

The Gospel Cannot Be Stopped, Part I

MCBC
Hutchinson, KS
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Turn to Matthew 24/Revelation 1

Introduction

There are few things as fascinating as prophecy or as problematic

That's why it will be only a summer series

People like to know the future – fortune tellers – medium, wizards – Harry Potter is wicked and ungodly and nobody should be reading his books or going to the movies (Deut. 18)

- wicked horoscope
- Jeanne Dixon
- *National Enquirer* predictions

People like to know the future

As we study the messages of Matthew, we need to remember (the tie to the book of Revelation) the main purpose of the book of Revelation. It is found in the first five words of the first verse of the first chapter. It is **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**.

The singular word *revelation* is used ten times in our NT's. The plural form of it is used *twice*. But, there is something different about the use of it in Revelation 1:1. Notice there the word *Revelation* is capitalized.

Revelation: apocalypse, revealing, unveiling of Jesus Christ

God obviously wants us to understand from the beginning of Revelation the main purpose of everything in this book is to *Reveal Jesus Christ*, and it is that *Revelation* of Him that we are going to search for in each message

I've entitled today's message "The Gospel Cannot Be Stopped, Part I"

Matthew 24 – let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Matthew 24:1-14

Let us pray

You may be seated

“The Gospel Cannot Be Stopped”

Verse 1

As Jesus was leaving, the disciples pointed out the temple buildings
Mark 13:1 records what the disciples said, “*Master, see what manner of stones
and what buildings are here!*”
Third temple built – Solomon, Zerubbabel, Herod the Great
Stones – 40’ x 12’ x 20’ – 100 tons – quarried as a single piece
Sanctuary – 180’ high
The most magnificent building in all the world

Verse 2

The jaws of the disciples must have dropped when they heard those incredible
words
Roman army totally destroyed it in A.D. 70
Massacred most of the citizens of Jerusalem
They set fire to the temple and tore it down to its foundation
Turned up the stones – gold melted into the cracks
Do you know what stands? Not one rock, but a Muslim mosque

Verse 3

When Jesus left it, He never set foot on it again (23:38)
When Christ leaves a home, it is *Ichabod* – the glory of the Lord has departed
It is just a building
I’d rather have a dump with Christ, than a mansion without Jesus Christ
The church without Christ is nothing
Many a church house – Jesus Christ has left and their candle has been put out
Sure, they still meet and hold services but the power and presence of God
is gone.
Don’t think for one moment that could not happen to us.
Revelation 1 – we see Jesus the Judge of the churches – He knows
He walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands – seven churches
of Revelation
Repent or I’ll put your candle out

We can work, labor – all come to nothing – we need the presence and power of God to do His work

But one day, Matthew 23:39, *“For I say unto you, ‘Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, ‘Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.’”*

Second Coming (vs. 3b)

When will this transpire?

They did not realize there was a Church Age

When will you break forth and manifest yourself in your full, permanent presence?

The end of the age to the disciples referred to the beginning of the 1,000-year reign of Christ

The end to this present world system of darkness and sin

Acts 1:6

Beginning Matthew 24:4

This is all future – it’s still future – yet to come

Verses 4-5

1. False Messiahs

Widespread – in the end

vs. 4-5 – Satan works by imitation/counterfeit

Deception will be at its apex at this time

Counterfeit leaders – Jehovah’s witness, Mormonism, Islam/Koran

Isaac not Ishmael

The number of imposters/antichrists is beginning

And people will be led astray by pretenders

Matthew 24:24-25

With all the things taking place – Rapture of the Saints, calamities, half of the Tribulation (vs. 15)

People are searching/looking for answers. The moral influence of the church is gone.

The restraining influence of the Holy Spirit has been removed (II Thess. 2)

False leaders will take advantage of the situation until there is one false leader – he will be the Antichrist

2. Wars and Rumors of Wars (vs. 6)

Ever since Jesus ascended to Heaven

Wars and rumors of wars have been constant reminders

Wars will come and go and they will come again

People will suffer and men will die

But instead of dismay, we are to serve Jesus faithfully even in the midst of bad things

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Don't be deceived – the end is still to come

vs. 7 depicts a series of great wars in which many nations and kingdoms will be engaged (vs. 7a)

World War I, 1914-1918; World War II, 1939-1945, – worst mankind has ever known

There will be no world peace until Christ

He is the only One that can deliver that

Continual hearing of wars and

Actual wars:

Hot wars – physical combat

Cold wars – economic and political conflict

Both will increase in number and intensity as the return of Christ approaches

No group of people will be exempt from war or thrust of war

Conflicts will include racial, ethnic, cultural, as well as national confrontations on a more intense scale than we could ever imagine

3. Famines and Earthquakes (vs. 7b-8)

Famines and pestilences – widespread calamity

All these are the “crying of sorrows” – living conditions of mankind

The signs here have to do with His Revelation not the Rapture

The Rapture deals with the Church – meeting in the air

The Revelation deals with the Second Advent to earth at the end of the Tribulation – before the Millennial Kingdom

There are a number of churches that believe we are in the 1000-year reign of Christ now – hogwash!

Jesus will reign with a rod of iron

Do you see that taking place?

