



World Christian Fellowship

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Warning

Mark 13, Luke 21

Matthew 24:16-28

Matthew 24:15-28, *“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 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. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Matthew 24 and 25 is known as “The Olivet Discourse.” It is a discourse by our Lord Jesus Christ, delivered on the Mount of Olives. Its subject is the second coming of Christ.

His own message about His own second coming.

You won't find any more fascinating subject than the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. No biblical subject which can create the same amount of curiosity that this subject can create.

2 Corinthians 5:11, *Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*

The apostle Paul says that Christ will come in judgment and bring a terrorizing holocaust upon the earth, we present the gospel so that men may escape that.

Paul said that we labour whether present or absent that we may be accepted by Him.

Believers serve the Lord knowing that someday He will come to reward us, and we want to be found faithful.

The second coming of Jesus Christ, both from the standpoint of warning an unbeliever of the judgment to come and of encouraging a believer with the reward to come, is a highly motivating subject.

There is no place in the Scripture where it's presented more wonderfully than right here in **Matthew 24 and 25** by the Lord Himself.

Jesus has before this sermon spent His last day speaking to the crowds of Israel and He has pronounced judgment on Israel. He Told them their house is left desolate. They have rejected Him and He has rejected them. At the end of that time, He left the temple, went to the Mount of Olives, and there He preaches a sermon to His disciples.

It is a sermon in answer to questions that they ask in **V 3**. *"Tell us, when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of Thy coming and of the end of the age?"*

From what Jesus has been saying, the disciples feel that the kingdom is very near.

They don't realize that it is yet thousands of years away because they don't understand that there are really two comings of Christ.

✓ Jesus came first time in humiliation to die.

Then there is a gap for a long period of time.

✓ Jesus will come again for the second time in glory to reign.

But they don't see those two comings, they see it as one. Jesus has come, preached, taught, healed, cleansed the temple, they believe He is readying things for His kingdom.

At the height of their expectation for the kingdom to come He makes a prophecy.

V 2, *“There shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.”*

Jesus predicts the total destruction of the temple to the point where one stone is not left on top of another.

Temple is a massive structure made from huge stones weighing tons. Yet Jesus predicts its total destruction.

When Jesus said that this raises their curiosity and anticipation even more because it probably makes them realize that this is all going to be the judgment to establish the kingdom.

Christ, having cleansed the inside earlier in the week, threw out the moneychangers, sellers and buyers. Now He is going to knock the whole thing down. We are going to have the

kingdom temple and the kingdom worship and it's all going to come.

The Apostles are at a moment of great expectation.

They ask this question: *“When is it going to happen and what is the sign that we look for to indicate Your presence in kingdom glory and the end of man’s age?”*

Jesus answers them, beginning in verse 4, with a sermon about His second coming.

Some people have tried to say that this is a sermon about the destruction of Jerusalem, that this whole sermon was fulfilled in **70 A.D.** when the temple was destroyed. For many reasons that is impossible, as we have tried to point out in our previous messages.

A prophet could only be believed to be a true prophet if his prophecies always came true.

How can Jesus be believed when predicting His second coming when everybody who is hearing the prediction is going to be dead long before it happens?

I could predict all kinds of things way off in the future, things that wouldn't occur or couldn't be verified or proven right or wrong until all of us were dead.

How could I be known as a prophet if there was no way to verify it?

Typically, the prophet of the Word of God assigned by God to give a far-future prophecy gave also a near prophecy to establish his credentials. If he proves to be accurate in the historically verified prophecy, we can believe him for the one that's so far in the future that we can't see it.

The reason Jesus mentions the destruction of Jerusalem in verse 2 as prophecy is not to introduce the whole sermon on that same destruction, but to give you a historical point in which to verify that He speaks the truth.

So, Jesus said there shall not one stone be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.

What we must understand is that the temple built by Herod was massive. We have described it in some detail.

The temple was built from **10 B.C.** There were **10,000 stone cutters** and setters working on it for those ten years, and that was just the main building.

There were also **1,000 priests** who were trained as stone cutters and carpenters because only a priest could build a sacred place.

