

“When Lawlessness Abounds”

Matthew 24:12

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Tonight, we will be looking at a few verses in Matthew 24. We'll go back to learn about the future!

In a Bible of roughly 1,300 pages, about 260 of those pages contain ‘*predictive prophecy*.’

“By one count, about 27 percent of the Bible is predictive (Payne, J. B., The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy, Baker Pub. Group, 1980, p. 675). This means that, when written, over one fourth of the Bible—more than one in four verses—was prophetic. Professor and theologian J. Barton Payne lists 1,817 prophecies in the Bible (ibid., p. 674).

The consistent relation of prophecy in the Bible is staggering; on top of that is the amazing accuracy of those detailed prophecies. At least one half of all biblical predictions have already been fulfilled precisely as God had declared. Because of God’s faithfulness in fulfilling these prophecies, we can be assured that He will fulfill the rest of the prophecies in Scripture without fault (see Numbers 23:19).”

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-prophecy.html>

- **Isaiah 46:9-10** ⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’

“The entire passage in Matthew 24 and 25 was written to answer this question concerning the signs of Messiah’s coming, which would terminate the age. The Lord is giving the course of the end of the age prior to the establishment of the Kingdom as it relates to Israel and Israel’s program. This program is developed in strict chronological order. Chafer observes, “Few portions of the New Testament place recorded events in a more complete chronological order than this address.” ⁴

Excerpt From Things to Come J. Dwight Pentecost <https://books.apple.com/us/book/things-to-come/id399040404> This material may be protected by copyright.

Context of the conversation

Matthew 24:1-2 ¹ Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*” Jesus is speaking of the temple that was standing at that time.

- This was fulfilled in A.D. 70

A question for clarification

Matthew 24:3 “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

- We have amazing exegetical teaching on this subject, and I would say go online to our website and look up Ed Hindson on this teaching as well as Pastor Jack.
- **Note:**
 - This passage is to the Jews/Israel.
 - It is still yet future and if we were looking at a timeline that will be fulfilled during the tribulation.
 - The rapture is not found in this passage.

When lawlessness abounds, love will grow cold.

Matthew 24:12 “*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*”

- *Abound* – increase, will be rampant everywhere.
- *Love of many will grow cold* –
 - *“If the heart grows cold, everything will be coldly done. When love declines, what cold preaching we have! All moonlight light without heat; polished like marble, and as chill. What cold singing we get, — pretty music, made by pipes and wind, but oh, how little soul-song! — How little singing in the Holy Ghost, making melody in the heart unto God! And what poor praying! Do you call it praying? What little giving! When the heart is cold, the hands can find nothing in the purse; and Christ’s Church, and Christ’s poor, and the heathen may perish, for we must needs hoard up for ourselves, and live to grow rich. Is there anything that goes on as it ought to go when love waxes cold?”*
(Spurgeon) <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-24/>

Question.

- If we will see an increase in lawlessness during that time, will we see it happening in advance?

The Hill reported. (Pic)

“The FBI’s crime data shows that violent crime peaked around 1991 at a rate of around 758 violent crimes per 100,000 people. A decade later, that rate fell sharply to around 504, and in 2011, it was down to about 387.

While the FBI’s data is currently only provided through 2020, violent crime rates jumped to nearly 400 that year, up from around 380 in 2019.

During that time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also reported that the murder rate in the U.S. rose by 30 percent between 2019 and 2020, marking the largest single year increase since at least 1905 but possibly ever.” <https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/594291-how-violent-crime-has-gone-up-since-the-pandemic/>

The MacIver Institute reported.

“In response to it, major cities—including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Portland, and Austin in addition to Milwaukee—defunded their police departments and the results were predictably disastrous. Portland saw a 530 percent increase in its murder rate. Austin saw a 74 percent rise. New York’s murder rate was 56 percent higher. Chicago’s rose by 54 percent.

With fewer officers on the street and those who remain all but discouraged from doing actual policing, the criminal element in nearly every major city was emboldened in a way that it never had been before.”

Answer.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 ^{“1} But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong,

haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

- **Last Days** – *eschatos* “at the “end” of these days,” ¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 199). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.
 - The word ‘Eschatology’ is derived from this word. It means the study of end times events.
- **Perilous** – “hard to do or deal with, difficult, fierce,” ¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 234). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.
 - **1 Timothy 4:1** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and **doctrines of demons**, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...”

When lawlessness abounds, don't lose heart!

- **In Prayer**
 - **Luke 18:1** “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.”
- **In doing good**
 - **Romans 12:9** “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*”
 - **Galatians 6:9-10** “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
- **In patience**
 - **James 5:7-8** “⁷ Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

When lawlessness abounds, be bold and confident!

- **In Jesus.**
 - **Proverbs 28:1** “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”
 - **Acts 4:13** “¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. **And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**”
- **That Jesus is working in you.**
 - **Philippians 1:6** “...being **confident** of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;”

- ***That Jesus hears your prayer.***

- **1 John 5:14-15** “¹⁴ Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

When lawlessness abounds, hold fast!

- ***To sound doctrine***

- **2 Timothy 1:13** “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”
- **2 Timothy 4:1-5** “I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His **appearing** and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

When lawlessness abounds, make disciples!

- **Matthew 28:18-20** “¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.”

When lawlessness abounds, remain loving!

- ***Our mission remains the same!***

- **John 13:34-35** “³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **Romans 12:10** “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another...”
- **Hebrews 10:24** “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

When lawlessness abounds, get ready!

- **Romans 13:11-14** ¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.”
 - *Provision* – let yourself think about ways. In other words, don’t think and therefore plan ways to satisfy your flesh.
 - **1 Peter 2:11-12** “Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

When lawlessness abounds, look up!

- **Look up! Don’t give UP!**
 - **Matthew 24:32-33** ³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!”
 - **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast, immovable**, always **abounding** in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

“The word “maranatha” is a Syriac expression that means: “our Lord comes.” It was used as a greeting in the early church. When believers gathered or parted, they didn’t say “hello” or “goodbye” but “Maranatha!”

If we had the same upward look today, it would revolutionize the church. O that God's people had a deepening awareness of the imminent return of the Savior!

While on a South Pole expedition, British explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton left a few men on Elephant Island, promising that he would return. Later, when he tried to go back, huge icebergs blocked the way. But suddenly, as if by a miracle, an avenue opened in the ice and Shackleton was able to get through. His men, ready and waiting, quickly scrambled aboard. No sooner had the ship cleared the island than the ice crashed together behind them. Contemplating their narrow escape, the explorer said to his men, "It was fortunate you were all packed and ready to go!" They replied, "We never gave up hope. Whenever the sea was clear of ice, we rolled up our sleeping bags and reminded each other, 'The boss may come today.'"

The hymn writer Horatius Bonar exhorted us "to be ready for the last moment by being ready at every moment...so attending to every duty that, let Him come when He may, He finds the house in perfect order, awaiting His return." The trump may sound anytime. How important for us as Christians to be "packed and ready to go!"

As you leave home today, don't say goodbye -- say "Maranatha!"

Our Daily Bread.

1 John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

Are you busy about your Father's business?

Are your bags packed?