

# Confronting The Cloudiness

## According to Matthew

### Chapter 24

(1) "Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and his disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down'."

The disciples were marvelling at the temple's construction. But Jesus turned their focus from the earthly to the heavenly. "This physical temple is temporal. It is temporary and of limited purpose and duration. Focus on the eternal, the heavenly."

We could also hear between the lines that Jesus was referring to the abolition of religious traditions, practices, formalities and customs. Matthew is corroborated pertaining to this very same thing when Jesus is speaking with the Samaritan woman in <sup>1</sup>John chapter 4.

(3) "Now as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of your advent, and of the conclusion of the age?' And Jesus answered, and said to them, 'Take heed that no one mislead you. **For many will come acknowledging that I am the anointed, and yet mislead many.**'"

It is utterly crucial that we understand what Jesus is saying. He is not talking about people going around claiming to be Christ. No. He was directly warning against those who would actually claim that Jesus is the Christ, yet mislead many. How? By **MISREPRESENTING** Jesus Christ. There will be MANY who will go about preaching a FALSE GOSPEL claiming it to be the genuine gospel. Many will go about preaching a Jesus Christ who NEVER EXISTED IN REALITY, but rather a FICTIONAL, MAN-MADE JESUS CHRIST. This is a crucial precursor to the very next verses:

(6) 'And you will witness verbal wars and hear of wars. See that you are not troubled; for these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For community will rise up against community, and kingdom rise up against kingdom. (substitution?) And there will be famines, and shake-ups in various places. But all these are the origin of anguish.'

Jesus is referring to conflict. The mindset of man is conflicted. Therefore, prior to the resolution of God's plan, man must experience conflict of all kinds. In other words, until man acknowledges and receives God and His will for man, man will inevitably remain in PERPETUAL conflict. There can be no resolution outside of surrender to God.

(9) 'Then they will beside-give (misrepresent) you into tribulation and kill you, and you <sup>2</sup>will be hated by all communities on account of my name.'

John said the very same thing. "They will distort who you are. They will not see you for who you are or what you are doing. They will bring upon everyone tribulation by "killing you" (erasing you from public view hence depriving you of influence)." How? By changing the disciples' identity, by replacing their real identity with a false, man-made one. And by changing their identity, they bring upon the world a prolonged age of tribulation and conflict which COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED had the world received them WITHOUT CHANGING THEM. I am sorry. But man has only one choice to make: continue "killing" Christ (through misrepresentation) or receive him UNDEFILED. But the choice is not without consequence. If man persists in his endeavour of "killing and persecuting" Christ, he is headed to greater and greater "hell" (torment). God has been merciful and has given man time for learning and repentance. But it is now time for FINAL JUDGEMENT to begin. It is now time for man to be made aware of his perpetual condition. And the time of misrepresentation will NO LONGER BE TOLERATED by God. Why? Because Jesus said that after two days, he (son of man) was to COME BACK TO LIFE. That is extremely important.

#### Chapter 24 footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> John 4(21) Jesus saith unto her, *Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

<sup>2</sup> John 15(18) *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*

(19) *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen* (Greek "eklegomai" which means to "out-speak or out-instruct") *you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

(20) *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

(21) *But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they KNOW NOT HIM THAT SENT ME.*

**To be continued next week...**

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