



Adelaide College

Fear the Lord and be wise

End Times Prophecy

Lecture 1: World Conditions in the Last Times

Jesus and the New Testament generally tell us about world conditions in the last days with regard to spiritual, social and moral conditions.

1. There will be no thought for Christ's return because of ignorance –

Mt. 24:37 “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day of Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

And because of self-indulgence and the cares of this life –

Lk. 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

2. There will be a widespread immorality and ungodliness of all kinds –

2 Tim. 3:1 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God”

3. There will be plenty of powerless religion –

2 Tim 3:5 “having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

4. But sound doctrine will be neglected –

2 Tim 4:3, 4 “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”

The return of Christ in particular will be ridiculed –

2 Pet. 3:3 “First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our father’s died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.””

5. There will be a widespread lack of faith on the earth –

Lk. 18:8 “I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” The Greek says, “will he find the faith on the earth”, meaning a lack of those who believe the true faith.

This will be due to an increase in wickedness –

Mt. 24:12 “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold”.

The influence of evil spirits –

1 Tim. 4:1 “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”

And because of various people inspired by Satan -

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.”

Mt. 24:5, 11 “ For many will come in my name claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many... 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.”

Mt. 7:22 “Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

Mt. 24:24 “For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible.”

6. The “Man of Lawlessness” will instigate rebellion -

2 Thess. 2:3 “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.” Many say he will be the Antichrist.

7. There will be widespread persecution –

Mt. 24:9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.” Many think this is the “great distress” (NIV) or “great tribulation” (AV) and that it occurs throughout the present church age. But many others say the “Tribulation” comes at the end of the age.

8. There will be international unrest –

Mt. 24:6 “You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

9. There will also be natural disasters –

Mt 24:7 “There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”

Mt. 24:29 “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (Isa. 13:10; 34:4)

10. The world and many in the Church will fail to read the signs of the approaching end and so will not be ready for Christ’s return –

Lk. 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.”

And so this is a warning to be spiritually alert and ready –

Lk. 12:36 “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

