



Matthew 23:37-39

# WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN 2024?

God has put eternity in our hearts [Ecclesiastes 3:11]. Each and every one of us knows that this life is not all there is. We all have a deep sense that there is something beyond this world and beyond this life awaiting us... Trials, pain, disease, and death hurt so much because we were made for a world without sin and misery. As Christians, we know that this world is not our home. But we can too easily forget this fact. We not only need to remember that heaven is our home, but we also need to ensure that this truth is at the forefront of our minds so that on bad days, as well as good days, we are resting in the promise of God that Jesus Christ is coming again to take us home.

That is why the study of last things (eschatology) is not just one aspect of our theology but is woven throughout all our theology. While there is mystery surrounding God's revelation concerning last things, we ought not to shrink back from studying all that God has revealed to us... Our eschatology informs every aspect of the Christian life and gives us an entirely different perspective from the world's. By the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, our eschatology gives us hope even when the world's mindset is dominant and the world's economy is crashing. Our eschatology gives us joy even when we are unhappy. Our greatest happiness in this life is knowing that our greatest happiness is not in this life. While the world keeps trying to console itself that everything is going to be OK, we know that for those who are in Christ everything is not just going to be OK—everything is finally going to be perfect. —Dr. Burk Parsons

The rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders and people of His day has reached its climax. The seven (or eight) woes of Matthew 23 book-end the eight beatitudes at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (5:3-12). Instead of receiving their Messiah and experiencing the blessings of His kingdom, *this generation* would experience His judgment (23:36).

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Behold! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" (23:37-39)*

## THE CITY OF GOD

- Jerusalem is the city of God (Ps. 48:1-2; 76:2; 78:68; 132:13-18).
- Jerusalem is the city of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam. 5:7; 6:12, 16).
- Jerusalem is the capital city in the messianic \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:1-9; Micah 4:1-8; cf. Rev. 21:1-8).
- Jerusalem is at the center of future prophecy (Zech. 12:2-3).

## THE HEART OF GOD

Jesus, the Lord, weeps for His people (Lam. 3:31-33; Luke 19:41-44).

*Verses 37-39 preserve Jesus' last recorded public words to Israel. Jerusalem, the city of David, the city where God revealed himself in his temple, had become known as the city that killed the prophets and stoned those sent to her... He often longed to gather and shelter Jerusalem as a hen her chicks; for despite the woes, Jesus, like the Sovereign Lord in Ezekiel 18:32, took "no pleasure in the death of anyone."* —D. A. Carson

*It is extremely important to note that Christ's rejection of Israel is not an eternal one. The word 'until' of vs. 39 together with the following statement affirms the fact that Christ will come again to a repentant nation to establish the promised millennial kingdom.* —Stanley Toussaint

*It is only that generation that Jesus cursed. It was not the entire Jewish race.* —Thomas Constable

## THE PLAN OF GOD

Judgment falls on the temple, Jerusalem, and the nation in AD 70 when the Romans destroyed the city and scattered the Jews throughout the world. But God still has a plan for His people.

In Daniel 9:20-27, God gives an overview of His plan for the nation of Israel. Daniel lived during Israel's 70-year captivity in Babylon (605-537 BC). Near the end of this time, Daniel began to pray for the restoration of Israel back to their land (Dan. 9:1-19). God answers Daniel's prayer with a revelation of Israel's future.

<sup>24</sup> *“Seventy weeks are determined  
For your people and for your holy city,  
To finish the transgression,  
To make an end of sins,  
To make reconciliation for iniquity,  
To bring in everlasting righteousness,  
To seal up vision and prophecy,  
And to anoint the Most Holy.*

<sup>25</sup> *“Know therefore and understand,  
That from the going forth of the command  
To restore and build Jerusalem  
Until Messiah the Prince,  
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;  
The street shall be built again, and the wall,  
Even in troublesome times.*

<sup>26</sup> *“And after the sixty-two weeks  
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;  
And the people of the prince who is to come  
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.  
The end of it shall be with a flood,  
And till the end of the war desolations are  
determined.*

We live during this “pause” in God's prophetic clock. Our call is to rest in God's sovereignty, reach out to others with the good news of Jesus, and rejoice in the blessed hope that we have in Christ!

<sup>27</sup> *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for  
one week; But in the middle of the week  
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.  
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who  
makes desolate, even until the consummation, which  
is determined, is poured out on the desolate.*

*Daniel 9 is the backbone of prophecy.*  
—Sir Edward Denny (1796-1889)

*The greatest of all-time prophecies.*  
—H. A. Ironside (1876-1951)

*Unless Daniel 9 is understood, the  
great prophetic discourse of our Lord  
Jesus Christ in Matthew 24-25 will be  
misunderstood, as will the greater  
portion of the book of Revelation.*  
—Charles Feinberg (1909-95)

**The Time:** 70 “weeks” (Hebrew, *shabuwa*, “sevens, heptad”) which is \_\_\_\_\_ years (cf. 2 Chr. 36:21). These are probably lunar years of 360 days (cf. Rev. 11:2-3).

**The Focus:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Purpose.** Six major redemptive purposes will be accomplished by the end of this time.

**The Clock Starts.** With the “word” to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. This could be 538, 520, 457, or 444 BC (cf. Neh. 1-2).

7 weeks = \_\_\_\_\_  
+  
62 weeks = \_\_\_\_\_  
which would be around March 30, 33 AD.

**The Clock Pauses.** Two things occur after the end of the 62 weeks (69 weeks total):

1. Messiah is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. People of a coming prince destroy the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Clock Restarts.** After an indefinite gap, this “coming prince” arrives and confirms a covenant with Israel for one week (7 years). In the middle of this treaty, he stops sacrifices and offerings and sets up the “abomination of desolation” in the temple (24:15; 2 Th. 2:3-4).