

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 22 ~ Exploring Chapter 24:1-41

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 24:1-41
- Read chapters 24 and 25 through once to get a feel for the unity of Jesus' entire discourse on the second advent. Then Read 24:1-41 through twice, and examine the following questions and exercise. Keep your Matthew notebook close by for any thoughts that you might want to write down.
 - What exact questions do the disciples ask in 24:3? List them in your notebook.
 - Can you clearly discern Jesus' answers to the various questions? Which signs refer to the fall of Jerusalem? Which refer to the second advent? Which refer to both events? Do you find the answers to these questions to be less than clear? If yes, discuss why you think Jesus would provide a less than clear answer.
- Re-read Matthew 24:1-41 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Did Jesus teach that the end of the world was near at hand to His own time or to some more remote time in the future? Provide a list of texts that support both positions. (The parables in 24:42-25:46 also provide information for answering this question.)
- Re-read Matthew 24:1-41 and then answer the following question in your notebook.
 - List all the "signs" of the times that you find in this chapter.
 - What is the meaning of verses 6 and 8 in terms of signs?
 - Are most of the signs unique events in history, or do they recur in each generation? If they recur, how can they be signs?
 - There seem to be two or three signs that can only be one-time events. List these along with their Biblical references.
- Re-Read Matthew 24:32-41 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Compare and contrast the messages of 24:32,33 and 24:36-41. Can the meaning of the two passages be harmonized? If so, how?
- Re-Read Matthew 24:1-41 and then list the answer to the following question in your notebook.
 - Create a list of the lessons about the second coming of Jesus that we can learn from 24:1-41.
 - Are you looking forward to the second advent of Jesus Christ? What evidence can you provide from the way you live your life to support your answer?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).