

I. A FRAMEWORK TO HELP US APPROACH THE BOOK OF REVELATION - MATT. 24

The heart of Matthew 24 is Jesus helping confused young adults to understand the subject of the end of the age and His return.

- A. The Disciple's Question (1-3)
- B. Jesus' Answer (24:4-25:46)
 - 1. Birth Pains (4-8)
 - 2. Corresponding Social Pressure (9-14)
 - 3. The Commencement and Conclusion of the Great Tribulation (15-31)
 - 4. 7 Parables About Knowing and Preparing (24:32-25:46)
 - a. **The Battle for Discernment**: The Fig Tree (24:33-35)
 - b. **The Battle for Messengers**: The Days of Noah (24:36-41)
 - c. **The Battle for Knowledge of Timing**: The Thief (24:42-44)
 - d. **The Battle for Leadership**: The Faithful & Wise Servant (24:45-51)
 - e. **The Battle for Intimacy**: The 10 Virgins and the Coming Bridegroom (25:1-13)
 - f. **The Battle for the Knowledge of God**: The Talents (25:14-30)
 - g. **The Battle for the Jews**: The Least of Jesus' Brethren (25:31-46)

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLES

- A. The primary purpose of the parables was to give the saints clarity about how to respond to God in the hour of His return. After speaking plainly, openly and literally up to verse 31 Jesus shifts and begins speaking about how we're to consecrate ourselves in view of the coming storm.
- B. The generation that witnesses the events in 24:4-31 must heed the parables of 24:32-25:46. God requires that we know the hour of His return and respond accordingly.

- C. People often quote Matthew 24:32 to discourage someone from seeking or from knowing the hour of His return. This verse means the exact opposite.

III. AS WERE THE DAYS OF NOAH, SO WILL BE THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN - 24:32-41

The statement that no one knows the day or the hour is followed by a parable about the generation of Noah. This parable is essential for us to understand for two reasons: (1) it helps explain what Jesus meant in verse 32 and (2) it explains how we are to posture our hearts in the generation before the Lord returns.

- A. No One Knows - Just Like the Days of Noah
- B. The Prayer Movement of the Days of Noah
- C. The Prophetic Movement of the Days of Noah
- D. The Crisis Before the Crisis of the Days of Noah - Rejecting Signs
- E. The Crisis of the Days of Noah - The Flood
- F. The Ignorance of the Days of Noah – Though they Knew, they Did not Know