation 7:9,10 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations tribes, peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, crying out with a loud voice, saying, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!

Matthew 24:32-35 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.



The fig tree is a symbol of Israel. Again, Yeshua is speaking to a Jewish audience about a coming time called Jacob's Trouble, so the fig tree is a good analogy to use. We see the fig tree used as a picture of Israel in

Hosea 9:10 Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-Peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved.

There has been a 2,000 year gap in history since the 2nd temple was destroyed and 69 of the 70 shemita cycles have been completed. We know Israel became a nation again in May of 1948 and Jerusalem was taken back in 1967. When it says this generation will not pass til all these things are accomplished it could mean the generation that sees what we are seeing or it could mean a "race" of Jewish people

will survive to see this happen. They will not be destroyed by the events that would unfold over the next 2,000 years (including persecutions, crusades and even the Holocaust). The Jewish people will survive to see Messiah return.

Regardless of the definition of generation, we see that Israel, the fig tree, has blossomed and is blooming and we see "all these things" described by Yeshua happening. We see the time of Jacob's Trouble is right in front of us!

Now we are warned **Matthew 24:36-39** *But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

What do we learn from this warning? We learn we will be in similar times as Noah was. Though there was violence all over the earth in Noah's time, things were also normal. People were still eating and drinking and getting married. Then, suddenly, everything changed. G-d told Noah to get in the ark, and he did. **Will these normal times be a trap for many people?** Even with all the violence and with wars and with changing political events and terrorist movements and world-wide pandemics, life is still just moving forward. **Amazingly there is still normalcy.**

But once the Lord closes the doors on the ark - everything changes.

What is this telling us? Don't ignore the signs. Don't be lulled into thinking He is delaying His coming because life seems to be relatively normal; it was in Noah's day also.

