



Matthew

Lesson 24

In the days before the Passover celebrations begin, Jesus is spending His days around Jerusalem and having discussions with those crowding to hear Him and then personally with His disciples. As He is teaching, much of His focus is on the apostasy of the nation under the deceptive leadership of the religious teachers. The parable of the two sons, the parable of the landowner sending his representatives and then his son to receive his produce, and the parable of the marriage feast were all references to the rejection of God by His chosen people. Those teachings coupled with Jesus' scathing

references to the corruption of the religious leaders have set a tone of hostility that will influence the crucial events of the next several days. During this time the disciples, although they have been informed several times of the fateful events that were coming, continue to probe Jesus on the hope of Him setting up His kingdom with them as His right-hand men. But Jesus' explanation of the events of the establishment of His kingdom unveils a very different series of events than what they were expecting.

READ CHAPTER 24 (See also Mark 13 and Luke 21:5-36)



Chapter 24-26:16 is the record of a conversation between Jesus and some of His disciples as they are sitting on the Mount of Olives (that is why this conversation is referred to as the Olivet Discourse). The Mount of Olives lies between Jerusalem and Bethany, so Jesus spent much of His last week on this mountain or traveling over it as He traveled from the home of Lazarus where He was staying.

1. What 3 questions do the disciples ask Jesus that lead them into this discourse, and what took place that prompted them to ask those questions?

1)

2)

3)

The event that prompted the question was:

after Caesar) on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea where many more Jews were killed. Over 90,000 were taken captive including the famous historian Flavius Josephus. He later recorded these events in his work, *Wars of The Jews*. Jerusalem and Judea were left desolate. Many became captives and thousands more became refugees fleeing to remote lands. The last few Jews in Jerusalem took refuge atop the mount at Masada, a fortress complex south of the Dead Sea, which was built by Herod the Great. This began the Jewish Diaspora, or dispersion, which lasted until the nation of Israel was established in 1948.

6. What will take place after the “abomination of desolation?” vs.21 According to Daniel 12:1, what happens just previous to this?

7. Why is it so important that Christians understand these events? Vs. 24

8. In vs. 29, what is the final sign before the return of Christ? How does this compare with the sixth seal of Revelation 6:12-14?

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
