

Five Signs of Matthew 24

1. False Prophets and False Christs

50-70AD

Matthew 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many."

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."

- Per Paul, false teachers were coming to Ephesus during the overseers time (Acts 20:30)
- Per Paul, false teachers caused the problems in the churches of Galatia (Gal. 2:4)
- Per John, false teachers were already present (I John 2:18, 2 John 7, etc)
- Per Jude, it had already happened (Jude 4,18)

2. The Gospel preached to the world

55-63AD

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."

- Per Paul, the Gospel had gone to the world
- Romans 10:18 Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.*
- Colossians 1:6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world,*
- Colossians 1:23 the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven*

3. The great persecution (The Tribulation)

55-65AD

Matthew 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name."

Matthew 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will."

Per Paul, the persecution by the Jews was widespread by the Thessalonian (1 Thessalonians 2:14-15) letter, but Romans persecution was not known (Acts 18:14-16) until the end of Nero's reign

Tacitus Annals XV44 Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace.

4. The Abomination of Desolation

February
70AD

Matthew 24:15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place

- Clarified as Luke render this passage:
- Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near."*
- The Roman army committed to a final siege of Jerusalem in February 70AD

5. The current generation would live to see all of this

April
70AD

Matthew 24:34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

- A generation is 40 years in the Bible
- Numbers 32:13 "So the LORD'S anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone."*

Misconceptions of Matthew 24 / Mark 13 / Luke 21

1. Many people believe this prophecy pertains to events far in the future.
 - a. Jesus directly reveals it pertains to the destruction of the Jewish temple
 - b. Jesus states that it would happen in the lifetime (generation) of the hearers

2. Many people believe that this prophecy pertains to signs of Jesus' second coming
 - a. These events are recorded as having occurred in the time of the New Testament
 - b. Jesus said that in regards to His second coming, there would be no signs (vs. 36)

3. Many people believe that "the Day of the Lord" always means the last days in time
 - a. The expression "the Day of the Lord" is used 18 times in the Old Testament
 - b. It always referred to a time when God destroyed a nation (usually by another nation)