

Matthew 24:1-44
The Return of the King
May 10, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - The Bible says, in Romans 1, that we gain a knowledge of God and His ways by the things He's created.

One of God's incredible creations is a fish called an "anableps."

The top half of an anableps eyes has an air lens and the bottom half has a water lens. This allows the anableps to focus on two things at once.

Matthew 24:1 - Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.

v. 2 - Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another.”

v. 3 - Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

The disciples equated the destruction of the Temple with the end of the world...

So, when Jesus talks about the destruction of the Temple they ask:

- ***What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?***

That's the question Jesus answers beginning in verse 4.

What will be the sign of your coming?

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The First Half of the Tribulation Period

1 Thessalonians 1:10 - Wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who *delivers us from the wrath to come*.

Revelation 3:10 - "I'll keep you from the hour of trial that's going to come on the whole world."

Six Signs That Mark The First Half of the Tribulation Period.

v. 4–14 - Jesus said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I'm the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you'll hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you're not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there'll be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the *beginning of sorrows*. “Then they'll deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you'll be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Sign #1 - Spiritual Deception

v. 5 - Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I'm the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

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Revelation 6:2 - I looked and saw a white horse, and its rider had a bow. And he was given a crown, and he rode out to overcome and conquer.

Sign #2 - International Conflict

v. 6 - You'll hear of wars and rumors of wars.

v. 7 - Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

According to the Council of Foreign Relations there are currently 26 wars going on right now.

Sign #3 - Natural Disasters

v. 7 - There'll be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

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Sign #4 - Persecution of God's People

v. 9 - “They'll deliver you up to tribulation and *kill* you, and you'll be *hated by all* nations for My name’s sake.”

Sign #5 - Widespread Apostasy

v. 10 (NIV) - At that time *many* will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and *many* false prophets will appear and deceive *many* people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of *most* will grow cold.

Sign #6 - Worldwide Evangelism

v.14 - This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in *all the world* as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

v. 15 - Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”

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Daniel 9:27 - The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of seven years, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation.

2 Thess. 2:4 - He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

v. 15-27 - "When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand). Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. Let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, (such as hasn't been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here's the Christ!' or 'There!' don't believe *it*. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I've told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He's in the desert!' don't go out; *or* 'Look, He's in the inner rooms!' don't believe *it*. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

v. 29 - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon won't give its light."

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v. 29-31 - The sun will be darkened, the moon won't give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they'll see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He'll send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they'll gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

v. 32 - "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

John 9:4 - "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it's still day. The night is coming when no man can work."

v. 34 - Assuredly, I say to you, *this generation* will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

v. 35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

2 Peter 3:10-14 - The Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God... In keeping with His promise we're looking forward to *a new heaven and a new earth*, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you're looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.

v. 36 - "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

v. 37 - But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage...

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v. 38-41 - They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage... until the day that Noah entered the ark, and didn't know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you don't know what hour your Lord is coming.

v. 43 - **But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would've watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you don't expect.**

"Live each day as though it might be your last--and one day you'll be right."
