

# **THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL TODAY**

January 23, 2016

Chris Katulka, The Jesus Prophecies, Part 1

Hello everyone and thank you for joining us today on our program... before we look to the scriptures today I want to invite you to visit our website FOIRadio.org... this is really a top notch website to listen to previous shows and see show notes, read blog articles that pertain to the Bible and Israel, ask questions about the Bible, Israel, and the Future on our AskFOI section of the webpage, and there is even a place to find out if The Friends of Israel is bringing a Prophecy Up Close conference near you... so please don't miss out on this great resource... visit FOIRadio.org.

Now today we are going to start a series called Jesus Prophecies. Now I've decided to call it Jesus prophecies because I want us to look at the prophetic words of Jesus from His earthly ministry and these come from Matthew 24 & 25, and Mark 13, and Luke 13. These prophetic words spoken by Jesus were made not to long before His betrayal, trial, and execution on the cross. So they were definitely uttered toward the end of His life on earth.

What begins the Jesus prophecies in Matthew, Mark, and Luke is a natural conversation the disciples are having with Jesus. I want you to imagine... the disciples and Jesus are having a walk on the Mount of Olives, which gives you a perfect view of the Temple

Mount where the Jewish Temple stood... you can see almost every angle of the Temple Mount from the vantage point of the Mount of Olives... and in what seems like a natural conversation the disciples are in awe of the Temple... like most Jewish people were. The Temple they were looking at was the Temple Herod renovated and refurbished for the Jewish... it got a major facelift... To give you an idea of how big and magnificent the Temple was in the little city of Jerusalem in the scope of the Roman Empire... it would be like building one of the largest skyscrapers in the world in Cheyenne, Wyoming. You'd have to see it to believe it. So the disciples were just talking up this amazing feat of Herod's engineering.

Jesus looks over at the Temple and says in Matthew 24:2, "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."

Now the disciples being well versed in Israelite history and Judaism would have known exactly what this meant... the destruction of the Temple in both the Old Testament and here in the New Testament means Judgment... God is going to judge the city of Jerusalem and the nation.

It's the reason the very next question from the disciples isn't... WHY LORD? Why would you destroy such a beautiful building? But

in line with Jesus' prophetic judgment the disciples say... "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" The disciples know exactly what Jesus is alluding to when He pronounced the destruction of Herod's Temple.

Judgment is imminent

To answer the disciples question... Jesus first sets up the events that will lead to the end.

Now let me say this... I believe Jesus' prophetic message is geared toward a Jewish audience and not the Church... to begin with the church hasn't even been established yet... that doesn't come until Acts 2... but even more so I believe the church isn't present during this time of great trouble that is often referred to as the Tribulation... or the Time of Jacob's trouble... notice Jeremiah calls this time Jacob's trouble... Jacob is Israel.

Jesus marks the beginning of the Tribulation or the Time of Jacob's Trouble by saying, "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

So in the beginning... the first half of the time of Tribulation... that's the first 3 ½ years of a 7 year Tribulation there will be many false Messiah's that are using fear and deception to deceive Jewish people into believing they are the true Messiah! Jesus opens with this to make sure that His people remain watchful during this time... and not to lose sight that He is the true Messiah.

But that during that time there will be wars and rumors of wars... nations will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famine and earthquakes. So there will be a great shaking on earth... both from a political standpoint and from a physical standpoint with earthquakes and the suffering and starvation of those on earth.

Those Jewish people who believe in Jesus will suffer greatly during the tribulation especially leading into the second half... but next week we'll look more at the details of the second half of the Tribulation...

You know when Jesus was prophesying about wars and rumors of wars, that nations will rise against nation, and kingdom against

kingdom... He says this... See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.... All these are the beginning of the birth pains as the ESV puts it so nicely.

Now I've never given birth before so I can't describe the pain personally... so whatever I say will never convey the true feeling of giving birth. But I have been overly blessed to watch all three of my kids come into this world. Birth pains are traumatic, agonizing moments, of pain, pressure, and pushing. It's not a walk in the park... it's hard and daunting and for some the idea of giving birth is scary and fearful... but then all of a sudden after all the pain, pressure, and pushing... within a second all the pain, pressure, pushing, fear, and anxiety comes pure joy on the other end when you hold your child in your arms. As my wife has told me... she would endure the 9 months of pregnancy, contractions, false contractions, and pain of childbirth all over again for the joy of that miraculous moment.

That's exactly the way Jesus describes this terrible time in human history, when nation rises against nation, and kingdom against Kingdom... when the earth experiences earthquakes and famine... and even when His own people who follow and love Him will face persecution... He says don't be troubled. As Jesus shares about the Tribulation He will remind His people that it won't last forever and that within a second everything will change... remember

something about these Jesus prophecies... all of these prophecies are pushing us to His Second Coming that glorious moment in human history when Jesus Christ will return! But before that great moment the world will experience an indescribable pain called the Tribulation.

Now next week we will look at the second half of the Tribulation as we longingly await His return! Come Lord Jesus.