

JESUS TEACHES ON THE END TIMES

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In *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, Jesus taught on His 2nd coming and the end of the world. This study will give an overview and also some detail as to what He taught.

We will begin with giving an overview of Matthew chapters 24 and 25. Within this overview, one can see the timing of the events that Jesus mentioned.

- 1) **Three Questions Asked** **Matt. 24:3**
And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
- 2) **Let No Man Deceive You** **Matt. 24:4**
- 3) **First Half of Tribulation Period** **Matt. 24:5-12**
- 4) **Parentheses – Concerning the End** **Matt. 24:13-14**
- 5) **Half-way Point of Tribulation Period** **Matt. 24:15-20**
- 6) **Last Half of Tribulation Period** **Matt. 24:21-22**
- 7) **The Second Coming of Christ** **Matt. 24:23-25:30**
Matt. 24:23-31:
False Christs vs. 24
Like Lightning vs. 27
Dead Bodies vs. 28
Sun, Moon & Stars vs. 29
Sign of Son of Man vs. 30
Angels Gather Elect vs. 31
 - A) **Will Know it is Near** **24:32-35**
 - B) **Like the Days of Noah** **24:36-41**
 - C) **Watch!!** **24:42-44**
 - D) **Three Parables** **24:45-25:30**

Wise Servant / Evil Servant
Wise Virgins / Foolish Virgins
Faithful Servant / Unprofitable Servant
- 8) **Judgment of Nations – Sheep & Goats** **Matt. 25:31-46**

First Half of Tribulation Period

Matt. 24:5-12

Jesus' teaching of end time events from verses 5 to 12 correspond with events in Revelation chapter 6 which occur during the first half of the Tribulation Period. Note the parallel between the verses in Matthew (Bold font) and the verses in the book of Revelation:

Matt. 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Rev. 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. (Antichrist)

Matt. 24:6 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. Matt. 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and

Rev. 6:4 And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

there shall be famines, and

Rev. 6:5-6 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Rev. 6:8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and **with death**, and with the beasts of the earth.

Greek word for "with death" *qa, natoj*, death; with every form of it in the NT treated not as a natural process but always as a destroying power related to sin and its consequences... **by metonymy deadly disease, pestilence (RV 6.8)**

Matt. 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Sorrows: Greek word: *wvdi, n, i/n0j*, (1) literally, as the pain that accompanies childbirth *birth pang, labor pain*

Compare:

Jeremiah 30:6-7 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Christians will not go through the Tribulation Period.

The Tribulation Period is a time of “birth pangs” on the earth. Birth pangs are followed by a new birth. This earth will experience the *regeneration* (new birth) when Christ comes:

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Christians will miss the Tribulation Period:

1 Thess. 5:4-9 But ye, **brethren**, are **not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief**. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For **God hath not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...

Matt. 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. Matt. 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Revelation 6:9-11 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.

Matt. 24:11-12 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

The False Prophet comes in the Tribulation Period:

Rev. 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Parentheses – Concerning the End

Matt. 24:13-14

Matt. 24:13-14 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 for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

These verses speak of things to occur before the end.

1. Those that endure to the end – will be saved.

I believe this means that their body will be saved – and that they will go into the Millennial Kingdom alive.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

If Jesus did not come back, everyone would be wiped out - no flesh should be saved – but those that endure to end (their flesh) will be saved.

Here are millennial passages concerning these that are ‘saved.’

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, *that every one that is left* of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Isaiah 4:3 And it shall come to pass, *that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:*

Isaiah 24:6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and **few** men left.

2. The gospel of kingdom preached in all the world

This will be accomplished by the 144,000 preaching in tongues. This will be the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32

Joel 2:28-31 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.*

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel... Peter stated that the day of Pentecost was a fulfillment of Joel, however, this was only a minor fulfillment. The major fulfillment will be in the Tribulation Period when the 144,000 preach in tongues. The result of their preaching is found in Rev. 7:9:

Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

We know that Joel was not completely fulfilled on the day of Pentecost because the following was not fulfilled:

Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Half-way Point of Tribulation Period

Matt. 24:15-20

Matt. 24:15-20 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

The abomination of desolation occurred in 168 B.C. when Antiochus Epiphenes set up an idol to the god *Jupiter* and sacrificed a sow in the Jewish Temple. However, Jesus spoke of the abomination of desolation as a future event. Hence, when Antichrist sits in the Temple as god, the abomination that makes desolate will be fulfilled.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

In Daniel's prophecy, he often describes Antiochus and then springboards into a prophecy about Antichrist. One may further study this in Daniel.

