

JESUS CHRIST Continues To Describe The First Half Of The Tribulation

Part 3 ◦ Matthew 24:11-14

In Matthew 24:9-14 JESUS CHRIST is describing the spiritual condition of Jews in the first half of The Tribulation. It is a most depressing time to live on earth.

He has already prophesied that all nations will hate the Jews. (verse 9) Then starting in verse 10 JESUS CHRIST describes what will happen to individual Jews in the first half of The Tribulation.

Matthew 24:10

“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.”

Last week we studied why while all the world hates Jews, Jews, also, will hate each other and in verse 11 we get yet another clue as to why Jews will hate Jews—***many false prophets.***

Now in verse 11 JESUS CHRIST warns of another attack going on toward the Jews.

Matthew 24:10

11 “Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

It is amazing how false prophets will actually cause one Jew to hate another.

Let's take a close look at **false prophets**.

To do this let's take a look at 2 Peter 2:1

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. [We are not going to spend a great

deal of time on the distinction between] *false*

prophets and false teachers. [A prophet is one who foretells the future; a false prophet is one who lies about the future. He tries to assume the work of a prophet but is not a prophet of the true God.]

A **false teacher** is one who pretends to be Christian teacher, but teaches false doctrine.

But here, Peter is making another distinction between a **false prophet** and a **false teacher**. A **false prophet** is related to Israel while **false teachers** are the trouble makers to the church. A **false prophet** goes right along with a false Christ.

Note back in verse 5 *saying I am the Christ.*

That is ***I am the Messiah***

(*these are the anti-Christ—those claiming to be the Christ.*)

But JESUS CHRIST was also ***the promised Prophet.***

Deuteronomy 18:18

‘I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Deuteronomy 18:19

'It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which He shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

The Jews were looking for this **promised Prophet**:

Acts 3:20-23

²⁰ [Peter is teaching believers] *and that He* [God the Father] *may send Jesus, the Christ* [the anointed one, the Messiah] *appointed for you,*

²¹ *whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.*

²² *“Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN;* [fellow

Jew] *TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED
to everything He says to you.*

23 *‘And it will be that every soul that does not
heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed
from among the people.’*

So again, they were expecting this **promised Prophet**.
John 1:21

They [priest and Levites from Jerusalem] *asked
him,* [John the Baptist, the forerunner of JESUS

CHRIST] *“What then? Are you Elijah?”*

[they were expecting Elijah, but the appearance by
Elijah will not happen until The Tribulation, when the
two witness appear: (Moses and Elijah)]

And he [John the Baptist] **said, “I am not.”*

*“Are you the Prophet?” And he
answered, “No.”*

They were looking for a Messiah and a Prophet. Many of them did not understand that He would be both the prophet and the Messiah.

John 6:14

Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, [feeding of the 5000] they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” [While most did not accept Jesus as the Promised Messiah and prophet there were some who did.]

Now back to our study: Matthew 24:11

Verse 11 *“Many false prophets will arise”*

[The future tense refers to the first half of The Tribulation. These will be caused to rise up as false prophets, as in the days of Ahab. 2 Chronicles 18:18-22

While the church must contend and identify false teachers, Israel will have to contend and not list to false prophets.]

and will mislead many.

It is really amazing the number of people who are misled by **false prophets** and **false teachers**. The future tense of *mislead* refers to the first half of The Tribulation.

And the verb means to mislead *from the truth!*

You can tell a false prophet in that what he prophesies does not come to fruition, and you can tell a false teacher in that what he teaches does not line up with the Word of God.

Of course, this means you have to KNOW THE WORD OF GOD and that means you have to sit under one who is teaching the Truth of Scripture. Remember that our government does not teach all about false currency, they teach over and over what a true bill looks like, and when a bill does not look like that...it is counterfeit.

Matthew 24:11

“Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. The *many* refer to those who, in verse 10, turn against those in verse 11. That is, those who are deceived by these **false prophets** will turn against those who are not deceived but who stay with the truth.

