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Matthew 24

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Matthew 24.

Topics.

- The temple will be destroyed.
- Many will say, "I am the Christ."
- The beginning of birth pains.
- As lightning shines so will be the coming of the Son of man be.
- Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.
- The powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- The lesson of a fig tree.
- This generation will not pass away.
- As in the days of Noah.
- One taken and one left.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus spoke eight woes to the hypocritical Pharisees and scribes and told them that they will not escape being sentenced to hell? (Gehenna). He told the disciples to call no man rabbi or father on earth (in the sense of being a priest), whoever exalts himself will be humbled. The chapter ended with Jesus crying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! See, your house is left to you desolate, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

MATTHEW 24:1-5

The Temple will be Destroyed.

- **Matthew 24:1-5:** Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ³As 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 close of the age?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray (deceive you in KJV). ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray."

At the end of this chapter the Lord says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the Son of Man will come on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory and gather his elect (v29-31). After those days refers to everything Jesus is about to tell his disciples in answer to their question, "What will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" Therefore, the following discussion between the disciples and Jesus focuses on various signs that will take place prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The temple will be destroyed: the disciples are probably speaking to Jesus about how magnificent the temple is, but he tells them it will be destroyed so they ask him two questions:

- When will the temple be destroyed?
- What will be the sign of his coming and of the close of the age?

NOTICE: the very first thing Jesus says to his disciples regarding the end of this age is to be careful no one deceives them and leads them astray, thus as we approach the return of Christ we can expect an increase in deceptive and distorted teachings that have the potential to lead people away from Christ. If it was possible for Jesus' disciples to be led astray it is certainly possible for Christians today to be deceived.

Many will say, "I am the Christ:" I am the Christ, does not necessarily mean they are saying that they themselves are the Christ, the term "I am the Christ", can mean, that they agree or are teaching that Jesus is the Christ, but even though they are saying, "Jesus is the Christ" their teachings are so distorted and deceptive that rather than saving people they are actually leading them astray.

NOTICE: Jesus is not saying to the disciples, "Many will come in the last days saying, Jesus is the Christ", he says that they will come even in their time we know this because he warns the disciples not to be deceived, thus though Jesus' statement is in the context of the question "What will be the sign of his coming and of the close of the age" deceiving and deceptive teachers are not limited to the end of the age. Jesus' warning can apply to any high standing religious leader throughout the ages who has had great influence in leading multitudes of confessing Christians astray, and also apply to all deceptive teachers who will follow in the same distorted teaching of the Gospel as we approach the return of Christ and the end of this age.

MATTHEW 24:6-8

War, Famines and Earthquakes.

- **Matthew 24:6-8:** And you (the disciples) will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Jesus tells his disciples that they will hear rumours of war, but not to worry because the end will not come in their time, nations will go to war, enormous famines will follow and there will be multitudes of earthquakes in different countries around the world, but all of these are only signs leading up to the end of the world as we know it today (see notes following verse fourteen).

The beginning of birth pains: The Bible personifies the earth as a pregnant woman struggling in labour pains and wanting to give birth (the resurrection) to the children of God. Like any pregnant woman as the birth gets closer the labour pains increase and become more rapid climaxing in extreme pain in the last stages of the pregnancy until the child is born, but instantly, in the moment of delivery, the pain is turned to great rejoicing as the mother holds her new born child in her arms, not only is the proud Mum in great joy, but all her family and everyone who is connected to her are celebrating the birth of the new child. Such is the picture the Bible paints of the earth, the resurrection and the sons of God and Christ's return. Troubles on earth will increase and become more rapid until Christ returns and the children of God are resurrected, then there will be great joy and rejoicing. The apostle Paul says:

- The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (Rom. 8:19-23).

MATTHEW 24:9-14

Many will Fall Away from the Faith.