Antiochus	Dan. 8:9-12	Dan. 11:21-31
Antichrist	Dan. 8:23-26	Dan. 11:35-45

Last Half of Tribulation Period

Matt. 24:21-22

Matt. 24:21-22 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Period are referred to as The Great Tribulation. The Bible will refer to the whole 7-year Tribulation as great, but this last half is unusually horrific.

It is a time for God to **purge Israel** so they will receive Christ as their Messiah:

Jeremiah 30:4-7 And these *are* the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for **that day is great, so that none is like it**: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was** since there was

a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Malachi 3:1-3 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and **purge them as gold and silver**, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and **will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried**: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

The Second Coming of Christ

Matt. 24:23-25:30

Matt 24:23-31 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not.

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Second Coming of Christ will be evident. Jesus told us to not be fooled or misled.

Matt. 24:23 & 26 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not... Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not.

His Coming will be characterized by:

- **Lightning** (Suddenness of Lightning)
All will see Him

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Luke 17:24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one *part* under heaven, shineth unto the other *part* under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

- **Dead Bodies**

Matthew 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Luke 17:37 ...Wheresoever the body *is*, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Isaiah 34:1-8 Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the LORD *is* upon all nations, and *his* fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling *fig* from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, *and* with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For *it is* the day of the LORD'S vengeance, *and* the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

Jeremiah 25:30-33 Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread *the grapes*, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come *even* to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them *that are* wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

Revelation 19:17-19 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Isaiah 63:1-4 Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore *art thou* **red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone**; and of the people *there was*

none with me: for I will **tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury**; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

The winepress is the peoples that have taken the Mark of the Beast. They are the a part of the “vine of the earth.” Jesus is the True Vine – Antichrist is the false vine – the vine of the earth.

Revelation 14:18-20 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

The way that the Lord Jesus Christ will defeat these peoples at the Battle of Armageddon:

Zechariah 14:12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

The ones that Jesus destroys at His Coming are those who have totally rejected the witness of the 144,000 and have totally followed the Antichrist. They have rejected the warning by the angel and they have worshipped the Beast and received his mark.

Revelation 14:9-10 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...

- **Sun, Moon & Stars**

Joel 2:10-11 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp *is* very great: for *he is* strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Joel 2:30-31 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

Isaiah 13:9-13 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

- **Sign of His Coming**

- A) In The Clouds**

Acts 1:9-11 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

- B) With Power**

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

- C) With Great Glory**

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

His Glory:

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his **face did shine as the sun**, and his raiment was white as the light.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his **countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength**.

Acts 26:13-15 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, **above the brightness of the sun**, shining round about me...I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew

tongue, Saul, Saul... And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

- **Angels Gather the Elect**

Isaiah 11:12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

A) Will Know it is Near

Matt. 24:32-35 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Israel is represented by the: (1) Vine, (2) Fig Tree, and (3) Olive Tree.

Re: Haggai 2:19, Hab.3:17, Ps.80:8-11, Isa.5:1-7, Matt.21:33-41, Hosea 9:10, Joel 1:6-7, Rom. 11

In Matt. 21:18-20, the cursing of the fig tree is in connection with Israel's rejection of Messiah and now this cursing shows His rejection of them. The fig tree should have retained leaves through the winter and would have had some of last year's fruit. This fig tree was deceptive in character. Jesus cursed Israel in Matt. 23 for their hypocrisy.

In Luke 13:6-9, Jesus had sought for 3 years of public ministry for fruit from Israel and found none.

Hence, the parable of the fig tree would indicate that when one sees Israel – the fig tree 'bud' then know that His coming is near. Israel became a nation in 1948.

B) Like the Days of Noah

Matt 24:36-41 But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

No one knows the day or hour of His coming. His coming will be a surprise to this world as they will be absorbed in the affairs of this life (vs. 38). Noah preached for 120 years, and only 8 were saved.

