

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 42

Lesson 43— Predictions by Christ, Part One

Background:

This is the first of two lessons that explore the predictions made by Jesus as He and the disciples were leaving the temple. The passages will look at future events, most of which are yet to come to pass. These passages have often been studied for clues about the timing of the "Second Coming". The passages are difficult to understand but help us to know that the Lord is working to a plan and He is in control, no matter what seems to be happening in the world around us.

However, as they are about future events, it is more important for us to understand the main teaching rather than focus on minute details that can be misinterpreted or taken out of context.

Read: [Matthew 24:1-31](#); [Mark 13:32-37](#)

Read the Following Quote

"Although Christians are most familiar with the first coming Christ, it is the second coming that gets the most ink in the Bible. References to the second coming outnumber references to the first by a factor of eight to one. Scholars count 1,845 biblical references to the second coming, including 318 in the New Testament. Christ's return is emphasized in no less than seventeen Old Testament books and seven out of every ten chapters in the New Testament. The Lord Himself referred to His return twenty-one times. The second coming is second only to faith as the most dominant subject in the New Testament." [Dr. David Jeremiah](#)

Questions:

What do you know about the Second Coming of Christ? Do you believe it is possible? Could it happen in our lifetime? How does the Second Coming of Christ make you feel?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Matthew 24:1-31](#)

Jesus Speaks About the Future

1. Where was Jesus leaving and where did He later sit? Why do you think the disciples point out the various buildings to Him? What would you point out if

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someone came to your capital city? What did Jesus say would happen to these buildings? (Verses 1-3) What condition are these buildings in today?

2. Jesus began to speak to the disciples privately. What were asking about? Are these still common questions people ask today? Why do you think that is? (Verse 3)

3. Next Jesus begins to talk about future events. What is the command that He gives before He talks about the future? How easy is it to find out the truth in our society today?

4. What are the two key points that Jesus talks about first in verse 5, then in verse 6? Are these things happening today? Are we at the end?

5. Describe what Jesus says will happen in verses 9-12. Do you see these things happening in the world today? Should we be frightened?

The Abomination That Causes Desolation

6. According to Jesus, what is going to happen in the Jewish temple? (verse 15) Compare the passage in Daniel that Jesus refers to – [Daniel 9:25-27](#) to help with the answer. How could an “object that causes desecration/abomination that causes desolation” be placed in the temple if the Jewish people have not had a temple since the year 70? Who would place this object of desecration and why would it cause such trouble?

7. What does Jesus suggest that people should do during this terrible time? What will happen to the people living at that time? How will they feel? Why will this time be ended? (verses 19-22)

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The False Messiahs

8. Verses 23-28 describe false messiahs. What should we do if we are told someone is the Messiah? What kind of things will false messiahs and prophets do? Why do you think that Jesus is warning us about this? Have you heard about false messiahs in your lifetime? What did they do? How did you know they were false?

9. What will the coming of the Son of Man (The True Messiah) be like? What do the signs Jesus has mentioned tell us about God's timeline for the future?

10. What will happen after these signs have taken place? (verses 29-31) Who will be seen coming on the clouds? Who will be with Him? Who will be gathered?

The Day and Hour [Mark 13:32-37](#)

11. Is it possible for anyone to know when Jesus is coming? Does anyone know the date? What should we do or say if someone says they know the date? How should we get ready for Jesus' coming? (Verses 32-33)

12. What illustration did Jesus use to describe His coming? What instruction did the owner give to the gatekeeper? How should we behave then?

Suggested Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you alone are the Lord and the one who holds the future. Help us to trust in your plan, however, difficult it might be to understand and however frightening it might appear to us. Father we look for the Coming of the Messiah, our Saviour Jesus and it is our desire to be faithful in working and waiting until He comes – according to your plan. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

For Further Reading:

[What is the Olivet Discourse?](#)

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