I. Theme: Christ’s Return (2 Pet. 1:16–19)
   A. Attested to by:
      1. Eyewitness of Apostles
      2. Prophetic word “made more sure”
         a. A lamp in a dark place
         b. A primary motive for holy living (2 Pet. 3:10–14)
      3. Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in life of Jesus
         a. Born of a virgin (Matt. 21:22–23 [compare Is. 7:14])
         b. Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:4–6; Matt. 2:4–6 [compare Micah 5:2])
         c. Called out of Egypt (Matt. 2:14–15 [compare Hos. 11:1])
         d. Taught in parables (Matt. 13:34–35 [compare Ps. 78:1–2])
         e. Healed the sick (Matt. 11:2–6 [compare Is. 29:18–19, 35:4–6, 61:1])
         f. Flogged and abused (Is. 50:5–6)
         g. Hands and feet pierced (Ps. 22:16)
         h. Garments divided (Matt. 27:35 [compare Ps. 22:18])
         i. Killed and buried (Is. 53:8–9)
         j. Rose on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3–4 [compare Hos. 6:1–2])
   B. No pattern in New Testament for “spiritual” fulfillment of prophecy

II. Nature Of Biblical Prophecy
   A. Jesus is the promised prophet (Deut. 18:18–19)—if we do not hear Him, God will require it from us (see Acts 3:22–23)
   B. Declaring both past and future—mark of true God and of the Bible (Is. 41:21–24, 42:9, 46:9–10)
   C. Secret things of God vs. revealed things (Deut. 29:29)
III. Spine Of Biblical Prophecy

A. God not impressed by religious buildings (Matt. 24:1–2)
B. Two questions (Matt. 24:3)
   1. What will be the sign when the temple is destroyed?
   2. What will be the sign of Christ’s return?

IV. Question 2: What Will Be The Sign Of Christ’s Return?

A. Matt: 24:4–5—Warning against deception and false messiahs
B. Matt. 24:6—Throughout the age: Wars and rumors of wars
   1. Nation vs. nation
   2. Kingdom vs. kingdom
   3. World wars
   4. Famines
   5. Pestilences
   6. Earthquakes
D. Matt. 24:9–12—Other birth pangs
   1. Persecution of Christians
   2. Falling away of believers (apostasy)
   3. False prophets (cults)
   4. Increase of lawlessness
   5. Lukewarm Christians
E. Matt. 24:13—Need for endurance (compare Luke 21:19) i.e., To remain saved you must endure
F. Matt. 24:14—The sign: Worldwide proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom (2 Peter 3:11–12)
G. Matt. 24:15–20—Change of focus: Jerusalem and Judea—idolatrous sign in temple area (Jer. 30:3–7; Dan. 12:1–3)
H. Matt. 24:20—Note limits set to prayer
I. Matt. 24:21–22—Unparalleled worldwide tribulation
   1. Jew first, then Greek (Rom. 2:9–10)
   2. Great tribulation—worldwide (Rev. 7:9–10)
J. Matt. 24:23–26—Warning against false prophets and messiahs
K. Matt. 24:27—Christ’s coming compared to lightning
L. Matt. 24:28—Concentration of evil forces indicates the time/place
M. Matt. 24:29–30—Immediately after the tribulation: Disturbances in solar system, then visible return of Christ in glory
N. Matt. 24:31—Angels gather the “elect” (Compare Is. 27:12–13)

V. Question 1: When Will The Temple Be Destroyed?

A. Luke 21:20—the sign: Jerusalem surrounded by armies (fulfilled in 70 A.D.)
B. Luke 21:21—Believers warned to escape
D. Luke 21:24b—Jerusalem restored to Jewish control—end of “times of Gentiles”
E. Luke 21:25–27—Final worldwide signs leading up to Christ’s return
Watchman, What Of The Night?
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VI. Features/Trends Of The End Times (Is. 21:11–12)
A. Morning comes, but also night
   1. Light vs. darkness
   2. Pessimists vs. optimists
B. Light in the midst of darkness (Is. 60:1–3)
C. Abraham’s descendants like stars—the deeper the darkness, the brighter God’s people will be shining (Gen. 15:5; Gal. 3:29). No matter what the devil does, the Lord has the last word. How church pianist was set free.
D. God’s people to be lights in midst of darkness (Dan. 12:1–3)
E. Wheat and tares ripening together—“climate” of permissiveness—release from restraints and restrictions (Matt. 13:24–30, 37–43)
   1. Harvest of grain: Salvation (Rev. 14:14–16)
   2. Harvest of grapes: Judgment (Rev. 14:17–20)
   3. Righteous and holy vs. unrighteous and filthy (Rev. 22:10–12)

VII. The Two Pentecosts
   a. Early and latter rain for harvest of salvation preparing way for return of Christ (James 5:7–8; Jer. 5:23–24)
   b. Produces a bride for Christ (Rev. 19:7–8)
2. Satanic “Pentecost”
   a. Apostasy—opens the way for the antichrist (2 Thess. 2:1–4; Acts 21:21)
   b. They went out from us (1 John 2:18–19)
   c. Deceiving spirits and demons (1 Tim. 4:1)
   d. Evil men and “enchanters” (2 Tim. 3:13)
   e. Produces the harlot church (Rev. 17:16–17)

You Also Must Be Ready
4300

VIII. How Shall We Respond?
A. Be ready at all times (Matt. 24:43–44)—the secret vs. revealed things (Deut. 29:29)
   1. Do the revealed things
   2. Leave the secret things alone
B. Four requirements:
   2. Rejoice—the kingdom of God is almost here (Luke 21:28)
      a. Cares of this life
      b. Become involved but detached
      c. Be alert
      d. Pray always (Matt. 24:20)
4. Fulfill our righteous acts—two areas (Rev. 19:8)
   a. Evangelistic—Gospel of the kingdom to all nations (Matt. 24:14)
   b. Pastoral—faithful vs. unfaithful servant (Matt. 24:45–51)

II. Program To Close The Age
   A. The four horsemen (Rev. 6:1–8)
   B. Cry of the martyrs (Rev. 6:9–11)
   C. Close of the age (Rev. 6:12–17)
   D. White horse—Christ conquering through gospel (Rev. 6:1–2)
   E. Christ presented in truth, humility, righteousness—must keep ahead of other three horses (Ps. 45:2–5)
   F. Urgency because the time is short

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