

Matthew 24:1-3

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday evening we began a study of the Lord's teaching recorded in Matthew 24-25.
2. As we study Matthew 24 we must remember the information revealed in:
 - a. Deuteronomy 28
 - 1) God promised to bless the Israelites if they obeyed Him, and He promised to curse them if they disobeyed.
 - 2) Prior to the Lord's ministry, God had punished the Jews many times for their disobedience, but He had never completely destroyed them.
 - b. Matthew 21-23
 - 1) The spiritual condition of the Jews was very low.
 - 2) The Jewish religious leaders rejected Christ (21:33-41), and they were filled with hypocrisy.
 - 3) As Jesus spoke in the temple, He showed that destruction would come upon that generation of people living in Jerusalem (23:36-38).

Discussion:

- I. (Matthew 24:1) AFTER THIS, JESUS LEFT THE TEMPLE
 - A. The temple
 1. Three temples had been built in Jerusalem, including:
 - a. the one built by Solomon that the Babylonians destroyed in 586 BC
 - b. the one built by Zerubbabel when the Jews returned to Jerusalem after being in captivity [it was plundered during the time between the testaments]
 - c. the one built by Herod.
 - 1) Herod captured Jerusalem in 37 BC.
 - 2) To win the Jews' favor, he began building them a temple in 20 BC.
 - 3) The surrounding buildings were completed in 64 AD.
 - 4) This is the temple that Jesus left.
 2. The temple was very important to the Jews.
 - a. It was the center of their religion [male Jews went there 3 times each year].
 - b. It gave the Jews a sense of national security.
 - c. Unfortunately, the Jews often trusted in their temple more than they trusted in God (Jeremiah 7:4, 8-11).
 - B. As Jesus left, His disciples came to Him to show Him the buildings of the temple.
 1. The temple was beautifully decorated (Luke 21:5).
 2. The temple was a long time being built (John 2:20).

- II. (Matthew 24:2) JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT THE TEMPLE WOULD BE DESTROYED
 - A. Jesus said that not one stone would be left upon another.
 - B. Some of the stones are reported to have been 25 cubits long x 8 cubits high x 12 cubits thick [38 ft. long x 12 ft. high x 18 ft. thick].
 - C. This must have really gotten the attention of the disciples when Jesus said that not one stone would be left upon another.
- III. (Matthew 24:3) THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS SEVERAL QUESTIONS
 - A. They wanted to know:
 - 1. when the temple would be destroyed
 - 2. the sign of the Lord's return and the end of the world.
 - B. These questions give us some insight into what the disciples were thinking.
 - 1. Jesus had taught them that He will return one day.
 - 2. They understood that the world will be destroyed when Jesus returns.
 - 3. They associated the destruction of the temple with the Lord's return.

Conclusion:

- 1. When we study Matthew 24-25, we must understand that Jesus was answering the questions asked by the disciples in 24:3.
- 2. We must associate the Lord's answers with the proper questions.
- 3. When Jesus answered the disciples' questions, He showed that the destruction of the temple and His return would be 2 different events.
- 4. We must study these chapters carefully lest we confuse these events.