I. Importance Of Prophecy
   A. 2 Peter 1:16, 19–21
      1. The prophetic word takes precedence over eyewitness testimony
      2. The prophetic word is the only source of light in a dark world
         a. “Morning star”: the confidence that Christ will return in glory
   B. Matthew 24:1–3 (with parallels in Mark 13 and Luke 21)
      1. Man’s works will perish
      2. This age is coming to an appointed end
   C. The world will end in destruction (Rom. 9:27–28)
      1. “For the Lord will carry out His sentence on earth with speed and finality” (NIV)
      2. “Destruction . . . a determined end” (Is. 10:21–23)

II. Events Leading Up To The End
   A. Matthew 24:4–13
      1. The greatest threat is deception
         a. Pride is the door to deception
         b. Humility is the only safe place
      2. Birth pangs: Nation against nation; famines, pestilences and earthquakes
         a. The kingdom of God is to be born out of these birth pangs
         b. Birth pangs increase in intensity as birth nears
      3. Continuation of birth pangs (v. 9–13)
   B. What will be the sign? (v. 14)
      1. The gospel will be preached to all nations
      2. Compare Rom. 11:25–26: “until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in”
   C. The great tribulation (Matt. 24:15–22)
   D. The climax (Matt. 24:29–31)
      1. Signs in the heavens
      2. Christ’s return

III. Our Response
   A. Recognize and rejoice
      2. Change from fearful to happy
   B. Complete our task
      1. Matthew 24:14
      2. Number 1 priority: Proclaim the gospel
   C. Work and walk while we have light (John 9:4, 12:35)

IV. Two Pictures From Revelation
   A. The six seals opened:
      1. White horse: Victory
      2. Red horse: Bloodshed and civil war
      3. Black horse: Scales, which pictures scarcity and rationing
      4. Pale horse: One-quarter of earth killed
5. Martyrs
6. Cosmic disturbances

B. The white horse goes first (Rev. 6:1–8)—the Gospel of Jesus Christ
C. Jesus with a sickle (Rev. 14:14–20)
   1. First, the harvest of mercy
   2. Then, the harvest of judgment

© 1986 — Derek Prince Ministries–International