

The Signs of Christ's Coming, Part 5

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 24:16.
- B. The sense of Christ's second coming ought to be highly motivating to the believer.
- C. Jesus predicts the total destruction of the Temple raising the anticipation of the disciples.
- D. This is not referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- E. The destruction of the Temple was given for future generations so that Jesus could establish His credentials as a prophet for future generations.

II. Background on the Temple.

III. The beginning of the birth pangs. The signal that starts it is the Antichrist standing on the Holy Place. (II Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13)

IV. The people in Judea are to respond by fleeing. This refers to Jews or Christians who refuse to bow to the Antichrist. (Revelation 12-13, Zechariah 13:8, Revelation 6:9, 12:11, 13:7, 17:6)

- A. The Antichrist will bring a great massacre for three and a half years. Things will get worse for Israel. (Hosea 13:16, Revelation 6-19, Daniel 7:25, Revelation 11:2, 13:5)
- B. Only the shutting off of night and daylight will protect the elect. (Revelation 6:12, 8:12, 16:10)

V. The people must watch out for deception and false christs. (II Thessalonians 2)

- A. It is not possible to deceive the elect because of the sovereignty of God.
- B. Jesus has been telling the disciples all along to watch out for false messiahs. (Matthew 7, 15, 16, 23)
- C. We will know when Jesus gets here because it will be like universal lightning shocking everyone. (Revelation 1:7; 19; 6:15-17)
- D. The world will become so corrupt that the only option is to flee.

V. Calamity, confusion and corruption will come with the Antichrist, so all should run.

Application questions:

1. Why should the believer be prepared to run at the coming of the antichrist?

2. Why is it impossible for a person to miss the coming of the true Christ?

3. What are some characteristics of antichrists and the Antichrist that the believer might recognize him?
