

Matthew 24 and 25

The key ruling scripture passages as given by the Lord Himself concerning the end of the age and His return

I find it both strange and disturbing that those who propose a pre-tribulation “rapture” of the church are ignoring 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?*”

This is the same question we are asking today, and any search for the truth should begin with an examination of the answer our Lord gave to His immediate disciples who wrote it down for His future disciples who would experience these events.

Any understanding of end time prophecy that is in disagreement with the Lord’s own answer is then, a false interpretation.

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 these events.

The obvious, observable truth expressed directly to His disciples, present and past, should be our “go to” initial source by which all end time prophecy is judged. But most of those who teach biblical prophecy are demonstrating the effectiveness of the beast kingdom’s propaganda and deceptions over the past 2000 years within the institutional church of Jesus Christ, the proof of which is our division into hundreds of denominations (differences of doctrinal understanding and practices).

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 express purpose of revealing “things to come.”

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. John 16:13 NASB

Who will disclose to us what is to come?

The following is the Lord's answer to those who are willing to ask Him prayerfully for a ***rhema*** Spirit of truth-revealed and confirmed 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.

Thus, the Lord has warned us in advance concerning the multitude of deceptions currently accepted by the body of Christ in relation to “things to come.”

Though Satan is the originator and instigator 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.”

Zionism 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 now and has always been 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 hundreds 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.

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 various “group-think” doctrines and denominations because of the fear of man and the desperate, soulish need to conform to the group.

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 later 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 just as MANY in the body of Christ also do.

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.

You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Matthew 24:6-8 NASB

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 have and will continue to experience these 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 second and third seals by the Lord, a.k.a the red horseman (war) followed by the black horseman (jihadism and pestilence) all of which have already been opened. And it concludes with the ultimate influence of the black horseman, a future event resulting in a third world war, beginning 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 will rock 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 "ashen" 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 remnant spiritual body of Christ.

But tragically, it will also include the "many" that will become apostate during this time of trial due primarily to unpreparedness related to the numerous false doctrines related to "things to come."

Those leaders who have taught the dispensational, Zionist, doctrine of a pre-tribulation "rapture" will no longer be credible to those they have deceived. Yet, they will invent some other lie to cover their guilt.

And I, for one, do not want to kneel before my Lord and explain why I did not teach the truth, though the truth is clearly revealed in His own words.

Some 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 warfare of the kingdom of God in Christ against the beast kingdom ruled by Satan, which is spiritual warfare 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.

“Great tribulation” is, then, a distinct 7th seal, three-and-a-half-year escalation of this trouble after the “man of sin” declares himself to be Christ returned.

Keep in mind that Jesus is speaking to His immediate disciples, indicating that “you” in this passage also relates to a future generation of “disciples.”

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*...Christian believers...*be offended against Me because of the trouble*,...that they did not expect because they were taught that they would be carried away by a pre-tribulation “rapture”... *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* ...spiritual lawlessness...*shall abound, the* ...agape... *love of many*...of My people...*shall wax cold*...resulting in their apostasy and eternal separation from the Lord who shed His blood for them. Matthew 24:9-12 KJV (inserts and emphasis are the author’s)

Theirs, then, is the most tragic event in the entire history of Christianity. (And all because they believed they would escape “tribulation” and were not, then, prepared by faith for the trouble).

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 lawless “iniquity” (demonically inspired sin) and apostasy?

The answer is that the majority of protestant Christian believers today expect to be whisked away in 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 “**What are the end times?**” we are in the latter stages of the dominance of the 3rd horseman, the black horseman, who ultimately brings with him worldwide financial collapse, famine, and disease. In short, this also includes

the possibility of a 3rd world war, including a nuclear exchange, initially in the Middle East but expanded to the primary political powers of the world.

This will be the opening of the 4th seal and the beginning of that time the Lord has identified as “tribulation,” a rather lengthy time that includes the 4th, 5th, and 6th seal events as recorded in Revelation.

“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 enemies 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 leading a remnant of 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 virginsinnocent 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 are wide awake with their lamps burning brightly as they manifest 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" will be 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 ...at the great white throne judgement... 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 the announcement of His soon, but not immediate, return. 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 wake up and respond to the repentance, as well as the faith, 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 God has **ordained** for the testing of the body of Christ, as well as all those who are not yet in 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 will also dramatically 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, including both 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 are sealed during the interim between the 6th and 7th seal events who then bring in the multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue in the face of the worst Satan can do through his beast kingdom.