They had 10,000 just workers and a thousand priests building the sacred parts of the temple and that was just the main part of the temple. The building then went on from **10 B.C. to 64 A.D.** So, we are looking at an **84-year** building project before it finally reached completion in **64 A.D.** and was then totally destroyed in 70 A.D. **80** years is undone in a matter of months.

Did the prophecy that all the stones would be thrown down come to pass?

Yes, not one stone was left upon another, and the Romans literally tore it down to the very ground. This has been historically verified. History doesn't argue that at all. That happened in **70 A.D.**, exactly the way Jesus said it would.

It seemed to be ridiculous as a prophecy.

It seemed to be impossible as a prophecy.

It seemed that it could never come true.

This makes it such a good credential. Jesus predicts something that really could never have been anticipated, never have been foreseen.

No one ever dreamed that anyone could come along as powerful as that to tear that thing down or who would want to tear such a magnificent edifice to the ground, but that is exactly what happened.

The fury and the passion of the Roman soldiers being so great that the Roman general himself, standing in the middle of the temple, screaming for them to stop burning it down, couldn't even get them to obey his own orders. They were so possessed by Satan's forces that they tore that thing to the ground trying to remove all remnants of the worship of God. But in fact, fulfilling the prophecy of Jesus, giving Him credentials as one who speaks and speaks the truth.

Now, when we know that Jesus can be verified in the past in a near prophecy, we can believe Him for a far prophecy.

The apostles' questions to Jesus were that what is the sign that it's all going to come to an end?

The answer to that question was the sermon that goes **Matthew 24:4- 25:46.**

Jesus in using a near prophecy to give credentials to Himself so that He would be believed for a far prophecy is something that Daniel, Isaiah, and Zechariah did. It's typical of prophets to do.

Jesus calls them as birth pains.

Birth pains are right at the very end, and they give birth. They are that which causes birth to occur in a woman.

There will be certain things happening at the very end of man's age which will result in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

V 4-14 Jesus gives these general things that are going to happen, and they will be the beginning of the end, just prior to the coming of Christ.

But Jesus goes one step further in **V15** and says there is one single event that kick starts the whole thing.

V 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),*

The abomination of desolation is the trigger for everything.

V 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.*

One event is the trigger.

It is the signal that starts the birth pains.

Now you know the reason why we took one whole sermon on the abomination of Desolation.

The antichrist coming into the temple which will be rebuilt in the end time. The Jews will be worshiping there. He comes in as their protector. He comes in as the one who defends them against the threat of Russia and Arab aggression.

He comes in to sort of be their saviour as **Daniel 9** says they sign a treaty with him. He will be the leader of the revived Roman Empire/ confederacy.

They will all come together and out of them will rise this one great leader who will be the protector of Israel in the middle of protection of a seven-year period. He violates his treaty with them, he desecrates their worship in the holy place, he sets up an idol, an image of himself. **2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13**, he demands the whole world to worship him, and that is the trigger that breaks loose the whole holocaust of the end time.

At this point in time, the church has already been raptured, so we are not going to be there. We are looking forward to that time when the Lord takes us out and then brings that judgment on the earth and we return at the end of the time with Him from heaven when He establishes His kingdom.

Our Lord has given us a clear picture of His Coming. He says here are the birth pains, here are the kind of things that are happening, and here's the trigger that starts it all.

V 16-28, Jesus warns all the readers who will read this, who will know this in the time that it happens.

He warns about three things:

1. Calamity,
2. Confusion,
3. Spiritual collapse, and

1. Calamity.

V 16, *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

What should be the response when this happens?

Flee.

The Greek word is ***Pheug*** from which we get the word “fugitive.”

Run get out because as long as you stay in Jerusalem, you are going to be vulnerable to death. You are going to be vulnerable to persecution, especially if you are a Jew because the antichrist wants to stamp out Israel.

Satan has wanted to do that all through history because if he can eliminate Israel. Though he can try thwart the plan of God, but it will be fulfilled ultimately in bringing Israel to salvation and to their kingdom.

Satan has tried to wipe out the Jew throughout history. When antichrist takes over in Jerusalem, sets up his throne right

there in Jerusalem, the Jews that are left there are going to be very vulnerable, and so He says in that day you better run.

Not only that, if there happen to be any who are believing people who refuse to worship the antichrist, who are Christians, you better run, too, if you are in Judea.

