**Lesson – 11 Last Day Events**

**Read for your study: -**[Exod. 19:5](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod.%2019.5), [6](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2019.6); Matthew 23; [John 12:20-26](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2012.20-26); Matthew 24; [1 Thess. 4:16](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Thess.%204.16).

**Memory Text:** -‘And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted’ **(**[**Matthew 23:12, NKJV**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matthew%2023.12)**)**.

**Introduction: -** Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave a very clear description of the events that will precede His coming. Just the way He warned the disciples of what to expect prior to the fall of Jerusalem, He has given us a preview of the events and situations we may expect before He comes again. He offers to enable us to know and trust Him so that, like the five wise maidens, we may welcome Him eagerly when He comes.

In **Matthew 24 and 25** Jesus discusses the signs, or indicators, of His coming. Depending on how we view eternity, particularly the God with whom we are to spend it, we will find the signs rewarding and glorious or frightening.

God has given us a chance to prepare ourselves for the last days. In other words, despite the toils and sorrow, we do have an opportunity to prepare and every reason to rejoice of His coming! Let us dive into our lesson and learn more!

**Blind Guides: -** God had brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt and led them into Jerusalem through Jesus Christ. They had accepted the cup of His covenant and had promised to live forever with Him in the land of promise. But very soon they broke that covenant and failed to pass the test of humility.

The relationship between Israel and God had broken. Thus, God turned away from them pronouncing seven woes against the leadership of Pharisees and the Scribes. Matthew 23 describes these terrible shortcomings of the Jewish leadership:

* They shut the door of the kingdom in people’s faces. (v. 13-14)
* They turn converts into twice the child of hell that they are. (v. 15)
* They say it means nothing to swear “by God’s Temple”. (v. 16-22)
* They ignore the weightier matters of the law, such as justice, mercy, and faith. (v. 23-24)
* They are filthy inside–**full of greed and self-indulgence.** (v. 25-26)
* They look fine on the outside–but are full **of hypocrisy and lawlessness** on the inside. (v. 27-28)
* They are responsible for murdering God’s prophets. (v. 29-32)

Jesus' last words to Israel, His own special people, were spoken firmly in language they could understand, but the tears in His voice (Luke 19:41) revealed something of the depth of sorrow that only God can know as He separates from those who have rejected Him. **Matthew 23:38** records those final decisive words of Jesus, “‘Look, your house is left to you desolate.’”

A spiritually barren people could never fulfill the prophetic role that God had in mind for them. Because ancient Israelites had substituted their own righteousness for that of Christ, He had no choice but to separate from them. They could argue about minutiae, but, in respect to eternal issues, they were **blind guides of the blind.**

**Signs of the End: -** After Jesus rebuked the Jewish leadership who rejected Him, [John 12:20-26](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2012.20-26) records a fascinating request about Gentiles who wanted “to see Jesus”. What we see here is how Jewish believers would become a ‘light’ for the Gentile world to become acquainted with the Saviour. The Holy Spirit worked with those who humbly surrendered to serve God.

After predicting the destruction of Jerusalem temple **(Matthew 24:1, 2)**, the disciples asked Jesus about signs of His coming and the end of the world.

Jesus drew some parallels between the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem and the events that would occur immediately before His second coming. "Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves."—**The Desire of Ages, p. 628.**

In [**Matthew 24:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matthew%2024.13), Jesus says that ‘He who endures to the end shall be saved” (NKJV). **Why is endurance to the end necessary for salvation (Matt. 24:13)?** Are we not saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-10)?

No one likes the word endurance today. Most people prefer words like instant, ready-made, prompt, and assured. Many Christians regard endurance as a contradiction of their Christian freedom. Why endure?

An increasing number of false christs and false prophets will attempt to lead astray the very elect through deception. **2 Thessalonians 2:9 and 2 Corinthians 11:14** suggest that Satan will attempt to deceive the entire world. **(Compare Revelation 13:3, 13-14.)** In the same way that he deceived one third of the angels, Satan will attempt to ensnare all of mankind.

The fact that we enjoy the blessings of present salvation in Christ does not immune us from temptation and possible deception in the future. Only as we maintain our faith-grace relationship with Jesus on a daily, hourly basis can we be kept from falling. The people whose names are taken out of the book of life before Jesus' return **(Rev. 3:5)** are those who have been genuine believers but who have failed to maintain their saving relationship with Him.

