

LAST DAYS & THE 2nd COMING: #1 – What did Jesus say?

Matthew	Mark	Luke	Comments
<p>Matthew 23: Woes on religious leaders for hypocrisy.</p> <p>Matthew 23:36-39 (NIV2011)</p> <p>³⁶ Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”</p>	<p>Mark 12: Various short elements – greatest command; who is the Christ; woe to hypocritical leaders; praise for widow giving all.</p>	<p>Luke 20: Various short elements – discussions e.g. resurrection; who is the Christ; woe to hypocritical leaders; praise for widow giving all.</p> <p>(Parallel passage to Matt 23v36-39 is in Luke 13)</p>	<p>[If something is just in one of the gospels, the colour of the text reflects that]</p> <p><u>Background: Love & Judgment on Jerusalem & it’s leaders.</u></p> <p>In Matthew, Jesus mourns over Jerusalem and its fate because of its actions.</p> <p>Mark and Luke contrast Jesus’ criticism of the leaders with praise for a widow in the temple for giving everything.</p>
<p>Matthew 24:1-3 (NIV2011)</p> <p>¹ Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.</p> <p>² “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”</p> <p>³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and <i>what will be the sign of your coming [Gk:parousia] and of the end of the age?</i>”</p>	<p>Mark 13:1-4 (NIV2011)</p> <p>¹ As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”</p> <p>² “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”</p> <p>³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately,</p> <p>⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”</p>	<p>Luke 21:5-7 (NIV2011)</p> <p>⁵ Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,</p> <p>⁶ “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”</p> <p>⁷ “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”</p>	<p><u>The Temple Glory & Destruction – When?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Jew, the Temple defined eras – eg Tabernacle & travel; Solomon’s temple & glory; exile & no temple; Zerubbabel’s temple & return; Herod’s temple – the grandest yet. • It symbolised God’s presence and was the centre of religious activity (sacrifice & pilgrimage). • Disciples praise it, Jesus foretells its destruction. • Disciples ask when the temple will be destroyed and what sign will precede it (Mark/Luke) • Matthew also asks sign of your coming (parousia) and of the end of the age. <i>Does “end of the age” actually mean the end of the age with the temple? What does “Sign of your coming mean”?</i> • <i>Parousia was used in Greek to denote a ruler being present (coming/arriving/appearing).</i>
<p>Matthew 24:4-28 (NIV2011)</p> <p>⁴ Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.</p> <p>⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.</p> <p>⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.</p> <p>⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.</p> <p>⁹ “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.</p>	<p>Mark 13:5-23 (NIV2011)</p> <p>⁵ Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you.</p> <p>⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.</p> <p>⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.</p> <p>⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.</p> <p>⁹ “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will</p>	<p>Luke 21:8-24 (NIV2011)</p> <p>⁸ He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘<i>The time is near.</i>’ Do not follow them.</p> <p>⁹ When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”</p> <p>¹⁰ Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and <i>pestilences</i> in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.</p> <p>¹² “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over</p>	<p><i>Most commentators agree that this section is referring to the fall of Jerusalem which would take place in AD70 (c. 40 years later).</i></p> <p><u>Jesus answers: Don’t be deceived or alarmed by troubles – Stand firm</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Don’t be deceived by false prophets and Messiahs!” • “Don’t be afraid of disasters and wars in the world – these will continue to happen – they are just the beginning” • “Don’t be surprised by persecution. You will be given what to say and do at the time.”

