

Text: Matthew 24:1-14

Section 1

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. *2* And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." *3* As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:1-3)

Jesus' disciples, "backwoods" fellows as they were, were still, after all they had seen and heard, enamored with the pomp and majesty of the Temple. Jesus, however, was not so. In fact, this was the last time He would visit the Temple. He then proceeded to tell the disciples of the coming utter destruction of the Temple. He had already spoken of this event in a parable, in which He foretold the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, **2** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. **3** "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. **4** "Again he sent out other slaves saying, "Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast." **5** "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, **6** and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. **7** "But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. (Matthew 22:1-7)

Matthew Henry describes the destruction of the Temple in great historical detail in his Commentary on this chapter of Matthew.

(2.) He speaks of it as an utter ruin. The temple shall not only be stripped, and plundered, and defaced, but utterly demolished and laid waste; *Not one stone shall be left upon another.* Notice is taken, in the *building* of the second temple, of the *laying of one stone upon another* (Hag. ii. 15); and here, in the *ruin*, of *not leaving one stone upon another.* History tells us, that this was fulfilled in the latter; for though Titus, when he took the city, did all he could to preserve the temple, yet he could not restrain the enraged soldiers from destroying it utterly; and it was done to that degree, that Turnus Rufus ploughed up the ground on which it had stood: thus that scripture was fulfilled (Mic. iii. 12), *Zion shall, for your sake, be ploughed as a field.* And afterward, in Julian the Apostate's time, when the Jews were encouraged by him to rebuild their temple, in opposition to the Christian religion, what remained of the ruins was quite pulled down, to level the ground for a new foundation; but the attempt was defeated by the miraculous eruption of fire out of the ground, which destroyed the foundation they laid, and frightened away the builders. Now this prediction of the final and irreparable ruin of the temple includes a prediction of the period of the Levitical priesthood and the ceremonial law. (Matthew Henry's Commentary)

Henry referenced the Book of Micah, in which the prophet foretold the plowing of Zion "as a field," indicating that this was the judgment righteously executed due to the false teachings of the Jewish priests and prophets—people not unlike the Pharisees and religious leaders that refused to recognize Messiah when He came, and instead persecuted and killed Him.

9 Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob

And rulers of the house of Israel,

Who abhor justice

And twist everything that is straight,

10 Who build Zion with bloodshed

And Jerusalem with violent injustice.

11 Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe,

Her priests instruct for a price

And her prophets divine for money

Yet they lean on the LORD saying,

"Is not the LORD in our midst?

Calamity will not come upon us."

12 Therefore, on account of you

Zion will be plowed as a field,

Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins,

And the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest. (Micah 3:9-12)

Section 2

4And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. (Matthew 24:4-5)

During this period of time, the Jews were actively and even desperately seeking their Messiah. In fact, even before Jesus' ministry a number of men had arisen claiming to be the Anointed One. The scholar Gamaliel was recorded mentioning several of these in Acts 5.

29But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. **30**"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. **31**"He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32**"And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." **33**But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them. **34**But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. **35**And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. **36**"For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. **37**"After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered. **38**"So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; **39**but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God." **40**They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. **41**So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. **42**And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. (Acts 5:29-42)

Again quoting Matthew Henry, we have a summary of Josephus's record of men that appeared immediately following Jesus' time claiming to be the Messiah.

[2.] There should appear false Christs, coming in Christ's name (v. 5), assuming to themselves the name peculiar to him, and saying, I am Christ, pseudo-christs, v. 24. There was at that time a general expectation of the appearing of the Messiah; they spoke of him; as he that should come; but when he did come, the body of the nation rejected him; which those who were ambitious of making themselves a name, took advantage of, and set up for Christ. Josephus speaks of several such impostors between this and the destruction of Jerusalem: one Theudas, that was defeated by Cospus Fadus; another by Felix, another by Festus. Dosethus said he was the Christ foretold by Moses. (Matthew Henry Commentary)

Even Simon Magus, who the Apostles encountered in Samaria, claimed to have a special power from God, yet he turned out to be an imposter.

9Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; **10**and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." **11**And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. **12**But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. **13**Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. **14**Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, **15**who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. **16**For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17**Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. **18**Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, **19**saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **20**But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **21**"You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. **22**"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. **23**"For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." **24**But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." (Acts 8:9-24)

Today we are unlikely to encounter a leader that claims to be Christ...at least using this exact term. However, there seem to be a plethora of teachers out there that claim to have a special "anointing" upon their person or message. This is contrary to the New Testament teaching that, while each of us is gifted differently by the Holy Spirit, we share in the same "anointing."

1Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2**with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, **3**being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4**There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your

calling; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

13For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

In the New Testament Church, the only One that has a special “anointing” is the Anointed One Himself, the Christ, the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone claiming to be specially “anointed” is claiming an office that belongs to the Lord only. Even worse, such individuals often claim special revelations from God that are at best tangential, and at worst contrary to the teachings of Scripture. Such individuals preach a false gospel, and are in effect false “christs” that are to be ignored.

6I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (Galatians 1:6-9)

Section 3

6"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. (Matthew 24:6-8)

Referring back to the disciples’ original question, they asked *"Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* It appears that, in the disciples’ minds, the destruction of the Temple and the end of the world would be concurrent events. Jesus, however, knew differently, and while he made some predictions in Matthew 24 that apply to the period surrounding the destruction of the Temple, many of the predictions contained here refer to the end of the world, and some perhaps have “double meanings,” applicable both to the events that occurred in A.D. 70 and to those that would occur at the end of the world. Here, He begins to caution believers to watch for perilous events ahead. While those in the “pre-tribulation Rapture” camp will claim that Christians need not worry about being present for these events, I am afraid that a plainer reading of Scripture indicates that we will indeed be present for the coming “Tribulation.” As such, we need to be prepared to endure events like those described in the above verses, which are “fleshed out” in greater detail in Revelation Chapter 6.

1Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." 2I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. 3When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." 4And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him. 5When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come " I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine." 7When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." 8I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth. (Revelation 6:1-8)

12I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-14)

Section 4

8"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. 9"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10"At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. (Matthew 24:8-10)

As if all of this wasn’t bad enough, Jesus went on to predict persecution and martyrdom, and even the “falling away” of many professed Christians. The first question to be raised is “Why do unbelievers have such hatred toward Christians that they would

persecute and kill them?" The answer is simple: God's Word, particularly the Person and message of Jesus Christ, points out the evil and wickedness that is present in each one of us. Unrepentant sinners do not want to face the reality that their sin makes them odious to a holy and perfect God, to Whom they must ultimately give an account.

12For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

19"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20"For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (John 3:19-20)

We need look no farther than the events surrounding the martyrdom of Stephen to see the effects the message of Jesus has upon those that refuse to repent. The men that heard Stephen speak were moved and affected by the message, but rather than responding in repentance and faith, they responded by killing the messenger.

51"You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52"Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; 53you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it." 54Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. 55But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. 58When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:51-60)

Looking back to Revelation 6, we see that the coming Tribulation will see an increase in martyrdom, just as Jesus predicted.

9When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also. (Revelation 6:9-11)

Section 5

11"Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. (Matthew 24:11-13)

God has given us an amazing gift by revealing Himself to us in Scripture. This Book, written over a period of 1,500 years, is God's authoritative revelation of Himself to us. Yet, there continue to be those that seek to ignore, add to, or take away from the Word, thereby modifying or obliterating its message. Why do such people arise, and why do others listen to them? For the same reason that those that killed Stephen did so—the true message of the Gospel is not palatable, and so unrepentant sinners seek a “friendlier gospel.” Unfortunately, this “gospel” has no power to save—it leads straight to Hell!

1I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (1Timothy 4:1-4)

The Apostle John warned his readers that many false prophets and even “antichrists” arose not from outside the church, but from within. This should motivate us even more to examine all of the teachings we hear from professed Christians in our own church and outside of it—and even to examine our own beliefs—to make sure that these are indeed in accordance with the teachings of Scripture.

15Do not love the world nor the things in the world If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from

the world. 17The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. 18Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. 20But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. (1 John 2:15-24)

How can people “go out,” as John states? What about “once saved, always saved?” Perseverance is a true doctrine, provided that one truly is saved. Jesus warned us, however, that not everyone professing faith in Christ is a true Christian.

14"The sower sows the word. 15"These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16"In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18"And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20"And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:14-20)

Because of this truth, Paul admonishes us to do the following:

5Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

How do we know that we are truly saved? If we abide, or remain, or “stand firm” in Christ. How do we do that? We keep His commandments. If He is Lord, then we will obey Him. If we do not obey, He is not our Lord. If He is not our Lord, he is not our Savior, and we remain in our sins.

1"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 7"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (John 15:1-11)

Finally, a comforting truth. For the true believer, the genuine Christian, it is God’s power that keeps us unto eternal life. Yes, we must repent and believe, and yes, we must continue to obey Him, and yes, to do any of these things is beyond our power. But praise God, He gives that power to all that trust in Him.

8For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

27"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29"My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30"I and the Father are one." (John 10:27-30)

Section 6

14"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

Let’s end today by discussing the Gospel itself, the “Good News” in which we proclaim that “**whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.**” Jesus promised that, before the end, the message would be preached throughout the world. Indeed, people of

all nations, small and great, rich and poor, male and female, young and old, are invited—indeed, **COMMANDED**—to repent of sin and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and thereby receive eternal life.

8Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." (Acts 2:38-39)

8But what does it say? "**THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART**"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, **9**that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10**for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **11**For the Scripture says, "**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**" **12**For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; **13**for "**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.**"

14How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? **15**How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "**HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!**" **16**However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "**LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?**" **17**So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. **18**But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have;

"**THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,**

AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." **19**But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says,

"**I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION,**

BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU." **20**And Isaiah is very bold and says,

"**I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME,**

I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME." **21**But as for Israel He says, "**ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.**" (Romans 10:8-21)

Some theologians believe that the promise in Matthew 24:14 was an indication that the Gospel would be preached "throughout the whole world" before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. It is true that, beginning with Saul's persecution that scattered the Jerusalem church and then continuing after the now-converted Paul went on his missionary journeys, the Gospel had been preached throughout the "whole" Roman world by A.D. 70.

1Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. **2**Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. **3**But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. **4**Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. (Acts 8:1-4)

1Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **2**To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. **3**We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, **4**since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; **5**because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel **6**which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; (Colossians 1:1-6)

Whatever Jesus' exact meaning was in Matthew 24:14, we are all still here, and we are still commanded to preach the Gospel to all people. The Book of Revelation tells us that the Lord God is indeed calling a great people unto Himself, "**from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues.**" **EVERYONE** that calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved!

18And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

9After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; **10**and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." **11**And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12**saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever Amen." **13**Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" **14**I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he

said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15"For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16"They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:9-17)