

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**MATTHEW 24****Matthew 24**

Matthew twenty-four takes place after Jesus had been in the temple precincts teaching and pronouncing a series of woes on the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. Jesus was heartbroken as He knew the pains of rejection from those He had come to save. He wept openly and cried out in the pain of a groom who had been rejected at the altar.

"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!" (Matthew 23:37-39)

The narrative continues. There is a chapter break, but there should not be one. The story continues with Jesus leaving the temple complex and making His journey back towards Bethany, where He was staying this last week before His death. The disciples and Jesus were sitting on the Mount of Olives (24:5). The place where they would have been sitting gives one an excellent view of the temple. You are facing the temple, and the crest of the Mount of Olives is 2700 feet above the level of the Mediterranean Sea; the temple mount is 2400 feet above sea level. The top of the magnificent temple was close to the height of the Mount of Olives; it was an incredible building and an ancient wonder and marvel. The disciples were carried away by its beauty and

architecture. They were telling Jesus how incredible the temple and the buildings around the complex were when Jesus shocked them with this statement.

"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." (Matthew 24:2)

The Lord then began to speak to the disciples about the coming destruction of the temple; this came to pass in 70 A.D., a mere 40 years from the time of this discourse by the Lord Jesus. His warnings still echo through the corridors of time about complacency and apathy toward the events that are coming. Jesus warned the disciples to be vigilant and discerning about the events of the future. He further predicted the events that are yet to come. The days of the "great tribulation/crushing" when the world will experience trouble that mankind has never witnessed. These days of crushing are delineated by the Apostle John on the Island of Patmos, as he penned under divine inspiration the events that are coming upon the world in the days ahead. He ends this chapter, but not the discourse, with a warning that no man knows the day or the hour when Messiah will return to earth, but the disciples were to be alert and watching for the day will surely come, and Messiah Jesus will appear.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, please help me to live as though You are coming back today to receive Your own to Yourself and to be faithful to live in obedience to You in everything. Also, please fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I can share with others the wonderful message of Your love and forgiveness. Amen