



THE LAST STAIRWAY

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THE LAST STAIRWAY

Welcome!

In this study, I've set out to guide you through bible passages relevant to this day and age. What is God saying to us here in 2021, 2022 and beyond? What is Jesus saying to us right now?

Each page of this document is a new study, designed to be done in order, one at a time.

This first study, as you can see from the title in the red box, is called 'The Temple'.

As you will notice, passages of scripture are lined up side by side and continue onwards, usually in sequential order, each page picking up where the previous page left off. By looking at what's said in each the themes start to emerge, and we get a better sense of ourselves in the pages of scripture. The pages of this document are designed to be printed out on A3, nice and large, so you can read and jot down your own notes. Or else you can easily zoom in and read them as a PDF on your computer or tablet.

For each page, I've recorded a video where I read through the scriptures and draw out the points in each.

I hope and pray that as you read these scriptures God speaks clearly and specifically to you. God bless you as you seek him in these last days.

Geoffrey Young

This study sets out to understand what God is doing right now, in 2021 and beyond. The goal is to hear what God is saying to us, the Church, right now.

It's of unparalleled importance to hear God clearly in these, our last days.

The starting point, however, has to be the beginning. How do we know these are the last days? How do we know that Christ is about to return? For this, we turn to Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. The disciples asked Jesus this exact question, and these chapters record Jesus prophetic answer. In these passages, Jesus outlines what would happen from that generation to now. He gives us the timeline. He tells us, clearly, exactly what we should be praying in these days.

For this reason, these chapters will form the backbone of the next six studies. From there we will head to Revelation, but only to understand the detail within the timeline Jesus sets out.

Join me for today's study on youtube, using the link here.

HISTORY

The Temple of the Old Testament

The temple spoken on in these verses was built by King Herod in the Hebrew year 3741 (20BC).

It was destroyed in 70AD.

A new Temple for a New Testament

Jesus stood at the junction of history. He stands between the closing of the Old Testament, establishing the New Testament.

Jesus is describing the pathway by which the new Temple will be 'given birth.'

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

1Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.2"Do you see all these things?"he asked."Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4Jesus answered:"Watch out that no one deceives you.5For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.6You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.7Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8All these are the beginning of birth pains.

9"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.10At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,11and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

12Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,13but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

MARK (JESUS)

13

1As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"
2"Do you see all these great buildings?"replied Jesus."Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately,⁴"Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"
5Jesus said to them:"Watch out that no one deceives you.⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. .

These are the beginning of birth pains

⁹"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.

10And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.

11Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

12"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.¹³Everyone will hate you because of me, **but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.**

LUKE (JESUS)

21

5Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,⁶"As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

⁷"Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"
⁸He replied:"Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.⁹When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

¹⁰Then he said to them:"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.¹¹There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

¹²"But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.¹³And so you will bear testimony to me.¹⁴But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.¹⁵For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.¹⁷**Everyone will hate you because of me.¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish.¹⁹Stand firm, and you will win life.**

EPHESIANS

1

Ephesians 1:22-23 MSG

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

JOHN

2

13When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶To those who sold doves he said,"Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."^[a]
¹⁸The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them,"Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"

21But the temple he had spoken of was his body.²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

1 CORINTHIANS

6

19Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

EPHESIANS

2

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The end. That's what Jesus called right now, the time in which we live. He called it simply, the end. In Hebrews 10 verse 25 it says we should "see the Day approaching".

So what are the signs? And how do we understand the most important sign, the Abomination that Causes Desolation?

Today's study gives us the context we need to understand this as we continue through Jesus timeline in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21.

DANIEL

11

For a summary of how history fulfills the prophecy in Daniel 11 see the work by David Guzik.

31"His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up **the abomination that causes desolation**.³²With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

HISTORY

Explanation by Daniel Morais for both the Greek 175BC and Roman 70AD destruction of Jerusalem.

Ancient armies carried idols (images of their gods) wherever they went. The Greek army of the second century B.C. and Roman army of the first century A.D. did this, and their foreign god idols were an abomination to the Jews. Furthermore, both armies literally caused the desolation of Jerusalem. This is why these armies are considered, from a historical perspective, to have been the fulfillment of the "abomination that causes desolation."

Antiochus IV Epiphanes also called Epimanes was a Greek Hellenistic king of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC.