- **Matthew 24:9-14:** "Then (after wars, famines, earthquakes) (v7) they will deliver you (the disciples) up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The following verses show that there was a great famine during the days of the disciples:

- Now in these days (when Barnabas and Paul were teaching in Antioch) prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch and one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius Caesar). So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea (Acts 11:27-29).

Thus, there was a great famine and rumours of war and nations rising up against nations in the days of the disciples climaxing with the armies of Rome destroying the city of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. This event certainly changed the Jewish religious world as they had known it, but Jesus said these are only the beginning of birth pains (v8) and continues explaining to his disciples further troubles that are to take place before the Son of Man comes on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory and gather his elect (v29-31), thus the earth is going to suffer various troubles until it gives birth to the children of God and a New Age of justice for all, righteousness and peace begins.

A reflection on the conversation of the previous Chapter: in the eighth woe of the previous chapter Jesus condemned the religious leaders of his era (the scribes and Pharisees) because he knew they would aggressively set about persecuting the disciples from town to town, flog them in their synagogues and even worse crucify many. No-doubt many who had accepted the distorted teaching of the religious leaders betrayed their own families during this time of extreme persecution, enormous horror and great sorrow.

False prophets and lawlessness will increase: (v11-12) as a result of the corruption of the Gospel many false prophets will continue to arise and as the secular world moves further away from God and the ethics and standards He has laid out in the Bible and the laws guiding mankind in the way of right living and the path to dwelling in harmony with each other, which are all summed up in God's Royal law, "Love your neighbour as yourself," (meaning do not deliberately harm other humans physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually) not only will the world decline into chaos, but the church will also be affected and the love of many for God will decline.

NOTE: this would also embrace the idea that though many churches maybe full, the congregation is there not so much because they deeply love God that they would lay their lives down for Him, but because those they look up to as religious leaders are proclaiming a distorted Gospel that promises worldly prosperity, success and perfect health.

The Gospel will be proclaimed to the world: (v14) certainly in our day and age of global technology this is possible, but it does not mean that everyone will accept or embrace it. To some the Gospel will bring life while to others it will bring death.

NOTICE: it does not say that every individual on planet earth will hear it, but that it will go out to all nations. Obviously if the heads of a nation reject the Gospel the nation as a collective whole will suffer loss, (i.e. in communist countries the government stands against those who proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ), nevertheless even in extreme darkness if a person's heart is seeking God will respond accordingly.

The one who endures to the end: (v13) the words, "Endure to the end" implies that being a Christian does not always mean that a believer will have a charmed life, enduring to the end not only implies hardship and difficulties but that some who are in the faith will fall away. Today; because of distorted teaching of the Gospel there is a danger in some circles of Christianity of people being misled into thinking that because they are a child of God their life should be relatively free of trouble. This is because the underlying thought lying behind some present-day modern teaching presents God as a kind of Santa Claus that has a bag full of good gifts to give to His children. Under this kind of teaching some can be led to believe that God's love toward them is determined by their circumstances, (i.e. if life is going well God loves them, but if life has taken a downward spiral into difficulty God has withdrawn His love), but if the apostles who went hungry and were persecuted thought of God's love in this way they would certainly not have endured the beatings and imprisonments they suffered. If we ever feel God has withdrawn His love all we have to do is look at the bloodstained cross and see what it cost God to redeem us and the enormous suffering Christ endured to save us.

MATTHEW 24:15-27

The Abomination of Desolation.

- **Matthew 24:15-27:** "So when you (the disciples) see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰Pray that your (the disciples) flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²²And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵See, I have told you (the disciples) beforehand. ²⁶So, if they say to you 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Desolation: means to, lay waste or make desolate (i.e., forsaken, barren depressing and gloomy).

Abomination: carries the idea of a great dislike or disgust especially of idolatry.

Seven abominations that the LORD hates:

1. Haughty eyes.
2. A lying tongue.

3. Hands that shed innocent blood.
4. A heart that devises wicked plans.
5. Feet that make haste to run to evil.
6. A false witness, a person who breathes out lies.
7. One who sows discord among brothers (Proverbs 6:16-20).