Judea is the area in which Jerusalem is the main city. Any of you who are believers, you better run also because he will want to wipe you out.

Revelation 12 that he wants to wipe out Israel.

Revelation 13, he says he wants to make war with the saints.

The general command here to run is to anybody who refuses to bow to the antichrist image, either Jew or a Christian better run.

When this happens, there will be a sort of an exodus out of the land, out of the city of Jerusalem, for protection. Not everybody is going to make it.

Zechariah 13:8, *And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it:*

Not all the Jews are going to make it.

The antichrist is going to move against them, and two out of three are going to die. There is going to be terrible slaughter.

The holocaust on the Jews of the future is going to be as great from **verse 21**, far greater than anything in the past. Two out of three are going to die.

Zechariah 13:9, *I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"*

Zechariah tells us that when the Jews flee, not all of them are going to make it, not all of them are going to survive.

In **Revelation 6**, we find in that when the fifth seal is opened, and this is a seal that describes that same time period known as the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:9, *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.*

Here are Christians, Gentiles or Jews, whatever, out of the Tribulation time who have been martyred for their faith.

They didn't escape, either. They got martyred. They lost their lives.

Revelation 6:10-11, *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"* ¹¹*Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

The Tribulation isn't over yet. It's just getting started. Part of fulfillment. There will be martyrdom.

Zechariah seems to see Jews being killed, and Revelation seems to see saints who have believed in Christ being killed.

Not all are going to escape. The ones who don't they are going to pay with their lives.

This is the reason Jesus tells them "Run fast because your life is at stake."

Revelation 11:13, *In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

7,000 people dying in the city of Jerusalem through an earthquake.

Revelation 12:11, *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

While some are betraying Christ, and some are denying Him rather than die. There are some who don't love their lives are willing to die for the testimony of Christ and they will.

Revelation 13:7, *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

Antichrist makes war with the saints and overcomes them.

Revelation 17:6, *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.*

The false religious system drunk with the blood of the martyrs.

So, all those passages show us that when the abomination of desolation is set up, the antichrist becomes the ruler of the world, he is energized by Satan. He is assisted by demonic forces and by men and women all over the world, he moves against Israel. They must run for their lives and only a third of them are going to make it.

He moves against the believers all through that period of time and they must run for their lives and not all of them are going

to make it, either. But for those who do flee, there will be some supernatural help.

In **Revelation 12**, we have some imagery here. There is a woman and a child.

The woman is Israel and the child is Christ.

It describes the fact that out of the nation Israel, Christ was brought forth. Then there is a dragon in this picture and the dragon is Satan and the dragon persecutes the woman and wants to kill the child.

But there is a great champion for the cause of God to protect the woman and child. It is none other than Michael who fights the demons and prevails.

Revelation 12:6-8, *A Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.*

Here is Israel running for the protection.

1260 days or 42 months or 3 ½ years, the time period of this Great Tribulation.

In the middle of the seven-year covenant Daniel talks about, the antichrist makes the seven-year pact, he breaks it, and for 3 ½ years, 42 months, 1260 days.

Israel flees and for the 1260 days is protected by God in a place prepared by God.

Now, it's a good place to flee, Israel is, because there are caves every place all around that land. There are many places to hide in the desolate wilderness of that area.

Revelation 12:13-14, *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

Michael, the protector of God's people. This great protector of Israel, is going to fly into the wilderness carrying the people and there they will be nourished for three and a half. For three and half years, supernaturally, Michael and his angels are going to deliver the people who are able to escape into a place of safety and a place of protection.

That certainly refers to Israel and may well refer also to believing Gentiles and others who escape the massacre of the antichrist.

What our Lord says is that when you see that event, run as fast as you can run. Get out of there.

V 16, *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

Flee into the mountains where you can hide.

V 17, *Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.*

If you happen to be on that housetop, in those days the housetop was where the patio was, there was an outside staircase going up, you still see some like that in Israel even today and people would be on the housetop.

If you happen to be caught up there, don't even go inside to get your belongings, get down the stairs and out of town because when that thing happens, as it says in Revelation, devastation will come and death like a flood.

It's going to come like a flash flood, like a fire across the land. Get out, don't even go into the house to get your belongings, and don't take anything out. Jump off the roof and run as fast as you can. This is how terrible a time is coming. Any delay means death.