<p>¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.</p> <p>¹⁵ “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equalled again. ²² “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.</p> <p>²³ At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time. ²⁶ “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷ <i>For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.</i> ²⁸ <i>Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.</i></p>	<p>stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹ Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>¹² “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ¹³ Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.</p> <p>¹⁴ “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. ¹⁶ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁷ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ¹⁸ Pray that this will not take place in winter, ¹⁹ because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equalled again. ²⁰ “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.</p> <p>²¹ At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²² For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.</p>	<p>to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.</p> <p>²⁰ “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²² <i>For this is the time of punishment in fulfilment of all that has been written.</i></p> <p>²³ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴ <i>They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Some will fall away and betray others.” • “Endure and you will endure” • “The gospel will be preached to all nations before the end.” <p><u>Jerusalem & Temple to be desecrated: Get out the way!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you see the abomination of armies surrounding Jerusalem, you will know its desolation is near – so flee. • These are going to be extremely bad times, but God will cut short the days for the sake of those he has chosen. • The Gentiles will trample on Jerusalem until their time is done. <i>Note: In AD135 Emperor Hadrian Aelius changed Jerusalem’s name to “Aelius Capitolina”, rebuilt it on Roman lines and seems to have built a temple to Jupiter Capitolinus on the temple mount.</i> <p><u>Terrible, but this is not the “coming” of Christ: Don’t be deceived!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still do not believe anyone who says “There is the Messiah”, nor by false prophets or miracle workers. • You are forewarned, so be on your guard. • When the Son of Man does come, it will be obvious. {red “coming” = parousia}
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<p>Matthew 24:29-35 (NIV2011) ²⁹ “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’</p> <p>³⁰ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.</p> <p>³² “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.</p> <p>³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.</p> <p>³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.</p>	<p>Mark 13:24-31 (NIV2011) ²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’</p> <p>²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.</p> <p>²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.</p> <p>²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.</p> <p>³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.</p>	<p>Luke 21:25-33 (NIV2011) ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.</p> <p>²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”</p> <p>²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.</p> <p>³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.</p>	<p><i>Note: commentators are more divided as to whether this section is referring to immediate or more distant events.</i></p> <p><u>Change of Power</u> This is prophetic imagery for change of power or world order; taken from Isaiah 13v10 for fall of Babylon; Isaiah 34 against the nations; Joel 2v31 for the day of the Lord; Joel 3v15 for valley of decision. The imagery represents God unsettling what we normally trust in – typically the fall of a great power and bringing in a new world order. In context this could refer to fall of Jerusalem; fall of temple (central for Judaism); God leaving temple (desolate); but could also refer to the end time judgement of nations.</p> <p><u>Global Gospel Age</u> The “sign of the Son of Man” (Matthew) could refer to an army’s banner (eg Isaiah 11v10-12). “The Son of Man coming on the clouds” is a reference to Daniel 7 where the Son of Man approaches the presence of God. Is this Jesus’ ascension or Jesus’ return to earth? Note: “angels” can also be translated “messengers”. Is “People will mourn” referring to repentance (and being saved) or sorrow as too late? Is “Gathering the elect” / “redemption” people being saved or to the final redemption? “near” - At the door could imply available or about to knock? Jesus always taught kingdom near / within (among) you. Or is this what is to come?</p> <p><u>In this Generation</u> “generation” – If so, above is referring to events up to and at fall of Jerusalem, but alternative “race” leaves timescale more open; note 23v36 above. Also some understand “this generation” as a future one.</p> <p>Link to new section as moves to end times? Heaven and earth will go, but my words are true.</p>
<p>Matthew 24:36-51 (NIV2011) ³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding</p>	<p>Mark 13:32-37 (NIV2011) ³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.</p>	<p>Luke 21:34-38 (NIV2011) ³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth [or Gk:land].</p> <p>[Matt 24v37-39 parallel in Luke 17v26-27. It is in section Luke 17v20-37 which contains: “when will the kingdom of God come?” “Days coming when you will long to see it. Life will be normal and then it will come.”]</p>	<p><u>Heaven & Earth will pass away</u> <i>Note: Most commentators consider these refer to the end times.</i> Matthew here returns to the use of “parousia” which more clearly indicates this is about Christ’s final coming. No one knows when that day will be except the Father – so keep watch.</p> <p>It will like when the flood came in the days of Noah – people were doing all the things the world does, and then it came and they were taken away. So at the coming of the Son of man, some will be taken and others left.</p>

<p>with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.</p> <p>⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.</p> <p>⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.</p> <p>⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.</p> <p>⁴⁸ But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ ⁴⁹ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹ He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.</p>	<p>³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.</p> <p>³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.</p> <p>³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.</p> <p>³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.</p> <p>³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”</p>	<p>³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”</p> <p>[Matt 24v45-51 parallel in Luke 12v42-46. It is in section Luke 12v32-59 which contains: “seek first kingdom of God which is not of this world; Be ready because Son of Man will come unexpectedly and bring both reward and punishment; your responsibility is based on your gifting; interpret times: it is time to repent.”]</p> <p>³⁷ Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives,</p> <p>³⁸ and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.</p>	<p>- <u>No one knows when – Keep Watch</u></p> <p>Luke = pray that you will be able to escape and stand before the Son of Man.</p> <p>Be alert and ready, doing what the master wants you to do, because you do not know when your Lord will come.</p> <p>- <u>You will be held accountable – Be ready</u></p> <p>When he comes, he will reward according to what you have done.</p>
<p>Matthew 25</p> <p>Parable of bridesmaids ... therefore keep watch because you do not know the day or hour.</p> <p>Parable of bags of money – use what you have now to be ready for when master returns.</p> <p>Parable of Sheep & Goats – separated based on how treated the people of Christ – destiny in kingdom or eternal punishment.</p>	<p>Mark 14</p> <p>Leaders scheme to arrest Jesus</p> <p>Jesus anointed</p> <p>Judas agrees to betray</p> <p>Last supper</p>	<p>Luke 22</p> <p>Leaders looking to get rid of Jesus</p> <p>Judas agrees to betray</p> <p>Last supper</p>	<p>Matthew records parables concerning being ready and doing the right things now as he will reward accordingly when he comes.</p> <p>The other gospels move into the crucifixion: which is the reason why the temple is no longer required.</p>

