

Matt. 24:15-28

- I. Flee when great tribulation happens (15-22)
 - A. When the abomination of desolation happens, flee to the hills (15-18)
 - 1. When you see the abomination of desolation (15)
 - a. When you see the abomination of desolation spoken through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place (15a)
 - b. Let the reader think it through and understand (15b)
 - 2. Flee in haste without stopping (16-18)
 - a. Those in Judea should flee to the mountains (16)
 - b. How to flee – in haste, without stopping (17-18)
 - 1) Don't return for your household stuff (17)
 - a) Let not the one on the housetop go down into the house (17a)
Exaggerated to show the haste, the housetop is only a few steps from the house, don't even do this
 - b) For the purpose of taking the stuff in the house (17b)
Nothing in the house is worth your life
 - 2) Don't stop for your personal stuff (18)
 - a) Let not the one in the field return back (18a)
 - b) For the purpose of taking his robe/cloak/clothing (18b)
 - B. Reason: The difficulty of this time will be horrible (19-22)
 - 1. Woe to those fleeing at that time, esp. with extra difficulty (19-20)
 - a. Woe to pregnant women and those nursing in those days (19)
 - b. Pray that your flight will not have extra difficulty (20)
 - 1) Pray – command to pray (20a)
 - 2) Content of the prayer (20b-c)
 - a) Your flight will not be during the winter (20b)
 - b) Your flight will not be on the Sabbath (20c)
 - 2. Reason: The tribulation will be superlatively horrible and barely survivable (21-22)
 - a. The suffering/tribulation will be uniquely/superlatively horrible (21)
 - 1) The tribulation will be exceedingly horrible [great in extent] (21a)
 - 2) The tribulation will be unique and superlative (21b-c)
 - a) Such tribulation has not happened from the beginning of the world until now (21b)
 - b) Such tribulation will certainly never be [again] (21c)
 - b. The suffering/tribulation will be barely survivable (22)
 - 1) No one would survive the tribulation without divine intervention (21a-b)
 - a) Condition: If those days had not been shortened (21a)
 - b) Effect: No one would be saved (21b)
 - 2) God intervened and shortened those days for the sake of the chosen ones (21c)
Our hope is not in our fleeing or perseverance, but in divine intervention

II. Don't be fooled by false reports of the Parousia (23-28)

A. Don't believe false reports of the Parousia (23-26)

1. I have warned you not to believe that the Christ arrived here or there (23-25)
 - a Don't believe everything because false prophets will come and lie (23-24)
 - 1) Don't believe when someone tells you that the Christ is here or there (23)
 - a) Condition: If someone says this to you (21a-c)
 - (1) If someone says this to you (21a)
 - (2) Content of what is claimed (21b-c)
 - (a) Behold! The Christ is here (21b)
 - (b) Or The Christ is there (21c)
 - b) Effect: Don't believe it (21d)
 - 2) Reason: False christs and false prophets will be raised up to deceive (24)
 - a) False christs and false prophets will be raised up (24a)
 - b) They will do false signs in order to deceive (24b-d)
 - (1) They will do great signs and wonders (24b)
 - (2) The result: They will deceive even the elect if possible (24c-d)
 - (a) They would deceive even the elect (24c)
 - (b) If that were possible (24d)
 - b Reason: Because I have warned you in advance (25)
 2. Don't follow and believe these false claims of the Parousia (26)
 - a Don't go out after them (26a-c)
 - 1) Condition: If someone claims the Christ is out in the wilderness (26a-b)
 - a) If someone says to you (26a)
 - b) The claim: Behold! He is in the wilderness (26b)
 - 2) Effect: Don't go out/follow (26c)
 - b Don't believe them (26d-f)
 - 1) Condition: If someone claims the Christ is in the inner room (26d-e)
 - a) [implied by the parallelism: if someone says to you] (26d)
 - b) The claim: Behold! He is in the inner/private room (26e)
 - 2) Effect: Don't believe it (26f)

Notice that both of these false claims are private and secret

B. Reason: Because here is the truth of what the Parousia will be like (27-28)

1. The Parousia will be public and unmissable, like lightning that lights up the sky (27)
 - a Just like lightning lights up the entire sky and is publicly seen (27a-b)
 - 1) The lightning comes from the east
 - 2) And it flashes/shines all the way to the west
 - b In the same way the Parousia of the Son of Man will be publicly seen and unmissable (27c)
2. There will be public and unmistakable pointers to the Parousia, like vultures (28)
 - a Wherever there is a corpse (28a)
 - b There will be carrion birds (28b)

In other words, just like when you see vultures circling, you know that there is a corpse, so also, when you see these public signs, you know that it is the Parousia.