

The Church or Israel / The Rapture or the Second Coming of Christ.

Key Passage > **Matthew 24:1-3**

I. The Historical Background of the Passage.

II. Outline of the Passage:

- - The Disciples Show Christ the Buildings of the Temple. (**Verse 1**)
- - Christ Announces the Future Destruction of the Temple. (**Verse 2**)
- - The Question(s) of the Disciples. (**Verse 3**)

III. Christ's Answer to the Disciples' Question(s).

IV. Some Clarifying Notes with Reference to Christ's Answer.

- Matthew is a book that was written by a Jew to the Jews, presenting Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, in other words the King of the Jews. The context of the book is totally Jewish. (**Verses 4-25, 46**)
- The Church was- totally unknown in the O. T. and therefore also unknown to the Jews at the time of Christ's earthly ministry in Israel.
- The question(s) of the disciples in vs. 3 had to do with His coming as King to reign in His kingdom and had nothing to do with the Rapture of the Church. This condition was due to the fact that the Church was still unknown at that time.
- Christ would not give an answer to the disciples that had nothing to do with the question(s) the disciples had ask Him. In other words, in His answer He was talking of His coming to reign in His kingdom and not His presence in the clouds at the time of the Rapture of the Church.
- The biblical purpose of the Tribulation has to do with Israel and not the Church.
- A nickname for the Tribulation in the O.T. is *"the time of Jacob's trouble."* (Jer. 30:7). The context of this passage has to do with Israel in the Tribulation.
- Verses in Mat. 24:4-36 that show Christ was speaking of Israel and a time of trouble. (**Verses 5, 9, 13, 14-16, 20-21, 23-24 & 29-31**).
- Take notice! Keep in mind! If Christ was talking about the Church in Mat. 24, He was teaching that the Church will be present in the Tribulation.
- Similar terms or events in the Bible, does not mean they are the same thing.

The importance of Christ's reference to "the days of Noah" in Mat. 24:37-41.

--In this passage Christ is still answering the disciples' question(s) that appear in (*Matthew 24:3*), that deal with His coming to reign in His kingdom.

--"as in the days of Noah." (*Verse 37*)

--(*Verses 38-39*): It's obvious that the people involved in these two verses were the unbelievers of Noah's time, because they "did not know/understand until the flood came and took them all away."

--(*Verses 40-41*): Due to the context of the passage the word "taken" in both verses refers to the the unbeliever that is taken to destruction and the word "left" in both verses refers to the believer that is left in the world and upon leaving the ark would start to repopulate the world. In other words, Noah and his family. Similar wording is found in (*Luke 17:26-37*): where Noah and Lot are mentioned in the same context as the Matthew 24 passage.

--If Christ had been talking about the Rapture of the Church instead of His coming to reign in His kingdom in this passage, He would have used the words "as in the days of Enoch" or "as in the days of Elijah" which would represent the condition of the believers being taken to heaven and the unbelievers being left in the world at the time of the Rapture.

--Christ's used the reference to Noah because the conditions of Noah's time are exactly the same as the conditions at the time of His coming to reign in His kingdom. In other words, the unbelievers are taken to destruction and the believers are left to repopulate the world.



Look for Part 3 of 3 for this series to be announced soon!

About This Week's LESSON:

This is Part 2 lesson of a 3 part series was an excerpt out of Elder, Bob Duncan's Comprehensive Study Outline entitled:

The Church... "A Mystery, in the Old Testament"

originally covered at the [1.8.23](#) meeting.

The Purpose of this study is to reveal many of the distinct differences between scriptures that are exclusively about Israel from those speaking only of the Church.

Both pointing to and being fulfilled as prophesied by God in the end times, while being completely different in their purpose and timing.

It is our prayer that you will find this study outline, either in their separated 3 weekly lesson formats *posted by the following dates, taught in our weekly lesson archives"*

[12.18.23](#) | [01.08.24](#) | ([TBD](#))

or in it's complete PDF composite file offering:

[The Church... "A Mystery, in the Old Testament"](#)

...to be edifying and noteworthy of your time spent in studying it and/or reviewing it often enough to be able to help others rightfully divide the word of truth (the Bible).

For more information on Skip's weekly Bible Study Lessons or how you can attend one of his live meetings please visit the website or email your questions to:

SkipsBibleStudy.com

SkipsBibleStudy@gmail.com



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