The ones taken away in the flood (vs. 39) were taken away into judgment. The ones left were preserved through the wrath of God. The ones taken in vs. 40-41 are taken away into judgment, and the ones left will enter the Millennium. These verses speak of the 2nd coming of Christ, not the Rapture.

Here is a passage in the O.T. that corresponds with this event:

Zechariah 14:16-17 And it shall come to pass, *that every one that is left* of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

The end times will be like the ‘Days of Noah:’

Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him.

The saved will leave before the wrath of God at the Rapture.

Methuselah lived for 969 years. His name means, “When he is dead, it shall be sent.” When Methuselah was dead, the wrath of God would be sent. See Amos 3:7.

God is longsuffering in sending His wrath to this earth.

Noah was preserved through the wrath of God.

Israel will be supernaturally preserved by God and enter the Millennium.

C) **Watch!!**

Matt 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

This parable tells us to be ready & watch. There are 3 more parables and they also are connected with this idea to – watch! (Matt. 25:13) Who is to watch? It is for the saved to be watchful before the Rapture.

Here is why I believe that these 4 parables (Matt. 24:42 - 25:30) are for the Rapture.

1. *Watch* (in the Greek) is in the imperative (command), present active (continuous action) tense.

Hence it is a command to: Watch & Keep on Watching

2. Jesus knew that the Rapture would occur before His coming. Hence, when he tells them to *watch*, He would know it is impossible for them to watch for His 2nd coming, as the saved will be gone before this event.
3. The Porter Parable in Mark 13:28-37 tells them to Watch – presumably for the Rapture:

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, *even* at the doors... *For the Son of man is* as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And **what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**”

4. Matthew 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

This verse corresponds with the saved (before the Rapture) in 1 Cor. 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

5. Matthew 24:46 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

This verse would not correspond with the fact that Israel will be ‘in hiding’ for 1260 days before the 2nd coming of Christ.

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

Revelation 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Isaiah 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Israel is the woman in Rev. 12, yet Jesus said, “Blessed is that servant whom is found ‘doing.’ Israel will be hiding, not doing.

6. The meeting of the Bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13) corresponds with the Rapture. Here is the Jewish culture of this event:

The Groom would pay the price for the bride. He would make a little speech to his bride saying, “I go to prepare a place for you,” and he would return to his father’s house.

Back at the father's house, he would build her a bridal chamber, a little mansion, in which they would have a future honeymoon.

The bride had to wait. She would have oil in her lamp ready incase he came at the darkness of night. During this long period of waiting, she was referred to as consecrated, 'set apart', and 'bought with a price.' She was a lady-in-waiting.

As the groom's party approached her house, the young men were obligated to give her warning. Someone in the party would shout. When the bride heard the shout, she knew the Bridegroom would be there momentarily. She only had time to light her lamp and grab her honeymoon clothes and go.

This all speaks of the Rapture, not the 2nd coming of Christ. Hence, I believe these parables are for the saved in the N.T. era and tell us to 'Watch' for the Rapture.

D) Three Parables

- **Parable of the Wise Servant / Evil Servant**

Matt 24: 45-51 Who then is a **faithful and wise servant**, whom his **lord hath made ruler over his household**, to give them meat in due season? Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord **when he cometh shall find so doing**. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that **evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming**; And shall begin to smite *his* fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: **there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**.

Wise & Faithful Made ruler over his household (I Cor. 4:2, I The. 2:4)
Be Doing When Lord Comes (Faith is an action word - Heb.11)

Evil Servant Lord delayeth coming – live for here / today
Lost - Hell

- **Parable of the Wise Virgins / Foolish Virgins**

Matt 25:1-12 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. They that *were* **foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them**: But the **wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps**. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at **midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him**. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: **and the door was shut**. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, **Lord**, open to us. But he **answered** and said, **Verily I say unto you, I know you not**.

Waiting for the Bridegroom:

Wise Virgin Oil in their Vessel with their Lamps (Oil speaks of the Holy Spirit)
(Rom.8:9, 2 Tim. 2:21)

Foolish Virgin No Oil with them (Unsaved have not the Spirit of Christ)
Door was shut – Lost – I know you not (2 The. 2:8-12)

Jewish tradition on marriage (From *A Christian Love Story* by Zola Levitt):

When the young man saw the girl he wanted, he would approach her with a marriage contract. The bridegroom would offer to pay a suitable price for her. If the contract was suitable between him and the father of the bride, the bride and groom would drink a cup of wine together and this would seal the bargain. Then the groom would pay the price and prepare to leave.

