

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo in Side, Turkey. The scene is captured during the "golden hour" of sunset, with a warm, yellowish-orange glow. Several tall, cylindrical columns stand on the left, and a prominent stone archway is visible in the middle ground. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and decay.

A Study of Matthew 24

End of an Age or End of Time?

The Setting

- Jesus' Enters Jerusalem For The Last Time (Matthew 21)
- Heated Exchanges With The Religious Leaders (Matthew 22-23)
- Woes Pronounced (Matthew 23:31-39)
- Predicts The Temple's Destruction (Matthew 24:1-2)

The Setting

Matthew 24:32-34

³²Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors! ³⁴Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

The Signs

- False Christs
- Wars and Rumors of Wars
- Famines and Pestilences
- Earthquakes
- Fearful Events From Heaven
- Persecutions and Tribulations
- “Abomination Of Desolation”

The Signs

“Now it came to pass, while Fadus was procurator of Judea, that a certain magician, whose name was Theudas, persuaded a great part of the people to take their efforts with them, and follow him to the river Jordan; for he told them he was a prophet, and that he would, by his own command, divide the river, and afford them an easy passage over it; and many were deluded by his words.”

(Josephus, The Antiquities Of The Jews, 20:5:1)

The Signs

“The history on which I am entering is that of a period rich in disasters, terrible with battles, torn by civil struggles, horrible even in peace. Four emperors fell by the sword; there were three civil wars, more foreign wars, and often both at the same time.”

(Tacitus, The Histories, 1:2)

The Signs

“the people of Caesarea had slain the Jews that were among them on the very same day and hour [when the soldiers were slain], which one would think must have come to pass by the direction of Providence; insomuch that in one hour’s time above twenty thousand Jews were killed, and all Caesarea was emptied of its Jewish inhabitants.”

((Josephus, The Wars Of The Jews, 2:18:1)

The Signs

Acts 11:27-28

²⁷And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

The Signs

“Many prodigies occurred during the year. Ominous birds took their seat on the Capitol; houses were overturned by repeated shocks of earthquake, and, as the panic spread, the weak were trampled underfoot in the trepidation of the crowd. A shortage of corn, again, and the famine which resulted, were construed as a supernatural warning.”

(Tacitus, The Annals of Imperial Rome, 12:43)

The Signs

“And as to earthquakes, many are mentioned by writers during a period just previous to 70 A.D. There were earthquakes in Crete, Smyrna, Miletus, Chios, Samos, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Colosse, Campania, Rome, and Judea. It is interesting to note that the city of Pompeii was much damaged by an earthquake occurring on February 5, 63 A.D.”

(J. Marcellus, An Eschatology Of Victory, p. 93)

The Signs

- Limited In Time (“This Generation”)
- Limited In Scope (**1-3, 16-19**)

Matthew 24:15

Therefore when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)

Luke 21:20-22

²⁰But when you see **Jerusalem** surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those in **Judea** flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in **the country** enter her. ²²For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

The Signs

- Limited In Time (“This Generation”)
- Limited In Scope (**1-3, 16-19**)
- These Events Can Be Escaped (**16-22**)
- After The Gospel Is Preached (**14**)

The Signs

Colossians 1:6, 23

⁶which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth...²³if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

The Signs

- Limited In Time (“This Generation”)
- Limited In Scope (1-3, 16-19)
- These Events Can Be Escaped (16-22)
- After The Gospel Is Preached (14)
- “Abomination of Desolations” (15)

The Signs

- Limited In Time (“This Generation”)
- Limited In Scope (1-3, 16-19)
- These Events Can Be Escaped (16-22)
- After The Gospel Is Preached (14)
- “Abomination of Desolations” (15)
- Fearful Events From Heaven (29-31)

The Signs

“there broke out a prodigious storm in the night, with the utmost violence, and very strong winds, with the largest showers of rain, with continual lightnings, terrible thunderings, and amazing concussions and bellowings of the earth, that was in an earthquake. These things were a manifest indication that some destruction was coming upon men, when the system of the world was put into this disorder; and anyone would guess that these wonders foreshadowed some great calamities that were coming” (Wars, 4:4:5)

The Signs

“Thus there was a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet that continued a whole year. Thus also, before the Jews’ rebellion so great a light shone round the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day time; which light lasted for half an hour” (Wars, 4:4:5).

The Signs

- Babylon (Isaiah 13:1, 10, 13, 17, 19)
- Edom (Isaiah 34:4-6)
- The Peoples (Isaiah 51:5-6)
- Judah (Jeremiah 4:1-6, 23-28)
- Egypt (Isaiah 19:1; Ezekiel 32:7-8)
- The Nations (Joel 3:15-16)
- Nineveh (Nahum 1:1-5)
- Israel (Amos 8:1-2, 9)

Transition

Destruction Of Jerusalem

Coming Of The Lord

- “Days”
- “Know”
- Abnormal Times
- Warning
- Time For Flight
- Limited, Local
- Imminent
- On Earth (15-18)

- “Day”
- “Know Not”
- Normal Times
- No Warning
- No Time For Flight
- Universal
- Delayed
- In Heaven (25:31)

Be Ready!

1 Thessalonians 5:2-4

²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

The background of the image shows ancient stone ruins, including several tall columns and a prominent archway, set against a dramatic sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The foreground consists of a stone-paved path.

**Are You
Ready?**