

## Matthew 24 and 25

The Lord's very clear prophetic response to His disciples' question, "*When will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?*"

By Jim Sayles

Unfortunately for the body of Christ there are only a few watchmen on the wall who are accurately seeing and reporting the truth concerning "things to come" in our immediate future as recorded in Matthew 24 and 25, which is the Lord's straightforward answer to His immediate disciples, and through them, to His current disciples who will experience them.

Most of those who teach biblical prophecy are instead demonstrating the effectiveness of beast kingdom's propaganda and deceptions over the past 2000 years within the institutional church of Jesus Christ. Yet, the Lord has given us a very clear outline of things to come in response to the question asked by His original disciples, the same question that is being asked by many disciples today, though most are not asking the Lord Himself who has given us the Spirit of truth for the distinct purpose of revealing "things to come." (John 16:13)

The following is the Lord's answer to those who are willing to ask Him prayerfully for a *rhema* understanding of the answer He gave to His original disciples, an answer that the Father has caused to be written down and included in scripture for the benefit of those believers who will literally experience what has been prophesied.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, "***Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.***" Matthew 24:4,5 KJV

Historically we are aware of numerous cult leaders claiming messiahship, but this warning also includes our need to be spiritually alert to the deceptions knowingly or unknowingly taught as truth, even by those who have taught the absolute, immutable, rhema truth of God in some things, but unknowingly teach lies about other things without knowing the difference.

Though Satan is the originator of all deception, it is men who unknowingly deceive us, men who have authority in the institutional church, men who promote the deceptions through the institutionalization of false doctrine, with the most popular and most dangerous deceptions having their origin in "Zionism," which is

the belief that national, ethnic Israel is still the primary covenant intent of the Father in spite of the very clear understanding that God's covenant intent is for spiritual Israel consisting of both Jews and Gentiles " as one new man " in Christ who are now identified as " the Israel of God ."

A quote from "Jesus Christ Immutable" by Charles Spurgeon reveals the truth succinctly:

"These who saw Christ's day before it came, had a great difference as to what they knew, and perhaps in the same measure a difference as to what they enjoyed while on earth meditating upon Christ; but they were all washed in the same blood, all redeemed with the same ransom price, and made members of the same body. Israel in the covenant of grace is not natural Israel, but all Believers in all ages."

Our current level of deception within the body of Christ is powerfully and undeniably demonstrated through our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord, including the truth about things to come.

What this division demonstrates is a massive disconnect from the Spirit of truth who was given to lead us into all truth, including the truth about things to come.

What the Lord taught His disciples is that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, would supernaturally "guide" us into ALL TRUTH, including the truth about things to come. (John 16:13) Thus, "taking heed" in regard to not being deceived is to seek and rely on the guidance and confirmation that comes only through the Spirit of truth regarding all doctrine and practice, including "things to come." This is not a denial of the ordained leadership of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, but their leadership is not absolute. It is always to be confirmed by a Spirit-revealed, Spirit-confirmed examination of scripture by those believers who desire the truth more than they desire to be conformed to "group-think" doctrines because of the fear of man.

Paul succinctly identified this fear of man conformity when he identified the Bereans as being more "noble" spiritually than the Thessalonians. In this regard the Bereans confirmed the word of truth brought to them by Paul by allowing the Spirit of truth to guide them in their understanding of scripture. Yet, the Thessalonians who believed Paul on the basis of his status within the body of Christ, also believed a false teacher whom they presumed had status within the body of Christ. Thus, their belief was based not on Spirit of truth revealed and confirmed understanding but on the perceived status and authority of those who

taught them. In regard to “things to come” the Lord Himself has given us a very clear outline of the entire history of the spiritual body of Christ from His resurrection all the way to the great white throne judgment as recorded in Matthew 24 and 25. And this primary truth is confirmed in many other passages, including the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

***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. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.*** Matthew 24:6-8 KJV

The Lord’s reference to “ye” hearing and experiencing these things positively identifies that what He is warning us about was and is directly related to the body of Christ who would and will experience those things in the world.

The history of fallen mankind is one of almost continuous warfare, whether tribal or national, and warfare itself is not a unique sign of the final days of the age, though there will certainly be warfare at a level never experienced before during the time of the end.

The time frame identified by the Lord as “the beginning of sorrows” includes the opening of the first three seals by the Lord, all of which have already been opened. And it concludes with the ultimate influence of the black horseman resulting in a third world war, taking place primarily in the Middle East but not without consequences for the United States of America and the rest of the world.