It is also these "wise virgins" who have endured and persevered the events of the 4th, 5th, and 6th seal events who glorify Christ who is manifested perfectly through them during the 7th seal as these then bring in the multitude from every nation tribe and tongue in the face of the worst Satan can do through his beast kingdom.

Imagine, for just a moment, as the Spirit guides, what this experience of the "wise virgins" having overcome during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of "**tribulation**" will be like as they bring in the multitude in the face of the worst Satan can do through his beast kingdom.

Will it not be worth "overcoming" the trials to come in order to participate in this great climax played out in the 3.5 years of "great tribulation" in which the Lord prevails over the beast kingdom **through** the sealed and fully redeemed wise virgins (i.e. the metaphorical 144,000 representing spiritual Israel, the body of Christ, Jew and Gentile as "one new man" in Christ, **NOT** as erroneously taught, national, ethnic Israel.)

“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?”

Yet, this is exposed as a Satanic lie introduced into the organized church of Jesus Christ in order to overcome the “foolish” during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of “tribulation.”

The “wise” will walk in obedience and faith during the events ordained by God for the testing and perfection of the end time generation of the body of Christ who will ultimately prevail over Satan’s beast kingdom during the 3.5 years of “great tribulation.”

The “foolish” will deny the truth in order to quench the fears and anxieties of the flesh. And, in doing so, they expose themselves and those they teach to the fate of the “foolish.”

In this regard to the wise 144,000, the Lord gave me a prophetic dream.

In this dream I was with a group making our way up a rocky mountain to escape the trouble down below when we found an abandoned rock cabin. Inside the cabin were the remains of a recent occupation. Empty bottles and cans, rags, and trash.

Whoever stayed there obviously did not own the cabin, and when I asked the Lord for the meaning of that part of the dream He caused me to understand that this group, representing the “foolish” virgins of the end times church who experience the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of “tribulation” in spiritual poverty (without faith). These, then, gave up, and went back down the mountain to become prisoners of war in the service of Satan.

My group continued up the mountain, and we came to an, as yet unoccupied retreat consisting of a beautiful rock meeting hall with glass windows facing a large rock fountain with water shooting up from an artesian spring.

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.” John 14:13 NASB

On the opposite side of the spring in a great semi-circle above the spring were individual rock dwellings overlooking the spring itself.

We were the first to arrive, but this was obviously the place ordained for us to be, in perfect unity with one another and with the Lord who is our fountain.

This is the future of the “wise” virgins (Christian believers) who overcome the “trouble” of the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals and are then incorporated in Christ in their fully redeemed bodies in perfect Spirit empowered communion with one another and with the Lord during the 3.5. years of the 7th seal as these bring in the multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue in the face of the worst Satan can do through his beast kingdom.

In the Lord’s own words, ***“Behold, I have told you before.”*** ... (and you are now responsible for either believing Me or believing the lies of the enemy as these are spoken through the non-revelatory lies of men)...Matthew 24:25 KJV

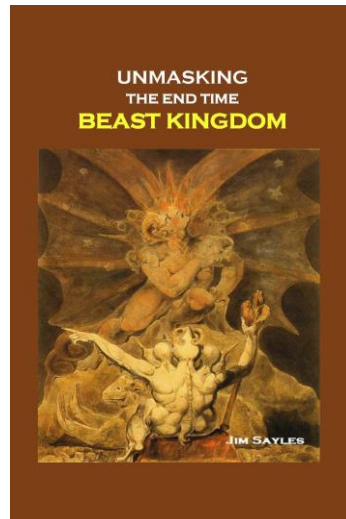
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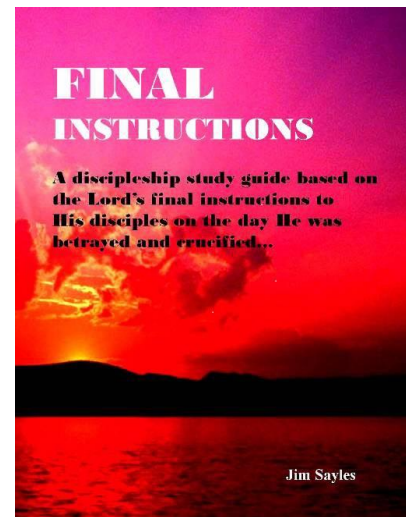
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