

Let the Reader Understand  
Matthew 24:1-28

By Jay Hughes

Though the world may be spinning out of control, going from bad to worse, the Lord has a good future for us all.

Jesus and his disciples walked out of the temple and they wanted to talk about the big buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down." It was about 40 years later in AD 70 that the temple mount was wiped clean by soon to be Roman Emperor Titus and to this day the foundation of the temple mount is all that remains. Jesus' words proved true.

Then Jesus and his disciples went to sit on the Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley overlooking the Temple. At the base of the mount was the Garden of Gethsemane where today 2000-year-old olive trees still stand.

Even in Jesus' day graves had been placed on the Mount of Olives for a thousand years in anticipation of the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy: *"A day of the Lord is about to come when your possessions will be divided as plunder in your midst. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to wage war; the city will be taken, its houses plundered, and the women raped. Then half of the city will go into exile, but the remainder of the people will not be taken away. Then the Lord will go to battle and fight against those nations, just as he fought battles in ancient days. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives that lies to the east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, leaving a great valley. Half the mountain will move northward and the other half southward. Then you will escape through my mountain valley, for the valley of the mountains will extend to Azal. Indeed, you will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come with all his holy ones with him."* (Zech 14:1-5)

Here he sat on the place his feet would one day stand returning to bring justice to a corrupt world, order and holiness will prevail through him.

Do not be deceived, the world may change rapidly, but Jesus is true to his word. Matthew 24:1-14

There on the mount of Olives his disciples asked him two different questions:

1. When will this happen?
2. What will be the sign of you coming?

Jesus's answer was that there would be wars, speculation and fear, deceivers and counterfeits, famines and earthquakes, but these were only the beginning of the birth

pains of all he had in store for the world. "Such things must happen, but the end is still to come" Jesus forewarned

Our world today is filled with a new kind of strife each day, speculation about the next travesty abounds and trepidation swirls about as our society changes rapidly, but this world will not be brought down by bombs, disasters, pandemics or social collapse. The end is not caused by us, nor will it come randomly. Jesus has a plan; he is the one who will bring this world to a halt. Like lightning in the sky, he will return and make things right.

No matter how dark your days maybe now, they will get darker. Jesus tells his disciples that they will get so bad that he will cut short the days of the tribulation for the sake of his people. He has compassion for them. So where are you today? Living in your own darkest days? Jesus has a plan, and you are part of it.

Application: Be ready