Yet, the most important thing that we need to recognize about this shocking event that rocks the world with an all-out nuclear exchange that will set the entire Middle East on fire is that it is this specific event, followed by continued war and the chaos of economic collapse, famines, pandemic disease, and wild animals killing as many as 1.5 billion people, that will ultimately result in the dominance of the 4th horseman, the pale green horseman whose name is “Death.” All of which Satan wants us to believe that we will escape through a pretribulation “rapture” so that we will not be prepared to persevere and endure in this God-ordained time of testing that will result in both the awakening, and the perfection, of the spiritual body of Christ.

Many Christian believers also presume that “tribulation” and “great tribulation” are the same event, but they are not. The word, “tribulation,” just means trouble, and it suggests a struggle not only to stay alive, but also a struggle by the body of Christ to walk by faith and obedience in the struggle of the kingdom of God in Christ against the beast kingdom ruled by Satan, which is

a struggle ordained by God for the body of Christ all the way to the end on the 1 Tishri “last day” resurrection of the saints of all time.

***Then***...after the “beginning of sorrows”... ***shall they*** ...various beast kingdom authorities... ***deliver you*** ...Christian believers... ***up to be afflicted***, ...experience “tribulation”... ***and shall kill you*** : ...Christian believers... ***and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake*** ... .note: only the body of Christ carries His name... ***And then shall many of My people be offended against Me because of the trouble, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets*** ...from among My people... ***shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the*** ...agape... ***love of many shall wax cold*** . Matthew 24:9-12 KJV (inserts and emphasis are the author’s)

A question that jumps out at us in this passage is: “Why will many of His people (born again Christian believers) be offended against the Lord resulting in betrayals within the body of Christ, including hatred toward other believers, and a plethora of false prophets leading to an abundance of ‘iniquity’ (demonically inspired sin) and apostasy?”

The answer is that the majority of protestant Christian believers today expect to be whisked away by a secret (not disclosed in scripture) pre-tribulation “rapture,” and they are not, therefore, prepared for the trouble to come. These, then, will hate, and lose trust in those leaders (“prophets,” pastors, and teachers) who taught the lies that caused them to be unprepared for the trouble. These will even take offense at the Lord Himself, as though it was the Lord who deceived them and is allowing them to suffer when they expected to escape the trouble.

It is no wonder, then, that the current body of Christ is in denial of this very clear prophecy concerning our future.

As recorded in “The Four Horsemen,” we are in the latter stages of the dominance of the 3rd horseman, the black horseman, who brings with him worldwide financial collapse, famine, and disease. In short, the possibility of a 3rd world war, including a nuclear exchange, beginning in the Middle East but expanded to the primary political powers in the world, will be the opening of the 4th seal and the beginning of that time the Lord has identified as “tribulation.” “They” in this passage indicates various beast kingdom entities after the formation of a world government, which will be the world-wide response of most of the political entities in the world after this future, dangerous, short but deadly war.

This response will likely be a form of the United Nations with a ten-nation ruling body and a consensus vote rather than a veto vote. The reason why “they” will deliver Christian believers up to be afflicted is that the awakened body of

Christ will be alert to the fact that a world government is the landmark event in Biblical prophecy identifying an unspecified length of time identified as “tribulation.” Those apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers at that time who have the truth and are teaching it in spite of extreme opposition from apostate Christianity as well as opposition from various world authorities, will be seen as the enemy of world peace and order. This will be much like conservative Christian believers as these are currently seen and assaulted by liberals both within and without the organized church of Jesus Christ at the time this is being written.

At the time this is being written I have received a total of seven spiritual storm warning dreams from the Lord. The following was recorded in my article, Storm Warnings:

On May 22, 2013 I was given a third storm warning. In this dream I was in Brad Kochis’s Lifepoint Church in Columbus, Ohio (where I have not, yet, been) with Brad issuing a emotional message of repentance to his congregation. One third of his congregation came forward in repentance, but two thirds remained in their seats. Outside, walking along with an unknown witness, we came to a marvelous, gigantic tree. It was tall and straight, like a eucalypt tree with smooth, white bark, hundreds of feet tall and with a base at least six feet in diameter. Suddenly the tree fell without warning, and what we saw was shocking to us. The inside of the tree was completely rotten except for a core of living heartwood through the very center of the tree. And, though the tree was broken, the heartwood was only bent.