In 175BC The new ruler of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire is Antiochus Epiphanes. He pillages Jerusalem then places an altar to the [pagan god Zeus](#) within the Temple. He begins to force Greek culture into Judea. He outlaws [the Sabbath](#) and circumcision, sacks the city, and erects an altar to Zeus in the Second Temple after plundering it.

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

15"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,'¹⁶spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.¹⁸Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.¹⁹How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!²⁰Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.²¹For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22"If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

1Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.²"Do you see all these things?"he asked."Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

MARK (JESUS)

13

14"When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
15Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out.16Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.17How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!18Pray that this will not take place in winter,19because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.
20"If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.

LUKE (JESUS)

21

20"When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.21Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.22For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.23How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people.24They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations.
Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

HISTORY (JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS)

The temple, as spoken about in verse 1 of these chapters, was built by King Herod in the Hebrew year 3741 (20BC), and destroyed by Titus, son of the Roman Emperor Vespasian. He sacrificed a pig and destroyed the Temple in 70AD
Eye witness account, as recorded by Josephus Flavius, a Jewish Historian.
The Jewish War
"The Temple Mount, everywhere enveloped in flames, seemed to be boiling over from its base; yet the blood seemed more abundant than the flames and the numbers of the slain greater than those of the slayers. The soldiers climbed over heaps of bodies as they chased the fugitives."
From it's destruction in 70AD, all that remains is a wall, what we now call the Western Wall, the most holy site for Jews. It is known in Hebrew as **יתכ** **יברעמה** (KOE-tehl ha-mah-ah-ra-VEE), which means "place of weeping", and is where Jews pray for its rebuilding.

Remember, at the beginning of each of these chapters Jesus said **NOT ONE STONE will be left upon another.**

The temple wall remains as a witness to the two that have passed, and it silently points to the third which is coming. It stands witness to the pattern, and it will remain until Jesus words have fulfilled their purpose.

1As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"
2"Do you see all these great buildings?"replied Jesus."Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

5Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,6"As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

The Lawless Man and the Great Delusion are really part 1 and part 2 of the same study. They're based on the same scriptures and bring to light the same truths.

Signs and wonders do not, as we often presume, belong in some far-away apocalyptic future.

Identifying them is the crucial first step to identifying the false messiahs and false prophets spoken of by Jesus.

2 THESSALONIANS (PAUL)

2

1Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

3Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.⁴He 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.

5Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?⁶And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

9The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,¹⁰and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

11For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie¹²and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

15"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,'^[a] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.¹⁸Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.¹⁹How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!²⁰Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.²¹For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22"If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

23At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

24For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.²⁵**See, I have told you ahead of time.**

26"So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

27For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

28Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

MARK (JESUS)

13

21At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it.

22For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.²³**So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.**

REVELATION

13

5The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.⁶It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

7It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.^[a]

9Whoever has ears, let them hear.

10"If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go.
If anyone is to be killed^[c] with the sword, with the sword they will be killed."^[d]

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

11Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.¹²It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed..

13And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.¹⁴**Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.**

It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

¹⁶It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads,¹⁷so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name

¹⁸This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.^[e] That number is 666.

ISAIAH

2

(NLT)

22Don't put your trust in mere humans.

They are as frail as breath.
What good are they?

PSALM

36

(NLT)

¹Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts.^[a]

**They have no fear of God at all.
2In their blind conceit,
they cannot see how wicked they really are.**

³Everything they say is crooked and deceitful.

146

**3Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.**

⁴When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

91

(NLT)

¹Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

²This I declare about the Lord:
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.

We start this study with a recap, an overview of the timeline from when Jesus spoke these words until his return.

It's 33AD. The Disciples ask Jesus for the sign posts. Jesus answers.

History will continue, in near perpetual fear of war.

In the midst of almost continual upheaval his church will begin to be born.

Amidst persecution, the church will grow and the message will be preached around the world.

The Abomination that Causes Desolation will appear in the holy place.

At that time the world is full of false prophets and false messiahs.

There will be immense calamity, even in the physical and observable universe.

Jesus will return.

EVENT TIMELINE

FROM MATTHEW 24

3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"
4Jesus answered:
...
6You will hear of wars and rumors of wars Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

7Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
8**All these are the beginning of birth pains.**
9"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

15"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,'^[a] spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

23At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

29"Immediately after the distress of those days
 "the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light;
 the stars will fall from the sky,
 and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."^[b]

30"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth^[c] will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.^[d]

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

29"Immediately after the distress of those days

"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."^[b]

ISAIAH

13

1A prophecy against Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw:

...
9See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—
to make the land desolate
and destroy the sinners within it.
10**The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.**
11I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins.
I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty
and will humble the pride of the ruthless.
...
19Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the pride and glory of the Babylonians,^[b] will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.