Jesus is warning the Jews in the first half of The Tribulation not to be deceived by false Christ, no matter what signs and wonders they perform.

Israel is in danger of following a false Christ and a false prophet because Israel has not yet learned how to recognize the true Messiah, the true promised prophet.

**YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH,
NOT TO BE DECEIVED
AND BE LED ASTRAY FROM THE TRUTH.**

Verse 12 gives another warning that we all should pay attention to, even in the Church Age. There is something devastating in time of tribulations.

Matthew 24:12

“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.

In verse 11 *many false prophets will arise.*

Now in verse 12 *the lawlessness will increase.*

There are so many variables going on in the first half of The Tribulation.

⁷ *Because lawlessness* [no, we have the definite article] *because the lawlessness **anomia***

from **nomos** –law, with the negating **a**-alpha.

First this does not mean there is no law.

There is no absence of law; but the willful violation of the law; therefore, **transgression** or **lawlessness**.

Also in scriptures of the New Testament it refers to ‘*divinely instituted law*’. A willful disobedience to God’s laws.

And while lawlessness has always existed, as history moves into the first half of The Tribulation *the lawlessness will increase.*

The Greek word means just that **it will abound, increase, be multiplied.** And as we move closer to the Rapture of the Church (the removal of the Church), we see all over the world... the increase in lawlessness.

Question:

Why?

Why will lawlessness increase?

There are two reasons for this abounding of lawlessness:

- 1) the man of lawlessness is identified on earth--that is the antichrist 2 Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no one in any way deceive you, [we saw in Matthew 24 how false prophets will deceive many; and here in the close of the Church Age, many **false teachers** will deceive many] *for it will not come* [he is talking about the rapture of the church] *unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is**

revealed, the son of destruction,

- 2) The restrainer is removed – that is the Holy Spirit
2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

*6 And you know what restrains him
now, so that in his time he will be
revealed.*

*7 For the mystery of lawlessness is
already at work; only he who now
restrains will do so until he is taken
out of the way.* [This is a reference to the
removal of the Holy Spirit]

We have already studied both here and in Daniel that the
Anti-Christ is this **lawless one**, and he sets himself up
opposed to JESUS CHRIST.

This is so clearly seen in Hebrews 1:9

*“YOU [JESUS CHRIST] HAVE LOVED
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED
LAWLESSNESS; [here lawlessness is*

placed in opposition to righteousness, and JESUS CHRIST loves righteousness, and hates **lawlessness—*deliberately disobeying any standard of God*** while the anti-christ of The Tribulation loves lawlessness and hates righteousness] *THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, [God the Father] HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.*” [So once again we see the hostility of the anti-Christ against JESUS CHRIST]

The lawlessness talked about here is worse than it has ever been in history.

“*The lawlessness*” described here in Matthew 24 is going to cause or bring about so many horrible things in The Tribulation. For example it is this lawlessness that will allow the man of Lawlessness to just walk in and set up the abomination of desolation in the Temple in Jerusalem and set himself up to be god.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one [false teachers] in any way deceive you, [by their false teaching, that they

make so appealing] *for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,*

4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

The lawlessness is increased this fails to even come close to what JESUS CHRIST is saying will happen. Lawlessness will multiply rapidly over the world. Much faster than even today where we have one Muslim terrorist attack in Paris, followed by another in Belgium. In The Tribulation this lawlessness will happen every day, throughout the world, giving the Anti-Christ, the man of Lawlessness the power to move into the Temple in Jerusalem.

Now what happens when lawlessness breaks out:

most people's love will grow cold

Christmas –New Years of '02 we did a special when love grows cold where we related it to Christians and Spiritual

Love of the Holy Spirit – I recommend that you listen to that...but now we are confined to context!

And what is the context? First half of The Tribulation, when false prophets increase, and all the world hates the Jews, when fellow Jews will turn against each other and betray One Another and hate One Another and The lawlessness increases...

Most peoples' love will grow cold

First of all, we have to identify whose love grows cold.

