

3. Famines will come, verse 7b.

4. Earthquakes will break out, verse 7b.

It is only the beginning of "birth pains", verse 8.

5. Persecutions will develop, verse 9-10.

A summary reminder of similar warnings before the disciples' first evangelistic campaigns: Matthew 10:17-21.

Abandonment of the faith and betrayal of the faithful by false believers.

6. False Teachers will multiply, verse 11.

7. Lawlessness will expand, verse 12a.

Both religious and civil lawlessness.

8. The Influence of Christianity on civil society will be chilled, verse 12b.

The pressure of lawlessness all around will undercut the dedication of many Christians.

Spiritual life will deteriorate as half-hearted believers, tire of fighting the battle against persecution and false teachers.

The preserving influence of the church on civil society will decline.

9. Good news! Some will endure and the gospel will be proclaimed around the world, vss. 13-14.

This proclamation is the climax of grace for this age.

History shows that the destruction of the temple and Christ's return are different events in God's prophetic calendar.

Meanwhile, there is nothing in prophecy that must take place before the Lord could come to take His Church out of the world and unleash the full force of lawlessness on the earth—the Tribulation era.

Christ could come for us at any moment.

RDL@CrossWay/4-29-2018

FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS
Signs of the Age from Birth of Church to Rise of Antichrist
Matthew 24:1-14

Background to Discourse:

Scene One: Demolition of Herod's Temple Predicted, 24:1-2.

The time: Wednesday of Passion week. Afternoon.

After Jesus closed out His Denunciation of Israel's religious leaders.

After Jesus declared: See, your house is left to you desolate, 23:38.

The location: It started as Jesus was leaving the temple complex

The prompting comment: Mark 13:1 -- One of the disciples expressed marvel at the magnificence of the Temple complex.

The other disciples joined his admiration.

The prophetic bomb shell, verse 2. Herod's temple is to be destroyed.

Different from expectation of Matthew 13:37-43.

Similar but not the same as the Zechariah 14:1-5 prediction.

Historically, this prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D.

Therefore, it was a separate event from Christ's second coming

Scene two: Discourse About the Signs Preceding Jesus' Return, 24:4-14.

The location: when Jesus stopped to rest at the top of the Mount of Olives.

Prompted by the disciples' desire to know the "when" and "what" of Jesus' prediction.

Two questions asked. One question answered.

What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?

Jesus' answer, verses 4-14. Developments that will precede my coming:

1. False Messiahs will come, vss. 4-5.

Discernment must be developed

2. Wars will persist, vss. 6-7a.

Don't think it is the end.