The groom would make a little speech to his bride saying, “I go to prepare a place for you,” and he would return to his father’s house. Back at the father’s house, he would build her a bridal chamber, a little mansion, in which they would have a future honeymoon.

The bride had to wait. She would have oil in her lamp in case he came at midnight. During this long period of waiting she was referred to as consecrated, set apart, and bought with a price. She was a lady-in-waiting. When the time came, the bridegroom would return for his bride.

There were rules to be observed (Matt. 25:6&10) in consideration of the woman’s feelings. As the groom’s party of young men would get close to her house, they were obliged to give her a warning. Someone in the party would shout. When the bride heard the shout, she knew the young men would be there momentarily. She only had time to light her lamp and grab her honeymoon clothes and go.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Soon, the Lord Jesus Christ will return for His bride. Do you have the indwelling Holy Spirit in your lamp? When the shout is made, it will be too late to get saved. In fact, the door to salvation will be shut to those who have rejected a clear presentation of the gospel:

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Matt 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

- **Parable of the Faithful Servant / Slothful & Unprofitable Servant**

Matt 25:14-25:30 For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and **delivered unto them his goods**. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man **according to his several ability**; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. **After a long time the lord of those servants cometh**, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, **thou good and faithful servant**: thou hast been **faithful over a few things**, I will **make thee ruler over many things**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, **good and faithful servant**; thou hast been **faithful over a few things**, I will make thee **ruler over many things**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine. His lord answered and said unto him, **Thou wicked and slothful servant**, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the **unprofitable servant** into **outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**.

Good & Faithful Servant

Ruler Over Many

Wicked, Slothful & Unprofitable Servant

Thou knewest / oughtest
Lost - Hell

A talent in this parable is money. This parable teaches that we each have some abilities and we should use them for the Lord.

Christians should be busy in the work of the Lord. We should be using our gifts given to us in our local church. The Holy Spirit gives gifts for the Christian to use in his/her church.

I Corinthians chapter 12 tells of our use of gifts within a local body / a local church. When members of a church do their part, the body, the local church, receives the edification. We are to serve Christ within a church. We should get lost in the cause of Christ within a church.

One day, rewards will be given at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Greek word for this is *Bema Seat*. It was a reward seat for the Greek games. God will reward us for what we do.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

The wicked and slothful servant hid his talent:

Judges 5:23 Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

Judgment of Nations – Sheep & Goats

Matt. 25:31-46

Matt 24:31-46 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Verse 31 leaves the parable scene and tells of a real event – “When the Son of man shall come...and before him shall be gathered all nations....”

There are other verses which describe this event:

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The day of His 2nd coming will be a day of great divide. Sheep & goats will be divided. Notice the end result of this divide:

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart** from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal**.

Who is in charge of this great divide? Jesus, the Lord (vs.37 & 44) is now the King (vs.34 & 40).

Luke 1:30-33 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Hebrews 1:8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Note that in verse 34, the kingdom was prepared for these humans, but hell was prepared for the devil and his angels in verse 41. If you are saved, Jesus is preparing a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

If you are not saved, you will burn forever in a place prepared for the devil and his angels.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Notice the surprise of the sheep when Jesus said that they treated him well:

Matthew 25:37-40 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

The Bible teaches here that saved people love other saved people. It is an evidence of salvation.

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

If one persecutes the church, they persecute Jesus:

Acts 9:4 And...heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Are you saved? Do you love the brethren? Loving the brethren is an evidence that you have been born again.

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

In closing, here are some *Signs of the End Times* given by Clarence Larkin.

Signs of The End Times

Knowledge Increase

Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Scoffers

2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

Apostasy

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Seducing Spirits

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Perilous Times

2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Heaped Up Treasures

James 5:1-6 Go to now, *ye* rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned *and* killed the just; *and* he doth not resist you.

Laodicean / Lukewarm Church

Revelation 3:14-22 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will

sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Israel Regathered

Matthew 24:32-33 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.

Distress of Nations

Luke 21:24-27 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.