The original text says *because of the*

multiplying of The lawlessness, will grow cold the love of the many

[in reverse order: **who are the many?**]

1) First we go back to verse 5

for many will come in My name,

saying, I am the Christ, and will

mislead many [many Jews will be misled,

these are included in the many of verse 12.]

2) They are further described in verse 9 as the ones who will betray fellow Jews, and this is one reason they will betray—their love has grown cold.

- 3) And again in verse *10 many will fall away and betray and hate*. Why will they hate?
Their love has grown cold.
- 4) And then in verse 11 they will be misled by the false prophets, which will cause their love to grow cold.

Now let's look at the word for *love*

This is **agape** desired love.

Now: *will grow cold*

Do not miss the cause effect here:

because of the mass increase of lawlessness

will have the effect that their love will grow cold.

WHEN SIN INCREASES – LOVE GROWS COLD

You think endurance of faith is difficult?

Take a look at the great task of the endurance of love!

So many people love—only for their love to **grow cold**.

This brings up a very important issue:

Demands of Love

There is nothing that will make greater demands on you than Love!

To love as JESUS CHRIST loved.

Look what it cost Him.

And it is the demands of love that causes love to grow cold!

Lawlessness is breaking out at an all-time rate, the Inherited Sin Nature is taking over.

The pressure on love- The demands on love – just continue to get heavier!

The Greek word here is interesting:

psucho to ***breath cool air***;

And here it is **NOT** talking about because the outside temperature is cold, but because the soul is cold.

And the word **psucho** is from the same root as soul:

psuche.

The Battle in The Tribulation is the same all through history.

IT IS IN THE SOUL.

As the soul grows cold, love from that soul grows cold.

And there are multitude of reasons as to why the soul grows cold and the love grows cold, but here we are told it is because of the daily increase of lawlessness.

People Who Live In Fear – Love Grows Cold

And as lawlessness breaks out everywhere, people live in fear. Look at the world today with the lawlessness of the terrorist- causing so many to live in fear.

This brings us to closing words of JESUS CHRIST in describing the first half of The Tribulation.

Matthew 24:13

“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

[First we must deal with the phrase:] *he will be saved*

Two things are unfortunate here:

- 1 In most translations the Greek **sozo** is translated *to save*
- 2 And when most people read the verb *to save* they can think of only eternal life salvation. To give you some idea of the diversity of this Greek word, **Sozo** in one Lexicon covers 6 columns where the basic meaning of the verb is to rescue from peril, to protect to keep alive, to deliver.

Any and every Jew who believes that Jesus is the Messiah is saved eternally, but not every one of them will be delivered through The Tribulation, but every one of them who does not fall away from his Faith in Jesus Christ all through The Tribulation... these will be delivered through The Tribulation into the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

One of the most basic Greek Lexicons, *Arndt and Gingrich A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. says of this word that the basic meaning is 'to save, to keep from harm, preserve, rescue.

Of course this word is used to describe eternal life salvation as in Matthew 1:21

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” as well as Acts 16:31;

1 Corinthians 1:18; Ephesians 2:8-9, etc.

Or it can simply refer to physical deliverance or rescue as when the disciples were with the Lord in a boat and a storm arose: Matthew 8:25

And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!”

as well as in such passages as Acts 27:31; Hebrews 5:7, etc.

The correct translation and interpretation is determined by the context.

I like the way **Ed Glasscock** states it in his commentary on Matthew: “**words have no specific meaning apart from context.** Here, ‘saved’ (sozo) means basically to ‘deliver’ or to ‘rescue’ from what and in what manner is dependent upon the context.”

