**August 12, 2022**

**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

**37 Market Street, New Haven, CT 06513**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Servant / Shepherd**

**The Late Bishop E. Samuel Green, Establishmentarian**

**TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU**

**MATTHEW 24:1-10**

***Matthew 24:1 "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to [him] for to shew him the buildings of the temple."***

***Matthew 24:2 "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."***

Chapters 24–25 are often referred to as the Olivet Discourse because they include a lengthy section of Jesus’s teaching to his disciples while on the Mount of Olives. As Jesus departed the temple, the disciples observed the splendor of its buildings constructed by Herod the Great. Knowing what was to happen in the future, Jesus shocked them by revealing that the temple they so admired would be completely destroyed. Not one stone will be left here on another, he said. Jesus was speaking prophetically of the destruction of the temple that He loved so well. This was the temple where He had driven the money changers out. He had taught reverence in the house of God, that it should be a House of Prayer. When Jesus (the Lord of the temple) left, it was desolate. The outward magnificence was gone when the holiness was gone. In less than 40 years, this temple would be destroyed in a bloody battle.

***Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"***

These disciples had all the things grouped together. One question, when will the temple be destroyed? When [would] these things happen? The disciples wanted to know the timing of the temple’s destruction, which they connected to Jesus’s return and the end of the age. While the Romans would overrun Jerusalem and decimate the temple in AD 70 under the Roman general Titus, the messianic age was yet future. The physical temple would be destroyed in less than 40 years. The temple of His body would be destroyed in just a few days. When would He return to the earth? In about 2000 years. When is the end of the world? At the end of the 1,000 years of peace on earth. You see, the disciples were wanting to know specifics. They had been listening to the warning to the scribes and Pharisees, and even heard of some of the disciples becoming martyrs. So, in chapter 24 Jesus described the tribulation period that will precede his millennial kingdom. The tribulation will begin with the seventieth of Daniel’s “seventy weeks” (Daniel 9:24-27).

***Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."***

***Matthew 24:5 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."***

Jesus warned them. the very first thing, that there would be deceivers. His first answer: "Take heed that no man deceive you". There were even deceivers then and now, but not the magnitude that will be in the end days. Even during the time of John, John spoke of antichrists being in the earth. These were not "the" Antichrist, but types of antichrists (those who were opposed to Christ's teachings). Paul spoke of heretical seducers. There were, also, others like Mohammed, that were worshiped instead of Messiah. In our day, there are many people claiming to be Christ. Worse than that, people have begun to deny that Jesus is the Son of God. They are bringing Him down to the level of mankind, and they are, also, trying to elevate themselves to the level of Jesus. The deception of false religion is rampant.

***1 John 4:3 “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”***

***2 John 7 “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”***

***Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet."***

The first half of the tribulation will be characterized by wars and rumors of wars. But the end is not yet. The tribulation will be a time of sorrow and unexpected pain, which will eventually lead to the end of the age, the return of Christ, and the birth of the messianic kingdom. There have been wars raging ever since Jesus made this statement. Wars have been on the increase in the last few years, and especially in the Middle East. Right now, there is conflict going on, on every continent. Young people are being killed every day in Israel. The Arabs and the Jews have been in constant conflict. The protestants and the Catholics are having a ("holy" ???) war in Ireland. There is conflict in the streets in all the major cities in all the countries of the world. The whole world is like a stick of dynamite about ready to explode. There are enough bombs already made to blow the whole world up. It is possible for some maniac to push a button and start an (all out) nuclear war. So certainly, this part of the prophecy is already fulfilled.

***Matthew 24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."***

***Matthew 24:8 "All these [are] the beginning of sorrows."***

Here Jesus speaks of the first half of the seven-year tribulation period. He used the imagery of the beginning of labor pains to describe the events of this time, which would be characterized by worldwide grief and agony. Nation will rise up against nation, and famines and earthquakes will be common. Even in World War II, many people believed that this was the fulfillment of this "nation shall rise against nation". Presently, the three world powers with nuclear bombs are the United States, Russia and China. There is really no peace between them, just a standoff. Russia has attacked countries like Afghanistan and Ukraine in attempt to take them over and have taken many small countries over to Communism. Ethiopia and India are both plagued with famine right now. Global pestilence is another problem. Earthquakes have been on the increase. Since it is evident that all of the above are already happening, we know that we are already in the beginning of sorrows.

