

THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL TODAY

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Chris Katulka, The Jesus Prophecies, Part 2

Hello my friends... thanks for joining us today on The Friends of Israel Today program where we've been diving into prophetic words of Jesus from Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13, and even Luke 21. These prophetic sections of the gospels are called the Olivet Discourse... and the reason it's given that title is actually quite simple... Jesus spoke these prophetic words from the mountain just east of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount called the Mount of Olives... it's it's been title the Olivet Discourse.

These are the prophetic words of Jesus Christ, and what's amazing is that Jesus is relying heavily on the prophetic Word that is found in the Old Testament, which I believe says something powerful about Jesus. You know Jesus had the attention of His disciples and He could have manipulated His own brand of prophecy on His followers, instead Jesus stays true to what the prophets had promised.... Jesus stays true to the Word of God.

In the prophecy circles there are some that speculate on things that might happen in the near future... they speculate on Biblical passages and connect them to modern day events... but at the friends of Israel we don't speculate... we want to stay true to what the Word of God says just as Jesus did.

Now last week we looked at events in the first half of the Tribulation... we looked at events that Jesus called the birth pains... but Jesus encourages the readers of Matthew 24 to not lose heart... don't be troubled He says, because the End is near.

Now if you didn't get a chance to listen to last week's message as we started looking at the prophecies of Jesus from Matt 24 then please be sure to simply go to FOIRadio.org and in our radio and podcast archives you will find a list of past shows including last weeks. So don't forget to visit FOIRadio.org.

So now in Matthew 24:15 Jesus has already explained the events happening the first half of the Tribulation or the Time of Jacob's Trouble... Remember... the Tribulation is a future event according to the Scriptures... and it's an event that unfolds over a seven year period... during which God will execute His righteous judgment on Earth... YET, during that time the Gospel will continue to go forth throughout the world. We are just entering the second half of the Tribulation here and remember the church is not present in the Tribulation, Jesus is speaking to the Jewish people and to the those who come to know Him as the Messiah!

Jesus says in Matthew 24:15:

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

Now this is typically the marker for the mid way point of the Tribulation. The “abomination of desolation” is a prophecy that Jesus rightfully claims to come from the prophet Daniel... specifically in Daniel 9. An abomination of desolation is when a sacrificial offering is offered in the Jewish Temple that is not considered clean or accepted in the eyes of God. Now some will argue that Daniel was talking about an event that was already fulfilled with a Greek character from around 165 BC named Antiochus Euphianes who slaughters a pig in the Temple and offered up unclean offerings and put up of images of false God’s in the Temple. And others will say this event... the abomination of desolation” was fulfilled when Roman destroyed the Temple and

Jerusalem in 70 AD, but Jesus seems to throw this prophecy forward even past the destruction of Jerusalem to a time when the antiChrist will setup his own abomination of desolation in the Temple by claiming himself to be God!

This is a turning point in the Tribulation when the Great Wrath of God is going to be poured out on earth... listen to what Jesus says here, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

At the end of the Tribulation will come this amazing moment:

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

A cosmic shaking will happen as the sun is darkened and the moon is blotted out and the stars begin to fall, and even the powers of

heaven are shaken. There is a cosmic shaking happening because our Holy Messiah and Savior is coming back to earth. The “son of Man” will return riding on the clouds of heaven. This term “Son of Man” is very important! It’s a Messianic title... a title designated for Jesus. It’s also a prophetic title that comes from Daniel 7.

Son of man literally means you are a human. You are a son of Adam. So here you have a human being... but He’s doing these wild and crazy things... like first in the Book of Daniel the Son of Man... can approach a Holy God face to face... no man has ever seen God face to face and lived... that’s the first thing... the second thing is that according to Daniel and Matt, Mark, and Luke, this human is riding on clouds... something only the divine can do. SO. You have a human man with divine qualities... does that sounds familiar... who else do we know from the bible who is fully human but is able to divine acts... Yes! It’s Jesus! He is the Son of Man and he’s coming in all of His glory and all of His power.

Jesus shared with us His second coming before His first coming ended. He wanted to leave His disciples with hope... that even though He’s been purposed to die He’s coming back the way they probably intended for Him to come the first time!

Jesus wants us to be on guard my friends... the purpose of prophecy is to give us hope for the future and it’s also designed to

change us so that we might be more like Christ! Prophecy isn't just the communication of information about things that will happen in the end... but even more importantly prophecy is a message that should produce transformation in our lives... because Jesus can come for His church at any moment and we want to be found ready for His Glorious Appearance. May God Bless you my friends.