- We know Jesus is coming, but how, when?
- Hal Lindsay – early teens – 1948, Israel, Bible dates – 1980's by 2000 latest.
- Early church expected early return; constant predictions through church history. I may give other examples over coming weeks – whether associated with key numbers like 1000AD or more worked out – 12th C monk Joachim of Fiore's detailed scheme for the emperor's removal of the papacy, empire falling and the Tartars destroying 10 kings from the east leading to C's return in 1260AD.
- What does God say in Bible?
- 4 weeks and maybe more in NY – start – what did J say in Gospels, next week is looking in Acts –
- nature brief – sheets to look further – 3 gospels & comments; using Matt as main; not scheme based on various verses, but message based on context is key.
- It will leave you with questions, but also I trust with a clearer idea of Jesus' greatest interest for you.

While Mark and Luke's starting question seems to purely refer to the destruction of the temple and "the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled", Matthew replaces this with "the sign of your coming and of the end of the age". It is highly probable that in the Jewish mind the fall of the temple represented the end of the age. It is noteworthy that these gospels were written prior to the fall of Jerusalem and possibly the writers still linked this thinking in their minds at the time of writing.

Most commentators are agreed that the first section is referring to the fall of the temple and Jerusalem (up to v28, v23 and v24 in M, M & L). The emphasis in all gospels is to watch and to not be deceived by any claims of the Messiah coming despite the troubles that may be around. Matthew uses the technical term "Parousia" once in this section to emphasise that when Jesus comes, he will be seen by all, so do not be fooled.

Commentators are more divided on the next section (v29-35, v24-31, v25-33). There is apocalyptic type expressions ("stars falling from sky") and strong reference to OT prophecy ("Son of man coming on the clouds"). There are three reasons to consider that this section is also referring to the fall of Jerusalem: the clearest echo of the stars falling from the sky is in Isaiah xx which is referring to the fall of Babylon, therefore the end of an earthly reign/power can well be represented; the coming of the Son of man is a clear reference to Daniel 7v13 which is referring to Jesus coming to the Father (at ascension?) not to his return to earth (in this scenario, the mourning is in fact a mourning of repentance, and when they see is a spiritual see); the statement that this generation shall not pass away strongly indicates a first century fulfilment, although it is possible that the word means "race", but this is not preferred by most translators and commentators. In this reading, the gathering of the elect and redemption is referring to the global take of the gospel and people being saved during church history (NB angels is the same word as messengers).

The reasons to consider this section are relating to the final return of Jesus is that the "Stars falling from the sky" is also alluding to Isa where the judgement is on the nations in general, and the use of such language feels like something bigger than Jerusalem falling; although the Daniel reference is to Jesus going to the Father's presence, this is different in this context as all people will see him and they will mourn. The "generation problem" can be either understood as the Jewish race will not pass away or as the generation that is present at the start of the troubles will also see the end – however this latter tends towards the previous sections also referring to the final years.

The three gospels then diversify in what they say, but seem to have shifted to the end of all things. Luke is the briefest, but seems to pick up on the "heaven and earth will pass away" with instruction to be careful how we live, because the day will suddenly arrive and to pray that we will escape the troubles and stand before Christ. Mark is similar in his message to be ready and alert for the master to return. Matthew gives a longer section with an emphasis on "the coming of the Son of man" at an unknown time: he uses the term parousia twice in this section which would tend to indicate Christ's final return. Christ is going to reward with either responsibility or eternal punishment. He then moves to three parables, each of which make the need to be ready for Christ's return and judgement very clear.

In Matthew's latter section is reference to one being taken and the other left. The connection with Noah would tend to indicate that those who are evil are taken and the righteous remain, although those who see the rapture in these verses would take it the other way round (not impossible).