The Lord expects and urges normal retreat for safety. The Lord doesn't have them stay there and face the bullets. He just

says get out of there. He is not advocating a martyr complex. Run.

V 18, *And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.*

Clothes/ Garments refers to the outer cloak, and if you are out there working in the field and you have laid your cloak on the cart a quarter of a mile away and you are out in the field doing something and the word comes that it's happened, don't go back to the cart to get anything, get out.

Just run because Satan has taken over. The forces of hell are in place and the holocaust is coming. Get out of there.

V 19, *But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*

Why?

Some commentators say it's so hard to run when you are pregnant.

It is so hard to run when you have got a little nursing baby in your arms that is true.

Hosea looks at the end and talks about the salvation of Israel and the bringing back of Israel and how God will bring judgment on those who have judged Israel wrongly.

Hosea 13:16, *Samaria is held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They shall fall by the sword, Their infants shall be dashed in pieces, And their women with child ripped open.*

When God comes to bring His judgment against His rebellious people and to restore them, first He must purge.

When antichrist comes, this is an indication that there's going to be the devastation of infants.

We see it fulfilled even when Christ was born. When Satan tried to stop the birth of Christ, massacred all the babies.

When Satan wanted to kill the prophet of God like Christ, who was Moses, what did he do? Massacred all the babies, trying to get to Moses.

It won't be any different in that period of time, either.

The antichrist is going to bring upon the world such a hellish kind of activity that it will encompass infants being smashed to pieces. Pregnant women will be ripped open.

Primarily this is why the Lord warns in that regard that the kind of things that are going to happen are unbelievable to us. Because we don't understand the nature of the holocaust when Satan has total control of the world.

The church is removed.

The restrainer has taken back His restraining power,
All sin runs rampant,
All hell breaks loose.

The Lord says in that day you better run fast.
How sad for those who have little babies which will be dashed
to pieces and those who are pregnant who face the possibility
of being ripped open. Unbelievable.

V 20, *And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.*

Just to stress the urgency.

Pray that it isn't in winter, it might be cold, it might be raining,
and it might even be snowing because there are parts of Israel
where there is snow.

You must pray that it's not going to be in a time when you
cannot travel swiftly nor on the Sabbath day.

Pray that it isn't on the Sabbath, particularly if you must run or
drive through certain sections of Jerusalem because if it
happens to be the sections where the radical legalistic Jews
live, they will stone you if you do that because they hold to the
Sabbath law of 2,000 cubits being a maximum Sabbath-day
journey.

Our Lord is saying just hope isn't at a time when you are hindered from your journey.

- Just hope it isn't a time when you are going to have to face some difficulty in getting out of town.
- Just hope you are not physically in a situation where you have an infant, or you are pregnant.
- Just hope that you can run as fast as you can run and don't have to go back to get anything.

Get out because the holocaust is so inconceivable.

Why?

V 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.*

The worst time the world's ever known. There's nothing like it.

Just get out. The Lord says go.

Many are going to die from all that's described in **V 4-14** because when that abomination of desolation takes place, then come the wars and the rumors of wars. Then comes the worldwide breakdown, famines, earthquakes, and pestilences. Luke talks about the betrayals and the persecutions and the hatred and the whole thing begins to break loose.

The whole thing is described for us in **Revelation 6 -19** in detail.

First, the seals are opened, then the trumpets are blown, and the bowls are poured out, they are all images of escalating, heightening, increasing, intensifying acts of judgment on the earth.

The lasts for three and a half years and that expression is very clearly given to us, not only in the book of Revelation but even by the prophet Daniel.

Daniel 7:25, *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*

3 ½ years is always the standard timeframe in which this great ruler wreaks havoc across the face of the earth.

Daniel 12 indicates the same timeframe.

Revelation 11:2, and **Revelation 13:5** tell us about the same three-and-a-half-year kind of concept.

How severe is it?

V 21, *such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Sad to say this, but the proper message to give to Israel today is that things are not going to get better, but infinitely worse.

They are going to get so bad that Zechariah's prophecy is going to be fulfilled.

There is going to be desecration and abomination.

There is going to come a holocaust in Jerusalem that's going to take the lives of two out of every three of you.

There is going to come a devastating thing unlike anything they have ever dreamed of in the future.