34

1Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it!
2The Lord is angry with all nations; his wrath is on all their armies. He will totally destroy^[a] them, he will give them over to slaughter.
3Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will stink; the mountains will be soaked with their blood.
4**All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.**

MARK (JESUS)

13

24"But in those days, following that distress,

"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
25the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be
shaken.'^[c]

LUKE (JESUS)

21

25"There will be signs in the sun, moon
and stars. On the earth, nations will be in
anguish and perplexity at the roaring and
tossing of the sea.26People will faint from
terror, apprehensive of what is coming on
the world, for the heavenly bodies will be
shaken.

So what is Babylon?
How is it a prostitute? And
what are the adulteries our
world is drunk on?

REVELATION

17

1One of the seven angels who had the
seven bowls came and said to me,
"Come, I will show you the punishment of
the great prostitute, who sits by many
waters.2With her the kings of the earth
committed adultery, and the inhabitants
of the earth were intoxicated with the
wine of her adulteries."

3Then the angel carried me away in the
Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a
woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was
covered with blasphemous names and
had seven heads and ten horns.4The
woman was dressed in purple and
scarlet, and was glittering with gold,
precious stones and pearls. She held a
golden cup in her hand, filled with
abominable things and the filth of her
adulteries.5The name written on her
forehead was a mystery:

**babylon the great
the mother of prostitutes
and of the abominations of the earth.**

6I saw that the woman was drunk with
the blood of God's holy people, the blood
of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

...

15Then the angel said to me, "The waters
you saw, where the prostitute sits, are
peoples, multitudes, nations and
languages.16The beast and the ten horns
you saw will hate the prostitute. They will
bring her to ruin and leave her naked;
they will eat her flesh and burn her with
fire.17For God has put it into their hearts
to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to
hand over to the beast their royal
authority, until God's words are
fulfilled.18The woman you saw is the
great city that rules over the kings of the
earth."

REVELATION

18

1After this I saw another angel coming
down from heaven. He had great
authority, and the earth was illuminated
by his splendor. 2 With a mighty voice he
shouted:

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!'^[a]
She has become a dwelling for
demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and
detestable animal.

3 For all the nations have drunk
the maddening wine of her adulteries.
The kings of the earth committed adultery
with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew
rich from her excessive luxuries."

4Then I heard another voice from heaven
say:

"Come out of her, my people, '^[b]
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her
plagues;

5for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

JEREMIAH

51

45"Come out of her, my people!
Run for your lives!
Run from the fierce anger of the Lord.

...

49"Babylon must fall because of Israel's
slain,
just as the slain in all the earth
have fallen because of Babylon.
50You who have escaped the sword,
leave and do not linger!
Remember the Lord in a distant land,
and call to mind Jerusalem."

REVELATION

19

¹After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

²

for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

...

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸

Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

⁹ Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

...

¹¹I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.¹²His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.¹⁴The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.¹⁵Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.”^[a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

king of kings and lord of lords.

1 THESSALONIANS (PAUL)

5

²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.¹¹**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

²⁹“Immediately after the distress of those days

“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”^[b]

³⁰“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth^[c] will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.^[d]

³¹And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

MARK (JESUS)

13

24“But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
25the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be
shaken.”^[c]

26“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.27And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

LUKE (JESUS)

21

25“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.26People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

27At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.28When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

DANIEL

12

1“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

2Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.3Those who are wise^[a] will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

REVELATION (JESUS)

3

14“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.15I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!16So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.17You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.18I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

19Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.20Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

21To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.22Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Perhaps you're wondering, at this point, why is nobody sounding the alarm? Believe it or not, that is exactly how it was foretold to be. The collective prophetic judgement on this generation is simply this, that it is entirely deluded.

But that is not what God wants for you. He calls the elect to be awake, and to see the day coming as it approaches.

JEREMIAH

14

13But I said, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! The prophets keep telling them, 'You will not see the sword or suffer famine. Indeed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.'"

14Then the Lord said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. **They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries^[a] and the delusions of their own minds.** 15Therefore this is what the Lord says about the prophets who are prophesying in my name: I did not send them, yet they are saying, 'No sword or famine will touch this land.' Those same prophets will perish by sword and famine.

