

Storytime

Part 11 - The Coming Kingdom Matthew 24; Daniel 9:24-27

When will Jesus set up His Kingdom? Isaiah 2:4, 11:6, 65:20

General signs Matthew 24:4-14

Increase in False **messiahs** Increase in False **prophets**

Increase in **national** conflicts Increase in **lawlessness**

Increase in Natural **disasters** Decrease in **human** compassion

Increase in **antisemitism** Increase in **gospel** message

Specific sign Matthew 24:15-27

Abomination of Desolation Daniel 9:24-27

70 weeks = 7 weeks + 62 weeks + 1 week = **490 years**

Clock starts with decree to rebuild **Temple** (Cyrus in 450 BC)

After 69 weeks (483 years) **Messiah** will come

Before 70th week a **peace** accord will be signed

Midway through the **abomination** takes place

The global leader defiles the **temple** 2 Thess. 2:3-4

Second half is filled with global **Divine** judgement

Then the **Kingdom** arrives Matthew 24:29-31

Auburn Grace Community Church – August 13th, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – August 13, 2023

Matthew 24:15-16 Therefore when you see the *ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION* which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

DISCOVER (read Matthew 24:1-31 and Daniel 9:24-27)

1. How do the Jewish people (including Jesus' disciples), feel about the temple? How must His disciples have felt when they heard Jesus' words in Matthew 24:2?
2. What specific event will trigger the start of the "great distress"? What does the "abomination of desolation mean"? (see Daniel 9:27 and 11:31)
3. What events during the tribulation will mark the second coming of the true Messiah? (see Matthew 24:27-31)

EXPLORE

1. Matthew 24-25 is the most extensive rendition of the Olivet Discourse found in the three synoptic gospels. What clues in Matthew 23 can we point to that Jesus' teaching was referencing God's future program for Israel? How about in Matthew's account in Chapter 24? (vv. 1-31)
2. Read Isaiah 2:4. Is it possible to have peace without the return of the Lord? How so?
3. What is your understanding of the term "church age"? When did it begin? When does it end? Explain how the church age was (so far) a 2,000 year pause in Daniel's 70-week prophecy?
4. Read Matthew 24:3. In your understanding, what three questions did Jesus' disciples ask? Did He answer all the questions? Were they satisfied with His answers? How do you know?

EXPERIENCE

1. How is the passage in Matthew 24 meant to influence your lifestyle? What gets in your way for taking this seriously? What makes you uncomfortable about end times discussions? What makes you excited about end times discussions? Read Isaiah 46:9-11 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. As a group, compile a list of words that give hope and encouragement.
2. If you could ask Jesus one question about either His second coming or the end of the world, what would you ask? As a group, try to give Biblical responses to the questions that arise.
3. Do you see some of the signs of Matthew 24:4-14 and 15-27 as being fulfilled today? In what way? How do you feel about this?
4. Isn't it great that God has history (past, present and future) under control? How should God's plan prepare us and not scare us? What should we be doing to prepare? When should children be taught about end times?

PRAY

Pray... Father God, the mysteries and timing of future events is only Yours to know. Keep us true to Your Word and keep us aware of the season ahead. Increase the measure of our discernment through Your Spirit in us, that we may hold true to Your call and not be led astray. May we know Your gospel as even more true and more perfect than we have ever thought possible. Help us to be people of Kingdom action and give us a spirit of boldness and yet gentleness as our hands and feet carry us to those who dwell in the darkness, for time is of the essence.

Apply... Pastor Phil gave us timelines that we can study (handouts) of the advent of the millennial Kingdom and the prophetic timelines of the last days (from Daniel 9:24-27). For your next Life Group meeting, practice articulating these timelines according to your understanding.