When the abomination of desolation (spoken of by the prophet Daniel) is standing in the holy place, it is going to trigger enormous destruction in Judea, so horrific that Jesus warns his disciples to pray that it will not take place in the freezing cold months of winter or on a Sabbath Day (because of the laws restricting what they could do) and that it will be a great time of sorrow for woman who are pregnant. When the abomination of desolation is established in the temple the only escape from the terror of this time is to flee into the mountains of Judea. It will be such a destructive period of time that if it was not brought to an end the elect (the nation of Israel) would have been totally wiped out.

The Abomination of Desolation, is far too big a topic to cover in this chapter, for further information see:

- (Daniel 11:31) (Daniel 12:11).
- In, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As lightning shines so will be the coming of the Son of man be:

Jesus continues warning his disciples of false Christs and false prophets saying their teaching will be so distorted and deceptive it will led many astray, but then comforts the disciples by saying that they do not need to trust on what others are saying because the return of Christ will be like lightening (i.e. so spectacular it will be obvious and very clear to all that it is Christ), no-one will need a teacher to show them who this man is that has come in glory to establish God's Kingdom on earth.

NOTE: when Jesus is talking about false Christs and false prophets coming with distorted and deceptive teachings that will led many astray, he does not mean we all have to know the exact detail of every doctrine and every detail of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation or even have them all correct. Jesus is not saying we have to be walking Bible encyclopaedia's to be saved.

Teachings that led people astray in the New Testament refers to doctrines that lead people to ungodly living and doctrines that led people away from salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In other verses these distorted teachings are called doctrines of demons. One of Paul's greatest spiritual battles was against Jewish teachers who continually tried to pull those who had accepted Christ back under the Mosaic Law. Deceptive teaching primarily refers to teachings that produce disciples who trust in their own self-efforts and good works to be saved rather than in the Lord Jesus Christ.

They are deceptive because relying on self-effort to be saved usually comes in the form of good things (i.e. daily reading the Bible, praying, regularly attending church on Sunday, being faithful to Bible teaching classes, teaching Sunday school, being involved in church activities and helping others in need etc.), obviously these are all good things in themselves, but if a person is trusting in them to be saved to eternal life they have been led astray from the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why the false teachers teaching is so deceptive it does not come clothed in evil, (i.e. telling people Jesus is an anti-Christ or that the Bible is full of error etc.), which would have no power to led the elect astray, rather the deception comes beautifully clothed in good things which the Lord delights in and which will benefit those who practise them. They only become destructive when those practising them are trusting in them to be saved

rather than trust in in the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value. Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, Grace and Faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skillfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

MATTHEW 24:28

Wherever the Corpse is, there the Vultures will Gather.

- **Matthew 24:28:** Wherever the corpse (carcase in KJV) is, there the vultures (eagles in KJV) will gather.

The King James Bible says eagles, but the correct bird would be vultures, because it is vultures that gather to dead bodies. In the natural world wherever a dead body is vultures gather to it for food. In this chapter Jesus is constantly warnings against false prophets and false teachers, thus the symbolism of the vultures and the dead bodies refers to false teachers and their followers, (i.e. wherever false teachers are there will be spiritually dead followers who gather to them for food), but they will only be getting fed spiritually dead teaching.

MATTHEW 24:29-31

The Sign of the Son of Man.

- **Matthew 24:29-31:** "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son

of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The powers of the heavens will be shaken: the following are the two most common teachings within Christianity regarding the statement, "The sun and the moon will be darkened, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken:

1. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be such a majestic, awesome and supernatural event that the sun and moon will be literally darkened and the stars will literally fall from heaven causing the entire galaxies of the heavens to be moved out of their place.
2. The sun moon and stars are symbolic of governments and political powers, while the heavens figuratively speak of the world's system of money, banking and trade on earth, thus when Christ returns rulers of nations, political authorities and governments along with the world system of finance will crumble.