I am not avoiding those who content that this passage teaches the endurance of the believer. There is the Christian doctrine of endurance as taught in Romans 12:12, and in the power of Spiritual Love as in 1 Corinthians where Paul is not describing the believer but is describing a quality of Spiritual Love:

1 Corinthians 13:7

bears all things, [that is Spiritual Love bears all things, not describing the believer but presenting an impact of Spiritual Love] believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Peter 2:20

For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

Dr. Ice explains: ***'This doctrine teaches that one of the many character qualities that the believer is to have is endurance. Why is this so? It is true because endurance under suffering produces character (Rom.5:3-4) Yet none of those references to the Christian doctrine of endurance speak of 'enduring to the end.'*** ***Instead such passages that speak of enduring to the end all occur within the same context of the tribulation.***

Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:13; Luke 21:19;
Revelation 13:10 and Revelation 14:12,"

Dr. Ice also closes this discussion by referring to Dr. John Walvoord: ***"The age in general, climaxing with the second coming of Christ, has the promise that those that endure to the end (Matthew 24:13) that is, survive the tribulation and are still alive, will be saved or delivered, by Christ at His second coming. This is not a reference to salvation from sin, but rather the deliverance of survivors at the end of the age as stated'***

So in the context of Matthew 24: this endurance is addressed to Jews who endure:

- 1 being hated by all nations > 9
- 2 being hated by fellow Jews > 10
- 3 being killed by the anti-Christ and his allies > 9
- 4 not being deceived by false prophets > 11
- 5 the multiple increase of lawlessness.

Matthew 24:13

But the ones who endure believing Jews who *endure all these things to the end* of The Tribulation *will be saved/delivered* out of The Tribulation by Jesus Christ at His Second coming into the millennial reign of Jesus the Messiah-King.

This is described in Mathew 25:34.

There are specifically four other passages that convey the same message as our Lord does here in Matthew 24:13.

- 1 Daniel 12:1
- 2 Mark 13:13
- 3 Matthew 10:22
- 4 Revelation 13:10 and Revelation 14:12

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.

The gospel of the kingdom: the Greek word for gospel is a compound word made up of 'good' and 'message' and came to mean "*good news*" and never was *good news* more needed than in the days of The Tribulation.

But **Good News** about what?

Here, Good News is **About *The Kingdom***.

This is a reference to the *good news* about the very soon coming of the *Kingdom* of Christ, which we know as the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ, where Jesus Christ sits on the throne of David promised in the Davidic covenant.

In the time when nations are at war with One Another and unity of nations are at war with other unity of nations and killings are going on, especially of Jews and Christians. Many will be excited to hear about the promise...

The Soon Coming Kingdom Of Peace.

The Gospel of Matthew is concerned with Jesus as the King and therefore Kingdom occurs 51 times in the gospel of Matthew and here refers to the immediate coming of the gospel of the Kingdom.

This was the gospel that Jesus proclaimed in His earthly ministry and now it will be proclaimed throughout the inhabited earth, which is what the word translated ‘**whole world**’.

There will be Jews living all over the inhabited earth, in India, in the Orient, in Africa, etc. And multitude of these Jews will respond to the gospel of the 144,000 throughout the inhabited earth.

The gospel [good news] *of the kingdom will be preached* [proclaimed in every language on earth

The gospel of the Kingdom is going to be spread throughout the world by the 144,000 male Jewish evangelist and by angels.]

Revelation 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue [language] *and people;*

7 and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.”

So both Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:14 and Revelation 14 speak of a world-wide evangelization during The Tribulation, preparing the way for the second coming of J.C.

Matthew 24:14

And The End Will Come

The phrase *the end will come* has been so wrongly interpreted by those who do not study the Word of God. This is not referring to the end of the world!!!

In verse 6 of Matthew Jesus said

“for these things must take place, but that is not yet the end”.

Now, after the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world, He declares that *the end will come.*

This is not referring to the end of the world but to the end of the current time in history, that is the end of the Tribulation and the end of the times of the Gentiles.

Luke 21:24

*and they will fall by the edge of the sword,
and will be led captive into all the nations;
and Jerusalem will be trampled
under-foot by the Gentiles until the
times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

This is a prophetic declaration of the end of The Tribulation when Jesus shall return to the earth and end the times of the Gentiles and will usher in the great Kingdom of the Millennium.

Next **JESUS CHRIST** will prophesy
The Middle Of The Tribulation.