When, as Hosea says, it may well be that your pregnant women are ripped open and your nursing mother's children are dashed to pieces. Incredible to think about.

Now please understand that none of this could ever relate to the destruction of Jerusalem in **70 A.D.**

The only reason the Lord even gave that was as a point of credential, and to try to make this whole thing fulfill that is silly. But the people who want to do that very often also want to make the whole book of Revelation relate to the destruction of Jerusalem, which it cannot do, unless you are just utterly dishonest with the Scripture.

V 22, And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

What does that mean, “shortened”?

3 ½ years, 42 months, 1260 days. Every time the Bible speaks of it, it speaks of it like that, a time, times, and half a time.

Nowhere in the scripture says it will be shorter than that. It's always that same time.

So, the word for shortened the Greek word, *Ekolobthsan*, could mean it's stopped instantly.

It immediately ends.

It quickly stops.

Unless it was just terminated fast, even the elect would be devastated.

It doesn't say “except that day,” which would embrace the whole period as sort of a day of judgment. The Bible would use that singular a lot in doing that, that day of judgment, that day of punishment.

But it says, “those days.”

If you take it as it is, those 24-hour days, except those 24-hour days should be shortened, I believe that when the abomination of desolation occurs and people start running for their lives, Jews and believers, trying to get away from the holocaust of antichrist. God supernaturally by His mercy and

grace is going to alter the length of daylight in order to give them the protection of darkness.

Revelation 6:12-14, *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

Here is an alteration of the heavenly bodies. When the sun becomes black, the moon is out as well. If the stars all go out, it's dark.

Revelation 8:12, *Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

Daylight will be reduced by a third.

Revelation 16:10, *Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.*

Gradually, there is just less and less daylight until ultimately at the end of the tribulation period, it's total darkness. The antichrist's hosts are moving around in absolute darkness.

Of course, that becomes a protection for the elect.

V 22, *“Except those days themselves should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.”*

It's only the protection of night and daylight being shut off that saves people.

V 22, *but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

For the sake of God preserving His chosen people.

We can relate the word “elect” to Israel.

“Mine elect” as they are called in the Old Testament.

Israel, Mine elect.

God affirms that He elected that nation. So it is that He protects His people. He keeps His remnant. He spares one third so that He can redeem them and bring them the kingdom. Not all the Jews can die.

The elect nation Israel as even we see it in **Romans 9 to 11** where Paul talks about Israel as the elect nation, not redeemed Israel, but Israel as a nation.

We can also see in the word “elect” the redeemed believers from all nations.

But for the sake of preserving His elect nation and the sake of preserving His elect redeemed people, He shortens the day so that the antichrist cannot massacre both Jews and believers for the elect’s sake.

This is the first time in the New Testament the word “elect” is used. Now we are introduced to a new concept about those who belong to God. We belong to Him because He chose us.

Elect means to choose or to call out.

He chose us.

He chose Israel.

If Israel was His elect nation, we don’t argue that. Even people who want to deny the doctrine of election in reference to salvation don’t deny the doctrine of election in reference to Israel.

If Israel is God’s elect, then why should we be disturbed that the church is also God’s elect?

God says, “I am going to take care of My elect.”

God takes care of His elect.

Nobody would survive to go to the kingdom.

There wouldn't be any redeemed Jews to go in the kingdom, there wouldn't be any redeemed Gentiles to go in the kingdom if He didn't change the days so that they could be safe.

When God chooses someone for Himself, He will keep that person for Himself, and He will fulfill His promise if He must restructure the entire universe.

Does that make you feel secure?

The Lord will literally reorganize the entire body of the universe to protect His own!

For the elect's sake, He just changes everything and squashes daylight down into a small time period and ultimately altogether blots it out so that they can be safe.

Now, total darkness couldn't last very long because nothing could grow.

The Lord goes to these extremes to protect His own, even changing all the functions of the universe for the elect's sake.

If you are alive then and you see the abomination, run as fast as you can.

Because severe calamity is coming.

2. Confusion.

All these people run, and the ones that don't die, they are all hiding somewhere. They are being cared for by the Lord.

We don't know how but maybe they are fed with manna from heaven.

Israel and redeemed people are hiding.

What do they wait for?

