

Events in Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2

Matt 24:3–51

“Beginning of sorrows” & Falling away

3. As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?”
- **Many deceivers and false Christs**
4. And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray.
5. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.
- **Wars and rumours of wars**
6. 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.
- **Famines, disease and earthquakes**
7. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
8. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.
- **Tribulation & persecution**
9. “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.
- **Many will fall away/grow cold because of lawlessness**
10. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.
11. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.
12. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.
- **Gospel preached to the whole world**
13. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
14. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Revealing of the Great Evil

- **The Great Tribulation**
- 15. “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),
- 16. then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
- 17. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,
- 18. and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.
- 19. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!
- 20. Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.
- 21. For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.
- 22. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

II Thessalonians 2:1–12

The Falling away

1. Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,
- **Falling away comes first**
2. not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
3. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
4. who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
- **“Mystery of Lawlessness” is already at work**
5. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
6. And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.
7. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

Revealing of the Great Evil

- **The “son of perdition”**
- 8. And then the lawless one will be revealed, (the one whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the brightness of his coming.)

False prophets do signs and wonders

23. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it.
24. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
25. See, I have told you beforehand.
26. So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.
27. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
28. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

• The Shaking of the Powers of Heaven

29. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Return of Christ

• As obvious and visible as lightening flashing from the east to the west

For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.(prediced in v27)

• He will come with power and great glory

30. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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.

• Great sound of a trumpet

31. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call...

Rapture

31. ...and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
32. "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.
33. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
34. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
35. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
36. "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.
37. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
38. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,
39. and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
40. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.
41. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

False prophets do signs and wonders

9. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,
10. and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Return of Christ

• Brightness of his coming

"the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the brightness of his coming" v.8

• Unbelievers will be condemned

11. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,
12. in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Rapture

- from 1 Thess 4
- 15. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

So be prepared!

42. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
43. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
44. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
45. "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?
46. Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
47. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.
48. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,'
49. and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,
50. the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know
51. and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

So be prepared!

13. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
14. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
15. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.