***Matthew 24:9 "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."***

More severe trials will characterize the second half of the tribulation. Those who come to faith in Christ during this period will be persecuted. The account of this in Luke adds "before all these things". We do know that many of the disciples were delivered up and were martyred for the cause of Christianity. Hitler killed about 1/6 of the Jewish people in World War II. In our society today, if a person truly loves God and tries to do something to further the kingdom, he is labeled as a fanatic. Truly, the real believers in Christ are hated. Our nation, which is classified as a Christian nation, (and certainly did start out as a Christian nation) is hated around the world. The blessings from God have been on the United States, because of the stand we have taken toward Christianity. However, now that so many false religions have entered, it seems that the blessings from God are being lifted. After world II, many Far East religions crept into the country. Eastern mysticism is even infiltrating the main line Protestants churches. Mind control is being practiced and called faith. We see a watered-down Christianity that is without power. Second Timothy 3 calls it "having a form of Godliness, bur denying the power thereof". Even inside the church world there is bickering, fighting, and back biting. The message of Christianity has been so watered down, that our ancestors would not even recognize our services as having church. If you take a stand against these false teachings, then you are classified as being disturbed. However, if you truly love Jesus, it is time to be "disturbed." You can see, with no problem, that surely this part of the prophecy has been fulfilled, as well. This is the case in the next verses.

***Matthew 24:10 "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."***

***Matthew 24:11 "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."***

Betrayal and deception will be rampant. This is, probably, one of the most easily recognized things that we see in our churches today. One of the most damaging messages being taught today, is that Jesus Christ died spiritually and eternally; that He suffered in the grave for us. Many churches, who in the past have been very strong, are now teaching that Jesus was just a man when He walked the earth. Fifty years ago, had someone attacked the person of our Lord Jesus Christ like this, he would have been run out of town on a rail. Jesus said the church would be called a House of Prayer. You certainly would not call it that today. In most churches, very little praying is going on. It is very difficult to separate the activities that are going on in the church with the activities of the world. The world has been brought into the church. Very few churches really have services where you can feel the presence of God. We have gotten so worldly that God really doesn't feel very welcome. True repentance and commitment are hardly even part of the function of the church, anymore. Some churches go months and months without one single conversion. False prophets, preachers, and other officers have brought such a watered-down version of Christianity into the church that, except for the fact you are in a church house, you would believe you were at some form of world entertainment. The messages and services are appealing to the flesh. Many are being deceived. The only way not to be deceived is to know what the Bible says for yourselves. Read it every day. Ask God to help you. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and help you to discern right from wrong. Satan is clever, and he is out to destroy Christianity and the Christians. The only weapons that we have to fight him with are the name of Jesus Christ, the blood of Jesus, and the Word of God. Do not be deceived, learn the warnings in the Bible. Be wise in Jesus. Truly, this part of the prophecy has been fulfilled, as well.

**QUESTIONS**

1. When Jesus went out from the temple, who came to Him.
2. When Jesus showed them the temple, what did they say about it?
3. What questions did the disciples ask Jesus on the Mount of Olives.?
4. What two temples were meant here?
5. What was Jesus' first warning to them?
6. In verse 6, He said there would be what?
7. What ridiculous name is the war in Ireland known as?
8. In V-7, who is the conflict with?
9. In V-8, Jesus said all these signs were what?
10. If you love God today, you are labeled as what?
11. Truly, the real believers in Christ are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. In second Timothy 3, what is the description given our watered-down religion?
13. What does the Scripture say will happen among the brethren?
14. Who will arise and deceive many?
15. If you truly love Jesus, it is time to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. Jesus said the church was to be called what?
17. Modern messages and activates in most churches appeal to the what?
18. What is the only way not to be deceived?