

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

Dr. Paul Large, Pastor

Sermon Notes Outline for video posted March 6, 2021

T I T L E: Shadows of Prophetical Fulfillment

T E X T: Matthew 24

- I. Scripture encourages Christians to remain alert at all times regarding the signs of the times relative to His second coming and to do so with a humble cautiousness tempered with a definitive certainty that HE is on His way.**

The Lord reprimanded the Pharisees and Sadducees of His day for not recognizing the signs of their time... that is, who He was and is...

Matthew 24:32–33 ---- 32 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

Matthew 16:1–3 ---- 1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ 3 “And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?

The Jewish leaders were supposedly expert interpreters of the Old Testament Scriptures. In such messianic passages as Isaiah 11 and 35, we are told that when the Messiah came, the lame would walk, the deaf would hear, and the blind would see. When Jesus came on the scene this is precisely what happened. These Jewish leaders should have been able to read the signs of the times and recognize that Jesus indeed was the promised Messiah. But they could not.

II. Contemporary forerunners to the rapture of the church and the beginning of the tribulation:

A. Increase in frequency and intensity of earthly and heavenly catastrophic events such as:

earthquakes, famine, and pestilences, etc. As well as signs in the heavens such as meteors striking the earth...

Matthew 24:3, 7-8; Luke 21:11; Revelation 8:10–12

Today's top scientists are saying that it is not a matter of if such a celestial body will strike earth, but when. The mathematical probabilities render this a certainty as some point in the future. And when it happens, it will likely involve a significant celestial body striking the earth with a minimum velocity of 130,000 miles per hour. Probably happen during the tribulation period.

B. Moral and Ethical Decline — in some cases staggering to the imagination.

2 Timothy 3:1–5 ---- 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. (Love self-humanism; lovers of money - materialism; lovers of pleasure - hedonism)

Jerry Nadler — politician — “God’s will is of no concern to this Congress”

Abortion, drug abuse, alcoholism....

C. Religious Indicators

Matthew 24:24 ---- "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Mark 13:22 ----for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

2 Corinthians 11:13 ---- For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

D. Advancements in Technology

Matthew 24:14 ---- "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.

Global Evangelism — Economic Control — Nuclear Detonations

Conclusion: Prophecy casts a shadow before it actually arrives. Be humbly cautious but definitively certain...Christ is on His way.