The gigantic tree with the smooth white bark that we greatly admired is the United States of America. The tree, as we know it, will fall suddenly and without apparent warning, exposing the fact that, in spite of the magnificent appearance of the tree, the inside is rotten except for the core of living heartwood, which represents the influence of the true church of Jesus Christ. But, at the time that this tree will fall, the core of living heartwood will no longer be able to hold it in the upright position. The body of Christ will, therefore, be impacted and “bent” by the fall, but we will not be “broken.” The children following us and playing with no concern about the shocking events we were witnessing are the “foolish virgins” of the true church, totally engaged in their “playing,” which includes numerous false doctrines, including false interpretations of prophetic scripture deliberately introduced into the church by the father of lies to keep us in a state of spiritual stupor, as well as keeping us in an attitude of denial concerning our immediate future.

In the Matthew 24:9-12 previously quoted we notice several specific warnings in order:

1. Those believers who have, and are teaching, the revelatory truth about what is happening will be hated by the new world government as well as certain aspects of apostate Christianity (like Israel at the time of Christ), and they will persecute and prosecute those awakened apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers who are speaking the truth.

2. The many who are offended are those Christian believers who are offended by the fathers of our faith who are leading the body of Christ in the truth at that time, because it will impact those Christian believers who are willing to compromise the truth and the commands of the Lord in order to escape persecution. This will result in an elevated enmity within the organized church between the “wise” and “foolish” virgins (all those who are innocent before God because they are in Christ).

3. This is followed by a massive increase of the presence of false prophets within organized Christianity, all of whom will be perfectly in line with the antichrist, Jewish supremacy agenda of Satan. (i.e. Israel will be unharmed by the nuclear holocaust immediately prior to this time, causing Jewish supremacists within and without the organized church to hate those in the body of Christ who warn the body of Christ that this is Satan’s agenda for the revealing of the antichrist “man of sin”.)

4. It is the agape love of Christian believers, the love inspired and empowered by God, that grows cold in many born again believers resulting in a massive apostasy and enmity between those who become apostate (and are subsequently inspired and empowered by demonic influences) and those who overcome and are enduring the persecutions, deceptions, and worldly trouble at that time.

In the parable of the ten virgins given as a further illustration of the details of the Lord’s prophetic response to His disciples’ question concerning the time of the end, He identified the following progression of events:

***At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins*** ....innocent before God, because they are in Christ... ***who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom*** . . .The number 10 indicates the entire corporate body of Christ. These were wide awake with their lamps burning brightly as they manifested the truth, love, and power of Jesus Christ in a dark world... ***Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil*** ...of the Holy Spirit... ***with them***. . .indicating that these are not “guided” by the Spirit of truth... ***The wise ones, however, took oil in***

*jars along with their lamps* ... making certain that they were still being “guided” and empowered by the Spirit of truth, which is the primary difference between being “wise” or “foolish”... *The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all* ...the entire body of Christ... *became drowsy and fell asleep* ...the current status, because we have not, yet, been awakened by the Spirit’s shofar blast from the watchtower wall.

*“At midnight* ...the darkest hour before sunrise brings the light... *the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps* ...the God intended response of the body of Christ awakened by the message shouted into our souls by the Holy Spirit, the “groomsman” of Christ. This is obviously not the “rapture” many are falsely expecting. This is instead an awakening accompanied by shocking events taking place in the world.

*The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’* ...meaning that the manifestations of faith by the “wise” are observed by the “foolish” believers who are not responding appropriately to the testing of their faith in a time of intense trouble.

*“No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell the oil* ...of the Holy Spirit, the true apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers who are walking by faith in the circumstances... *and buy some for yourselves.’* ... “Buying” in this case indicates “hearing” and “believing” what the true apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers reveal to them by the Spirit.

*“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived...*on the 1 Tishri “feast of trumpets,” which is the “last day” resurrection of the saints of all time... *The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.*

*“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. ”*

A concise outline demonstrates the key truths:

1. In the beginning all of the virgins (innocent before God because they are in Christ) are awake with lamps filled with oil, wicks neatly trimmed, and flames burning brightly. This is a description of the first three centuries of Christianity

in which disciples generally manifested the truth, glory, and power of Jesus Christ in their words and actions.

2. Ultimately all of the virgins began to become spiritually drowsy with some falling asleep when the Lord tarried. This is, prophetically speaking, the current condition of the body of Christ, because the next event in this parable has not, yet, taken place.

