

THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (PART ONE)

Matthew 24:15-31 // December 15, 2024 PM

I. Our Lord foretells climactic *deseccration before* His coming (vv. 15-28).

II. Our Lord foretells climactic *defeat at* His coming (vv. 29-31).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Can you explain the difference between the preterist and futurist interpretations of Matthew 24? Which has Pastor Nick been advocating? What do you think?
2. What OT prophet does Jesus point back to when He speaks of “the abomination of desolation” (v. 15)? What happened in Israel’s history prior to Christ’s first coming that fulfilled this prophesy? If it had already been fulfilled, how could Jesus speak of it as still future?
3. What are some indications in the text that Jesus is foretelling an event that would happen within the lifetime of the apostles? What is the “great tribulation” He speaks of, and how does He call His disciples to respond?
4. What was the siege of Jerusalem and the deseccration of its holy place by the Romans a rehearsal for? How does Daniel teach us this? How does 2 Thessalonians 2 teach us this?
5. Why is it important for disciples to have a realistic understanding of the future? How does our understanding of the end change the way we live now and enable us to persevere?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Have I ever had unrealistic expectations that led me to be unprepared for the future? Why are expectations so significant?
2. Is the analogy of a rehearsal and a wedding helpful in understanding the relationship between Christ’s judgment on Jerusalem and His judgment on the world? Why, or why not?
3. How do Christ’s words here call me to prepare for the future?