

# Matt 24-25: Be Ready for Judgment by listening to Jesus

## 1. Introduction: Context as Key

### A. Whole Book context

- The King establishing his Kingdom with Power:  
3 movements (1:1-4:16; 4:17-16:20; 16:21ff)
- The King teaching about his Kingdom with authority:  
5 teaching blocks

### B. Immediate Context

- a) Structural clues      brackets 24:3 & 26:1  
(cf 5:1 & 7:28-29; 10:5 & 11:1; 13:1 & 53; 18:1 & 19:1)
- b) preceding text      links with end of Ch 23
- c) The shape of the question and Jesus' answer – 2 parts
- d) The purpose of Jesus teaching: preparation not speculation

So:

- Ch 24-25 are one discourse, bringing clarity and focus to our understanding of "the last days."
- Jesus does usher in the great and awesome Day of the Lord (Mal 4:5ff) for Israel.  
(= both glory and Judgment)
- But also the great recreation of the whole universe (Is 65ff).  
NB Is 66:7ff – a birth process. Cf Matt 24:8 – 'birth pangs'

## 2. Purpose as Key

### How to divide up the discourse to make sense of it?

Both AD 70 AND the final judgment are in view. But how to see which is which?

One way: RT France (IVP Tyndale Commentary):  
solves by taking up to v35 as ref to AD 70, and only after v36  
'but concerning that day' = parousia (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)

BUT:

- problem of v 29-31. Can this really be AD70?
- And don't v 26-31 run together?
- And v27 and v30 almost exactly parallel 25:31-32 Christ's *coming* in power and glory

Remember: Jesus is a **teacher**: logical, and clear.

- Makes his point: 'this is **what** is coming, within this generation and at the end of all things: so be clear!'
- **then applies** it. (so what?) 'so – this is **how** to be ready—for the judgment in Judea, AND the last judgment': so be ready!

Suggest the 4 x "So" / or "therefore" is the key: v15, 26, 33, 42

Thus.... [PTO]

### 3. Outline of the whole teaching:

#### Be Ready for Judgment by listening to Jesus!

##### A. General expectations for all the last days 4-14

- Don't be misled: the whole process of the birth pangs of the new world will share these characteristics, from now right to the end. So, keep your focus on v14 – the gospel mission!
- So don't panic. But, you do need to be prepared to act!

##### B. Specific actions for these last days: learn and be READY 15-44

###### 2 clear predictions of judgment – of different scale 15-31

- ...**SO** learn about the coming judgment on **Judea**: it is certain to come 15-25
- ...**SO** learn about the coming judgment on the whole **earth**: it too is certain to come 26-31

###### 2 clear preparations for judgment – of different kind 32-44

- be ready then for judgment on Judea: **SO** keep your eyes open! 32-35 (visible signs ∴ be ready then)
- be ready always for judgment on earth: **SO** stay awake! 36-44 (no signs ∴ be ready always)

##### C. Urgent Preparation for the last day – the coming of Jesus 24:45-25:30

- who then is faithful and wise servant who will be prepared for his master's return?

**Ans:** 3 parables about what do if there is delay: being sure of the master's return (middle one, 25:1-13); therefore **servicing** his people (24:45-51) and **sharing** the master's purpose (25:14-30) [symmetry!]

##### D. Real Experience of the last day – judgment by the Son of man 25:31-46

- certainty; completeness; consequences; and criteria: **works**=evidence of real love for Jesus.
- **NB** Not an indictment of the church for lack of care for the poor; rather an indictment on the world for *their* rejection of Jesus' "brothers" (12:50, 23:8, 28:20)

# 1. Expectations for the Last Days

## Sermon outline for Matt 24:1-14

**What are we to expect as Christians in this world until Jesus comes?**

What a comfort!

- Jesus knows everything that will face us—and has told us in advance so we will endure!!

### 1. What we are to expect:

its as easy as ABC.....

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

### 2. How we are to respond

Be warned!

Be glad!

Be bold!