My personal understanding and belief of the sun and the moon being darkened etc. is that Christ's return will be a combination of both the first and second teaching. It is certain our system of finance based on extreme debt and credit (totally opposed to the heart of God) and many corrupt governments will collapse and it is also certain our climate and weather patterns will change for the better since Christ is returning to establish and entirely New Age that is not only safe, but is also just and fair for all, an age without oppression and in which money and profit is not the king.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days: (v29) means immediately after everything Jesus has been saying since the disciples asked him the question, "What will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" (v3) Thus immediately after refers to the things in the following list: -

7

Immediately after:

- The temple is destroyed.
- Nations have gone to war against each other.
- Extreme famines and earthquakes have happened in various countries.
- The disciples have been persecuted and put to death.
- Nations are in a state of hating those who confess Christ.
- Brothers and sisters in Christ have started hating and betraying each other.
- The rise of many false prophets and teachers who lead multitudes astray.
- Lawlessness has increased and the love many had for God has grown cold.
- The Gospel of the kingdom has been proclaimed throughout the whole world.
- The abomination of desolation is standing in the holy place.
- Tribulation so great it is beyond anything the world has seen.

Immediately after all these events Christ will return, those who have died in Christ will be resurrected and those who are alive and belong to him will be gathered together with those resurrected and they will be forever with Christ in eternal glory.

Concerning this theme Paul wrote:

- The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

All the tribes of the earth will mourn: the words, "All the Tribes of the Earth will Mourn" (v30) can refer to all the nations of the earth mourning because the global system of mammon (money) has collapsed, but most likely refers to the twelve tribes of Israel as the language immediately takes the ardent Bible student to Zechariah chapter twelve which has Zechariah prophesying that a day will come in which all the armies of the nations will gather against Jerusalem to destroy it, but the Lord will rise up to protect the city and destroy all who come against it. When this event reaches its climax the following prophetic words of Zechariah regarding the tribes of Israel will be fulfilled. The LORD said:

- I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on *him whom they have pierced*, all the families of Israel will mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

John cites the prophetic words of Zechariah:

- The Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced" (John 19:37).

The book of Revelation picks up on the prophetic words of Zechariah:

- Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen (Revelations 1:7).

A word of comfort: for those who feel they do not have enough biblical knowledge to understand the exact detail of the events or the scenario that leads up to Christ's return there is no need to fear. This is because Jesus said, "It will be as lightening is from the East to the West, meaning it will be so spectacular that for those who belong to Christ there will be no mistaking that it is their Lord, their Saviour and their King who is dramatically and majestically returning in glory (Matthew 8:11) (Luke 13:29). Besides all this Jesus said:

- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand (John 10:27-29).

How comforting are these words of Jesus, we do not have to be walking Bible encyclopaedia's because Jesus knows we love him. Jesus will save us not because of our knowledge, but because of our love, faithfulness and devotion toward him. Added to this he says we are held in the hand of God the Father and no-one is able to take anything out of God's hand. If these fantastic words are not enough to convince us that we will not be left behind when the Lord returns, he promises he will never allow the faithful to perish (eternally), but will grant them eternal life.

MATTHEW 24:32-36

The Lesson of a Fig Tree.

- **Matthew 24:32-36:** "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴Truly, I say to you, this

generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

The lesson from the fig tree: in the same way that Jewish people knew that summer was close because leaves had appeared on the branches of the fig trees those who have faith in Christ should know when all the things mentioned in this chapter have come to pass the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is close at hand.

This generation will not pass away: (v34) this generation will not pass away until all these things take place is not referring to the generation of Jesus era, but the generation who sees all the events spoken of in this chapter. Some readers maybe disappointed that in this study I have not been able to more closely pin point the arrival of Christ, but Jesus himself says concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only (v36). Nevertheless, Paul wrote:

- The day of the Lord will not come upon you like a thief in the night, because you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief because you are all children of light, children of the day and not of the night or of the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5).