3. The groomsman, the Holy Spirit, awakens the entire body of Christ with His announcement of the soon, but not immediate, return of Jesus Christ. This is like a trumpet blast from the watchtower wall, “BEHOLD! The bridegroom cometh. Come ye out to meet Him.” This is NOT the pretribulation “rapture,” a non-event invented by the father of lies to keep us in our state of somnolence where “things to come” are concerned. The “come ye out to meet Him” is literally a command for the body of Christ to respond to the repentance demanded by the Lord in the message to the seven churches (Revelation 2 and 3).

4. This is a supernatural awakening of every single born-again believer in Jesus Christ. This awakening is likely to take place at the same time that the 4th seal is opened, and it will come with a BANG, initiating a rather lengthy 4th, 5th, and 6th seal series of events identified as “tribulation,” a time in which God has ordained for the testing of the body of Christ in order to prepare a remnant identified as the “wise virgins” a.k.a. the Philadelphian type of believers who will not only persevere in “tribulation” but also overcome the antichrist beast kingdom during the 7th seal events of “great tribulation,” the specific 3.5 year event immediately prior to the return of the Lord.

***But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world ...by the remnant “wise” virgins... for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”***  
Matthew 24:13,14 KJV

The “he that shall endure” unto the end of the 6th seal events are the wise virgins who maintain the oil of the Holy Spirit in their lamps (souls) and their wicks trimmed (souls unhindered by sin and false doctrine) during the trying times of the 4th-6th seals of “tribulation.” The “salvation” of the “wise” virgins at the end of the 6th seal events is identified as the sealing and complete redemption of the 144,000, identified as the persevering saints, Jews and Gentiles as “one new man” in Christ.

The number 144,000 is metaphorical. 12 tribes and 12 apostles (12x12) = 144. The OT event that prophetically precedes this 7th seal event is the event in which

the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue as "god." These were in the "fire" ("great tribulation"), but they were not harmed by the fire, while Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers who threw them into the fire were themselves killed and consumed by the fire. And these "wise virgins" walked in perfect fellowship with the Son of man "in" the fire. It is these, the metaphorical 144,000 "wise virgins" who then bring in the multitude from every nation in the face of the worst Satan can do through his beast kingdom, glorifying Christ who is fully present with them and manifesting through them. (See The 144,000)

***"Then they... (the beast kingdom authorities)... will deliver you ... (believers)... to tribulation , and will kill you , and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many ... (of My people)... will fall away ... (apostasia – "apo" – away from / "stasia" – standing; i.e. fall away from your current standing in Me)... and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise ... (from among My people who have fallen away from faith in Me)... and will mislead many ... (others of My people)... . Because... (both spiritual and natural)... lawlessness is increased, most people's love ... (agape)... will grow cold. But the one ... (among My people)... who endures to the end , he will be saved.*** (Indicating that the ones among His people who do not endure, will ultimately reject their faith in Christ because of the extreme deception and trouble of those days.) Matthew 24:9-13  
NASB

"Agape" love is the covenant love of God that can only be manifested by believers through faith. The best an unbeliever can manage is "phileo" love, brotherly love. This agape love is the covenant love of believers that grows cold through unbelief so that they ultimately reject their faith in Christ and become demonically empowered persecutors of those whom they once called "brothers." These are also identified as the "synagogue of Satan" who persecute the end time Philadelphian church to whom it is promised that the Lord will "keep" (protect and provide for) during the 3.5 years of "great tribulation ."

It is, then, understandable, why many in the body of Christ, and in the organized institution of Christianity, whether born again or not, are intensely attracted to the Zionist (Jewish supremacy in the covenant intent of the Father) dispensational concept of a pre-tribulation "rapture" in which they will escape the events specifically defined as being applicable by the Lord's own prophetic word in response to the disciples' question, "When will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Prepare yourself to walk in obedience and faith during the events ordained by God for the testing and perfection of the generation of the body of Christ who will ultimately prevail over Satan's beast kingdom during the 3.5 years of "great tribulation," after the "man of sin" declares himself to be God and Messiah in the third temple rebuilt by the Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful movement, or deny the truth in order to quench the fears and anxieties of the flesh. We each have a choice, and we have been warned by the Lord Himself.

In the Lord's own words, ***"Behold, I have told you before."*** ... (in advance of their literal fulfillment)... Matthew 24:25 KJV