

# “Are We There Yet?”

## Part 1

Matthew 24:1-36

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## THE QUESTIONS

*Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup>But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”<sup>3</sup>As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”*

Matthew 24:1-3 (English Standard Version)

## Project two pics of Temple

- **Question #1:** “Tell us, when will these things be, . . .” = When will the Temple be destroyed?
- **Question #2:** “What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”
  - “coming” = Greek = *parousia*
  - The second coming of Jesus

**THE ANSWER TO QUESTION #1:** In answering the disciples' first question, Jesus also provides an encouragement: **In dark times, endure, knowing that God’s sovereign plan will prevail.**

*“Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”*

Matthew 24:34 (ESV)

- **Matthew 24:4-14** = Catastrophic events are part of the dark times that will happen **before the Temple falls**, so stand firm.
  - “See that no one leads you astray.” Matthew 24:4 (ESV)
  - “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.” Matthew 24:6 (ESV)

- *“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. <sup>13</sup>But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”* Matthew 24:9, 13 (ESV)
- “endure” = Greek = *hypomeno* = “hold your ground”
- *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”* Matthew 24:14 (ESV)
  - “the whole world” = the whole known world
  - See Colossians 1:6 = the gospel *“bearing fruit in the whole world”*
  - See Romans 16:26 = the gospel *“made known to all the nations”*
- **Matthew 24:15-28** = When dark times bring God’s judgment, avoid being caught up in that judgment.

*“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup>then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup>Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup>and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.”* Matthew 24:15-18 (ESV)

- **Matthew 24:29-31** = In the destruction of the Temple, Jesus will be vindicated by God and exalted over all.

*“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup>Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other . . .”* Matthew 24:29-31 (ESV)

*“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup>So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>34</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”* Matthew 24:32-35 (ESV)