They can read Matthew and they are going to be reading it in those days. They will say, "we saw it. Now we must run to the mountains. We are hiding and the Lord is coming."

They are very vulnerable.

People in great desperation are extremely vulnerable.

Some false prophet could come running over and say, "He is here or there or in the desert or by the sea.

V 23, *"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.*

Don't believe it.

It's a deception. They are trying to trip you.

Trying to trap you.

Trying to catch you.

They want to capture you and kill you.

They want to slaughter you.

He wants to wipe out the Jews, does the dragon Satan. He wants to wipe out the redeemed, does that old enemy of God.

Satan is going to use his deception and say, "Christ has arrived, He is right over here or there." Don't believe it.

For there shall arise false Christs, those who claim to be the Messiah, and false prophets, those who point to the one who claims to be the Messiah, his emissaries.

They are going to show great signs and wonders, according to **2 Thessalonians chapter 2.**

They are going to do Satanic miracles, counterfeit miracles. They are going to demonstrate devilish power.

V 24, *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

It isn't possible to deceive the elect that is why Jesus says that. Otherwise, He would say that shall deceive the very elect.

He says if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. You can't deceive the elect. The truly elect who truly know Christ could never be deceived about who He was.

John 10:3, *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

If somebody defects to another Christ, they never knew the true Christ because once you know the true Christ you can't be fooled.

The elects are protected.

- They cannot be deceived because they have in them the knowledge of the true Christ.
- They cannot be destroyed because the sovereignty of God protects them by reorganizing the universe.

But they are going to try. The false Christs are going to come, and they are going to say things and try to deceive them.

They would be so vulnerable to a bunch of false prophets.

Jesus says if you hear it, don't believe it. Because all these deceivers are going to come.

V 25, *See, I have told you beforehand.*

Jesus did.

Matthew 24:5, *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

Matthew 24:11, *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

Matthew 7, Matthew 15, Matthew 16, and Matthew 23.

He has been telling them all along, “Watch out for these deceivers. Don’t be fooled.

V 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.*

Don’t believe it.

Don’t go there.

Don’t go near that place.

V 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 going to be like lightning going right across the sky from the east to the west, just shocking everybody. His coming will be sudden, public, visible, universal, and glorious.

The whole world is going to see it.

Revelation 1:7, *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

Revelation 19. He comes blasting out of heaven riding on a white horse, followed by all the white-robed saints and angels of heaven's glory, coming to earth with a sword in His hand, a blood-spattered garment to bring judgment on the world and to destroy all the armies who have set against Him in battle. This is going to be a coming that everybody sees.

So, when you see the sign, run fast. Because of severe calamity and subtle confusion.

3. Corruption.

V 28, *For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.*

Little proverb. When we see a carcass, then we see vultures. Israel and Palestine, they have vultures. They are indigenous to the area. The Greek word is **Aetos**. It means a vulture.

What is going to happen here is simply like that analogy. Where you find a carcass, you have a vulture going in and tearing into that carcass.

Christ is going to come as it were a vulture to a dead carcass. The world is going to be so corrupt, so sinfully corrupt, that it lies there as a wretched, sinful, corrupt, decaying carcass to

which the Lord will come in judgment to tear and rip and shred that carcass to pieces. Very vivid picture.

The world is going to become dead and corrupt.
So, you ought to run because of severe calamity.
You ought to run and be careful because of subtle confusion.
You ought to run and be somewhere with the secure people because of sinful corruption.

The world is going to decay.
It is going to be more wretched than ever.

The iniquity shall abound.
The church is gone.
The restraining Holy Spirit has pulled back His power.
All hell breaks loose.
Sin reaches rampant conditions.

It becomes so wretched and so corrupt that it is like the filthy, corrupt, decaying carcass of an animal, and as a vulture descends and swoops, as it were, to carry off that carcass, so God comes to destroy what is left of that sinful corruption.

Conclusion:

God swoops down in final judgment.

2 Thessalonians 1:8, *in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

So why hang around the evil, wretched system that's only going to get worse and worse?

What's the sign of Your coming?

Here are the birth pains.

What triggers them?

The abomination of desolation.

What should they do to those who are alive when it happens?

Run.

Why?

Because severe calamity comes, subtle confusion, and sinful corruption.

Get out.