

The Signs of Christ's Coming, Part 1

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 24-25.

B. The Bible says a lot about Jesus' second coming.

C. Foundation work is necessary to understand Jesus' Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25. (Isaiah 9, 11:2, Jeremiah 23, Zechariah 14)

II. The eschatological views of the Jews during the time of Jesus.

A. The nation would go through a sort of birth pangs before the Messiah came. There would be a moral and physical chaos.

B. A herald like Elijah would come announcing the coming of Messiah. John the Baptist would have fulfilled this if Jesus had been accepted.

C. They saw the coming of Messiah.

D. They saw that the nations would align themselves against the Messiah.

E. Jerusalem would be rebuilt.

F. The dispersed Israelites would be re-gathered.

G. A new age of peace would come.

III. The disciples saw that Jesus was the Messiah who would fulfill all of this, but they did not know what to do with Jesus' prophecy of His death because it was a mystery to them. The disciples wanted to know what the sign of the end of the age would be.

A. The temple would be abandoned to ruin. (Ezekiel 9:3, 10:4, 11:23)

B. The whole of the temple would come down. (Mark 13:2, Luke 21:5, Ezekiel 40-48)

C. The disciples thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. (Acts 1:8)

D. The point of the Olivet discourse is to tell the disciples that Jesus' second coming was not right now.

IV. The sign of the end of the age. The end of the age is the time of God's harvest. (Matthew 28:20, 13:39, 13:49)

Application questions:

1. Why were Jews thinking that Jesus would usher in the last days? Explain.

2. How does Jesus respond to the disciples' hope that the end times would be ushered in shortly?

3. Why is it important to know some of the features of the end times? Explain.