This means that we can know that we are in the day (i.e., the generation) in which the Lord will return and as this glorious and majestic time that we all long for grows closer the events and prophecies of his return will also become so much clearer.

MATTHEW 24:37-39

As in the Days of Noah.

- **Matthew 24:37-39:** As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

In the days of Noah prior to the flood, people were working, trading, building homes, falling in love, marrying and having children life was continuing as per normal, but when the flood came so did sudden destruction, everything changed for everyone, nothing was ever the same again. So, it will be when Christ returns, the earth will not be destroyed, but everything as we know it today will be brought to ruin, but in its place new life, a new government and a new world will emerge and everything will be changed. The people in Noah's day refused to believe that a flood was coming just as the people of this age often scoff at those who speak of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sadly, as the people of Noah's day were taken by shock and surprise because of their disbelief so to will the people of this age be taken by the same surprise as most continue on in life giving God no thought thinking that the world will continue on as it always has.

MATTHEW 24:40-44

One Taken and One Left.

- **Matthew 24:40-44:** Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Taken: generally, means to receive and take with, to associate with oneself in any familiar or intimate act or relationship.

Left: usually denotes separation and departure, the complete cessation or reversal of something.

Based on these meanings and in the context of the chapter the expression one will be taken and one left means people will be working and continuing on in the mundane things of everyday life when Christ returns, but those that belong to the Lord will be taken, meaning gathered up to be with him while others who were with them will be left.

Stay awake, for you do not know when the Lord is coming: if a homeowner knew when a burglar was going to enter their house and steal their goods they would stay awake and not leave their home, thus, in regards to the Lord Jesus Christ stay awake carries the idea of remaining faithful and enduring to the end until he comes. The principal is to always be prepared for the return of the Lord at any time.

MATTHEW 24:45-51

Who then is the Faithful and Wise Servant?

- **Matthew 24:45-51:** “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NOTICE: both servants have the same master and are in the same household, meaning both are in the Kingdom of God, but one is faithful and wise while the other is a hypocrite, oppresses others for his own gain and lives a lifestyle that is no different to those of the world.

Weeping and gnashing of teeth: various Scriptures say that some who thought they would be servants accepted into the Kingdom will be cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Outer darkness in this context carries the idea of being in the extreme opposite to light, it implies that people instead of being in the light will be in darkness, meaning someplace outside the Kingdom of God and separated from God. Maybe outer darkness refers to the servants who thought they would be in the kingdom, but instead find themselves dwelling amongst the nations describe in the following verses that are pictured living on earth during the glorious millennial age of Christ, but apart from him and outside of the majestic New City of Jerusalem.

Outer darkness is certainly an apt description of living outside of the New and Holy City of Jerusalem when its light is contrasted to the darkness of the nations. There will be enormous weeping and gnashing of teeth (grief and sorrow) because these particular servants of the Kingdom thought they would be accepted into the glorious city of the New Jerusalem to be established on earth with the Lord Jesus Christ as its King that the following Scriptures speak of.

- They (those who overcame) sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, *O King of the nations!* ⁴Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. *All nations will come* and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed" (Rev. 15:3-4).
- I saw no temple in the city (of Jerusalem's), for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of

God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its (Jerusalem's) light will the *nations* walk and the *kings of the earth* will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of *the nations* (Rev. 21:24-26).

- Through the middle of the street of the city (Jerusalem); also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the *healing of the nations* (Rev. 22:2).
- Night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever (Rev. 22:5).

He will set him over all his possessions: (v47) Jesus says, he will give the wise and faithful servant food and set them over all his possessions at the proper time, meaning reward them for their faithfulness when he returns. These possessions are not in heaven, but embrace all the kingdoms of the earth which will become Christ's when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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