

<p><b>Intro:</b> Vs. 14 - <b>"This gospel"</b> refers to only one, not "a gospel." And this gospel <b>"shall be preached"</b> (kēryssō) meaning "proclaim, herald" and it will be done <b>"in the whole world"</b> meaning "whole earth." This preaching will be a testimony to <b>"all nations"</b> (ethnos) meaning "a multitude, a tribe, nation or individuals of the same genus." And then the <b>"end"</b> (telos) meaning "something that ceases to be but not the end of a period of time."</p>		
<p><b>Intro #2</b> - all nations shall have witness of this great salvation, cf. 1 John 5:9-12.</p>		<p><b>Transition:</b> So the question is, as with the disciples, when will these things be? What time frame? What is Jesus saying?</p>
<p><b>Pt. 1 - The Prediction</b> - (Mt. 24:2) - HISTORICAL CONTEXT*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many believe this is referring to the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pt. 2 - The Warnings To The Followers Of Christ</b>, cf. Mt. 24:4-12. It seems to be referring to their generation because of the repeated references to <b>YOU</b> in the text.</p>	<p><b>Pt. 3 - Judgement</b> - (Vs. 15-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Therefore" (vs. 15)</li> <li>- Abomination of desolation, cf. Daniel 11:31. It seems to reference the destruction of the Temple.</li> <li>- God has withdrawn Himself from the Temple, cf. Mt. 23:38; Note: HISTORICAL CONTEXT**</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pt. 4 - Short Days For The Elect</b> - (Vs. 22-24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The judgement and deception will be so great even the redeemed (elect) will be at risk.</li> <li>- If afflictions of this time were to continue, <b>"no flesh would be saved"</b> (vs. 22) but for the elects sake it's shortened, cf. John 10:4-5, vs. 24 <b>"if possible"</b>. So that the redeemed people do not suffer more than they can bear.</li> <li>- Don't look if they say He is here, don't believe it, the deception will be strong.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pt. 5 - The Evidence Of His Return</b> - (Vs. 26-28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This seems to refer to a literal return of Jesus</li> <li>- You will know, everyone will know, because of the circling birds of a dead carcass, cf. Job 39:27-30</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pt. 6 - The Literal Return Of Jesus In The Future</b> - (Vs. 29-31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The text doesn't seem to indicate His return has already happened - (vs. 30).</li> <li>- Vs 31 - the gathering of the elect, the redeemed, indicates something in the future.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conclusion/Application:</b> No matter the differences in timing, the fact is He is coming again. This should be of concern for the unsaved, not only this, but the reality of dying without knowing Christ as Lord. And for the believer today, He will come with a great sound, and gather all His children together, cf 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. Here is what I do know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There will be a sudden, personal, visible and bodily return of Jesus, cf. Mt. 24:44; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 22:20.</li> <li>- We should eagerly long for Christ's return, cf. Titus 2:12-13, Philippians 3:20</li> </ul>		

**1 John 5:9-12**, "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."

\*The Israelites were occupied by the Roman empire. The fighting and feuds between Israelites and Rome was a constant thing. The Israelites were constantly trying to remove the yoke of Rome from them. In AD 66 – this feuding between the two finally reached its climax. Rome decided to finally crush Israel. A severe war broke out between Israel and Rome. They sent an army into the holy land to wage war and within 1 year, they had pretty much conquered all – except Jerusalem. The city where the temple stood was the final stronghold for Israel. Because of a brief interlude in the war due to a Roman civil war that broke out, the factions of Jews then fought for control of Jerusalem and the temple authority. When the Roman

army returned in AD 68, led by Titus. They eventually circled the city of Jerusalem and brought about massive torture and war upon the people of God in a 5 month long nightmare for Israel. This resulted in Jerusalem's fall and the temple's destruction in AD 70.

Josephus, a well known Jewish historian, provides an eye-witness account of the horrible events that occurred. After Nero's death, his son Titus took over rule. As the murderers and zealots entered the city, they fought and tortured people without mercy. Anyone who tried to escape had their throats slit. Burial was impossible. Stacks of dead corpses lined the streets. The stench of dead bodies was the aroma of Jerusalem. Scavenger animals roamed and fed upon the bodies. The people experienced a great famine. People sold their homes for food. People sold their children for food. It is possible to see that Jesus was speaking of in vs. 21, "**For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.**" NOTE: even though we see this as the prediction of the Temple's destruction, vs. 29-31 hold forth this great hope, He is coming again.

**\*\***When the armies of Rome – under the leadership of Titus entered Jerusalem – they did so with great force and they openly desecrated the temple. Just before the city of Jerusalem fell...Titus took his soldiers into the temple and sacrificed animals to false gods. This was a humiliation to Israelites. The final sacrifice made in the great temple was one to false gods. No wonder Jesus said when this takes place, "**run for the hills**" (vs. 16).

**John 10:4-5**, "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

**Job 39:27-30**, "Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up And makes his nest on high? On the cliff he dwells and lodges, Upon the rocky crag, an inaccessible place. From there he spies out food; His eyes see it from afar. His young ones also suck up blood; And where the slain are, there is he." NOTE: The point being, everyone will know the return of Jesus. No one can deny it. Not the pagan. Not the atheist.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**, "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." NOTE: This affirms there is a second coming. It also affirms there will be perilous times. **Matthew 24:44**, "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." **John 14:1-3**, "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." **Acts 1:11**, "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." **Hebrews 9:28**, "So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him." James 5:8, "You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." **Revelation 22:20**, "He who testifies to these things says, Yes, I am coming quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." **Titus 2:12-13**, "Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." **Philippians 3:20**, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Final Note: Every believer must agree on His return. No matter the timing, He is coming again. And that begs the question today, are you prepared? For He will come at an hour (a time frame) not expected. But even more, are you prepared to meet God in death? There will always be "2nd tier" disagreements, but when it comes to salvation by grace through faith through the blood of Jesus, there's only one way. Brethren, are you living like He could come at any moment? Or do you still have some attachments to this world?