There are conditions to salvation. **First**, we respond by faith to Christ's invitation (Acts 16:31). **Secondly**, we abide in Him constantly. **(See Matt. 10:22; James 1:12; 5:11; John 15:9; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 12:1; 1 Peter 1:13; Rev. 3:11.)**

**The Demise of Jerusalem: - What event of worldwide significance will occur before Jesus' coming? Matt. 24:14.**

**Matthew 24:14** applies to the time of the end. At a time when nations are in the greatest turmoil, when oppression has become immeasurable, the good news of the kingdom is that God does not run His universe as earthly tyrants run their governments, nor is He the cruel dictator that Satan represents Him to be. **The message of the atoning sacrifice of Christ is to be proclaimed to sinners everywhere. The message that He "bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness"** **(1 Peter 2:24, RSV)** is to be carried to every corner of the globe. Jesus is God's great gift to sinners needing salvation and longing for eternal life.

 In **Revelation 14:6-12**, note that four major features characterize the "everlasting gospel" that will be preached throughout the world before Jesus comes:

• The pre-advent judgment message. • The Sabbath message. • The fall of antitypical Babylon. • A warning of the beast, its image, and its mark.

Throughout Matthew 24, He made it very clear that the final events in this earth’s history will be a terrible time for Christians. The Devil knows that if a group of Christians remain faithful, he is finished. But, fortunately, if we stay faithful and endure until Christ comes back, it will be a wonderful and unique experience. Christ has promised us a home with Him forever.

**What did Jesus mean by "the desolating sacrilege spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place" (Matt. 24:15, RSV)?**

The "abomination of desolation" or "desolating sacrilege" (RSV) is a phrase taken from Daniel 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11. The phrase has three applications:

**A.** **Before the destruction of Jerusalem.** "When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself, the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed."—**The Great Controversy, p. 26.**

**B**. **The work of the Papacy in the Middle Ages.** Daniel referred to long centuries during which the "transgression of desolation" would subjugate God's truth and His people **(Dan. 8:13, 14)**. Jesus was referring to the work of the little horn power of Daniel chapter 8. **(See The Desire of Ages, pp. 630, 631.)**

**C.** **The final great apostasy that will oppose God's truth and people at the end of time.**

The little horn power of **Daniel 8** that is responsible for the **"abomination of desolation"** is not destroyed until the return of Christ. **(See Dan. 8:25; compare Rev. 17:4, 5; 21:27.)**

"It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly."—**Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 464, 465.**

**The Second Coming of Jesus: -How is the Second Coming described? What happens when He comes?** The Scripture gives us a clear picture of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus intends to come back Himself. **1 Thessalonians 4:16** says, “The Lord Himself will descend from heaven.” **(John 14:1-3)** His coming will be visible to all who are living, and it will be very loud–loud enough to wake up the dead! It will be worldwide and “Every eye shall see him**” (**[**Rev. 1:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rev.%201.7)**)**. He will come as a triumphant King **(Rev. 19:16)**.

**Keeping Watch: -** Most of the signs spoken of in **Matthew 24** have been fulfilled. Since the time of Christ, nations have risen against nations, false messiahs have arisen, God's people have suffered persecution, and people have been absorbed in temporal pursuits as if these were the only true values. And still Jesus has not come. **Why?**

In **Matthew 24:45-51**, the parable of the faithful servant suggest about a delay in Christ's coming. This parable and those that follow may be termed **"parables of preparedness."** They demonstrate in practical terms what it means to "**watch"** and be ready for Christ's return.

**Christ's people to be settled in the truth.** **Revelation 7:1-3** indicates that He is waiting for His people to become so settled into the truth that they cannot be moved. "Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming."—**Ellen G. White Comments, SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 4, p. 1161.**

**What kind of character does the Lord desire each of His children to possess before His coming? (Rev. 3:1-5, 18, 19).** "We are to strive to enter in at the strait gate. But this gate does not swing loosely on its hinges. It will not admit doubtful characters. We must now strive for eternal life with an intensity that is proportionate to the value of the prize before us. It is not money or lands or position, but the possession of a Christ like character that will open to us the gates of Paradise. It is not dignity, it is not intellectual attainments, that will win for us the crown of immortality. Only the meek and lowly ones, who have made God their efficiency, will receive this gift."—**Christian Service, p. 247.**

**Will We Be Ready When He Comes? God Bless You!!!**