1 THESSALONIANS (PAUL)

5

2for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

6So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

32"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it^[a] is near, right at the door. 34Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

36"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,^[b] but only the Father.

37As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44**So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

MARK (JESUS)

13

28“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it^[a] is near, right at the door.³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

32“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³³Be on guard! Be alert!^[a] You do not know when that time will come.³⁴It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.³⁷**What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’**”

LUKE (JESUS)

21

29He told them this parable:“Look at the fig tree and all the trees.³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.³⁵For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth.³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

2 THESSALONIANS (PAUL)

5

3Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

...
8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

9The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,¹⁰and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.

Before we talk about the mark of the beast we need to understand what a mark is. What, in the bible are marks? What are they for?

The pattern set and followed throughout the bible is this: a mark is for protection, and a mark gives the bearer access to their entitlement.

GENESIS

4

15 But the Lord said to him, "Not so[e]; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

EZEKIEL

9

Then I heard him call out in a loud voice, "Bring near those who are appointed to execute judgment on the city, each with a weapon in his hand."² And I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with a deadly weapon in his hand. With them was a man clothed in linen who had a writing kit at his side. They came in and stood beside the bronze altar.

³ Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple. Then the Lord called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side⁴ and said to him, "**Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.**"

⁵ As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion."⁶ Slaughter the old men, the young men and women, the mothers and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary."

So they began with the old men who were in front of the temple.

REVELATION

7

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God.

He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:³ "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

9

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.³ And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, **but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

EPHESIANS (PAUL)

1

NIV:
13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

CEV:
13Christ also brought you the truth, which is the good news about how you can be saved. You put your faith in Christ and were given the promised Holy Spirit to show that you belong to God.¹⁴The Spirit also makes us sure that we will be given what God has stored up for his people. Then we will be set free, and God will be honored and praised.

2 CORINTHIANS 11 (PAUL)

11

13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

REVELATION (JOHN)

13

16It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.[e] That number is 666.

19

20With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

2 THESSALONIANS (PAUL)

2

9The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, 10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**

ZECHARIAH

11

4 This is what the Lord my God says: "Shepherd the flock marked for slaughter. 5 Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, 'Praise the Lord, I am rich!' Their own shepherds do not spare them. 6 For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land," declares the Lord. "I will give everyone into the hands of their neighbors and their king. They will devastate the land, and I will not rescue anyone from their hands." 7 So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staffs and called one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock. 8 In one month I got rid of the three shepherds. The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them 9 and said, "I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another's flesh." 10 Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. 11 It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the Lord. 12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord. 14 Then I broke my second staff called Union, breaking the family bond between Judah and Israel. 15 Then the Lord said to me, "Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd. 16 For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hooves. 17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!"

Today we circle right back to the start. We circle right back to our first study, that being of the temple, and to our second study, that being the history behind the Abomination that Causes Desolation.

1 CORINTHIANS

6

19Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

EPHESIANS

2

19Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

DANIEL

11

31"His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up **the abomination that causes desolation**. 32With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

MATTHEW (JESUS)

24

3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 6You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ...

14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

15"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' ^[a]spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

17Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. 18Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22"If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

ZECHARIAH

11

4 This is what the Lord my God says: "Shepherd the flock marked for slaughter. 5 Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, 'Praise the Lord, I am rich!' Their own shepherds do not spare them. 6 For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land," declares the Lord. "I will give everyone into the hands of their neighbors and their king. They will devastate the land, and I will not rescue anyone from their hands."

7 So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staves and called one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock. 8 In one month I got rid of the three shepherds. The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them 9 and said, "I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another's flesh."

10 Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. 11 It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the Lord.

REVELATION (JOHN)

14

11It And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

NUMBERS (MOSES)

21

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,[c] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

JOHN (JESUS)

3

14Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[b] 15that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

HEBREWS

3

7So, as the Holy Spirit says:
 "Today, if you hear his voice,
 do not harden your hearts
 as you did in the rebellion,
 during the time of testing in the
 wilderness,
 where your ancestors tested and tried
 me,
 though for forty years they saw what I
 did.
 10That is why I was angry with that
 generation;
 I said, 'Their hearts are always going
 astray,
 and they have not known my ways.'

THE ETERNAL GOSPEL

1 JOHN 1:8-10

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

ROMANS 8:35-37

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") **37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**