The lamb will lie down with the lion

A child will play over a snake’s hole and will not be hurt

The conditions listed here (in Matthew) are found in the first half of Daniel 70th week
First half of the 7-year Tribulation Period

The 69th week brought Jesus Christ and since that week we have been on pause like a VCR button waiting for the 70th week – the prophecy week is a 7-year period
Verse 8 – birth pangs – labor pains they do not occur at conception – they occur near delivery

They begin shortly before delivery time and they occur with increasing frequency until the baby is born

All these things will occur with increasing frequency, building up

7 seal judgments – over years

7 trumpet judgments – over months

7 bowl or vial judgments – over weeks or hours

Therefore, the false messiahs, wars and rumors of wars, famines, and earthquakes are the first indicators – labor pains of Christ’s coming to earth

Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

That will be the final outreach to the world

After this the end will come

Many preachers teach – we got to win the world so we can bring Christ back

No, sir, not according to the Bible

Revelation 14:6-7, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'"

No doubt – the Gospel is the primary message of the Church Age

Luke 24:47, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Behooved Christ to suffer, to die (death), and to resurrect (resurrection)

And that repentance and forgiveness of sins – should be preached in His name among
all nations

I Corinthians 15 – defines the Gospel – death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

It tells us it is the Gospel that saves

But it also tells us in verse 3 that it is the most important message that the Church
proclaims

We are not ashamed of the Gospel – it is the power of God unto salvation

It pleases God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe

Now, here in Revelation 14 – (let me set the stage) the beasts and their legions stand in
battle array

The Lamb and His 144,000 stand on Mt. Zion

The final conflict appears to be imminent

But hold on – what is this? vs. 6

God halts the movement of time until a heavenly messenger

An angel of God comes to deliver the Gospel one final time

This is a radical change because during our age and up to this time, the Gospel had been committed unto men and they alone were the deliverers of it
During the first half of the Tribulation – God used the 144,000 Jews
He even used two witnesses – Revelation 11 – with supernatural power
But now God has called on an angel to proclaim the Good News to all the world, not just the Gospel (vs. 6) – it's the everlasting Gospel
Everlasting Gospel – it will be everlastingly valid
You have the stamp of approval and if you have come to Christ any other way, you will wake up one day and find yourself in hell

Jesus preached the Gospel

Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand – it was an urgent message then
It is still an urgent message for preaching today

Never let us stray from preaching the Gospel
In every window of opportunity – deliver the Good News

Tie it in – be creative
But get the Gospel in and invite people to receive Him

Notice how it is delivered – verse 6
It is preached – proclaimed

We are a part of this, folks – the greatest message of all time

Jesus preached it
Peter preached it
Paul preached it
John preached it
144,000 preached it
Two witnesses preached it
You and I preach it
Oh, what a privilege we have!

Vs. 6 shows the intended audience of the Gospel

This is the same audience that Jesus commanded us to deliver the Gospel
Go into all the world

God's desire is for men to be saved
Hell was created for the devil and his angels, not mankind
Hell is real and man will be there

Even in this final hour in Revelation – even as the clock is about to run out
Even at this late date – the mercy of God waits –

The door is still open

The forgiveness of sins can still be attained

But it is an urgent message – no time to waste

Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation

Verse 6 tells us it is for all ethnic groups

God is merciful

Mercy of God – for the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth
endureth to all generations

Vs. 7 – preached with a loud voice

Jesus told us to shout it from the housetops

This angel is in the midst of Heaven

He is in a place to be seen and heard by everyone on earth

Matthew 24:14, “And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a
witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

The Gospel will be preached

The saving message will spread throughout the world

We are privileged to be a part of this ministry of God

The Good News is preached as a testimony to all nations

The Gospel will bring either salvation or a curse depending on how it is received

Mark says – he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not
shall be damned

Folks, be faithful in spreading the Gospel

There is no greater work on earth

Revelation 14:7, “Saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the
hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the
sea, and the fountains of waters.’”

Vs. 7 – gives the angel’s message

Fear God and give Him glory

This Gospel message is the same as ours

Vs. 6 – the Greek word for Gospel here is a noun used only once in Revelation, but occurs frequently throughout the New Testament and it refers to the good news of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah

Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: . . . ”

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

God will not receive glory from an unbeliever

The angel says the hour is come – warning – this is the reason to accept the Gospel now

Worship God – He is the Creator

This is a call to repentance in view of God’s judgment

Church people, this is our ministry

The invitation is to fear and worship God

Because He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth

Let us boldly proclaim the eternal message to all people with urgency and without fear

What a privilege we have!

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Let us stand for closing invitation

Every eye closed – no one looking around

Believers, do we take advantage to share the glorious Gospel of Christ?

Sunday School teacher – do you include the Gospel?

Folks, the Gospel still works

Let us remember what a privilege it is to share the Gospel

This coming Saturday at 10 a.m., we will be going door knocking – join us

Whatever God has spoken to you about

Are you here today without Jesus?

Is He your Savior?

Are your sins washed in the blood?

This is an urgent message – ye must be saved

Fall on your face and ask for His salvation – “O, God . . . ”

Results – people were moved to share Jesus

Make it more of a priority

Those who have been drifting – refocusing