**Matthew 24:15-35 – The Great Tribulation and the Return of the King**

**Main: When Jesus returns as Israel’s King, everyone will know**

**1. Matt. 24:15-22 – The Great Tribulation; 1,260 days, 42 months, 3 ½ years**

* **This focus here is on Israel**
  + **Daniel is told the seventy weeks involve “…your people and your holy city” Dan. 9:24**
  + **Jesus references Daniel’s prophecies in Mt. 24:15**
  + **He references those “in Judea” fleeing – Mt. 24:16**
  + **He references their flight not being “on the Sabbath” – Mt. 24:20**
  + **He references preaching “the gospel of the kingdom” – Mt. 24:14**
  + **It is the final seven-year period of the seventy weeks, the 70th week.**
* **Matthew returns to the middle of the 70th Week, 3 ½ years after the covenant is signed – Dan. 9:27**
* **This is marked by the Abomination of Desolation**
  + **Two instances**
    - **Dan. 11:30-31 - #1) Antiochus Epiphanes**
      * **This was the first occurrence.**
      * **Mt. 24:15 - Jesus references a yet future Abomination.**
    - **Dan. 9:27 #2) The man of sin becomes the “Beast” midway through the Seventieth Week, the Tribulation.**
      * **There is another resemblance to Antiochus.**
      * **The Beast declares his “deity” – 2 Thess. 2:2-3-4; Dan. 7:25; 8:11-13, 25**
  + **The event future to us** 
    - **Dan. 9:27 – A covenant is made for seven years.**
    - **The covenant is broken after 3 ½ years.**
    - **This is future to Jesus’ death and the destruction of Jerusalem**
    - **The church age, previously unknown, comes between these events – Lk. 21:10-24; Rom. 11:25-29**
* **It is a time of world-wide and unparalleled trouble**
  + **It involves the world – 24:7**
  + **It is the worst time in history – 24:21**
  + **If it had not been shortened to 7 years, all life would end – 24:22**

**2. Matt. 24:23-28 – The very public coming of the Lord Jesus Christ**

* **When Jesus appears, no one will wonder about it.**
* **Powerful false signs and wonders will happen to deceive.**
* **The foretelling of these should be a help to expect them; the only good course of action is to rely on the truth of the Word.**

**3. Matt. 24:29-35 – The sign of the Son of Man and of the end of the age**

* **Comes at the end of the 70th week – 24:29**
* **Cosmic signs accompany it: The world experiences a blackout in the sky**
  + **Joel 2:30-32**
  + **Rev. 6:12-17**
  + **God can accomplish this anyway He wants – Ex. 10:21-23; Josh. 10:13; volcanos, fires, eclipse, and so on.**
* **Israel will mourn (“to beat one’s breast as in an act of mourning”; see Zech. 12:10), likely because the remnant realizes what Israel had done.**
* **But, the mourning extends to the whole world (v. 30 and Rev. 1:7). In their case, it may involve the judgment that is coming.**
* **The Shekinah glory was associated with a visitation or dwelling of the Lord.**
* **The Shekinah is often associated with clouds, as when the Lord guided the people by day (Ex. 13:20-22) and when God spoke to Moses (Ex. 33).**
* **When Jesus returns, it will be in a blackout “on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” 24:30**
* **His appearance will be absolutely stunning! Rev. 19:11-16**
* **It is at this point that Israel is regathered – 24:31**
* **The generation alive when “all these things” occur will also be alive when it all ends - 24:34**
* **Notice: We know this happens when “all these things” occur. What appears to be some of them, or things that resemble them, may well happen in history (“Nation will rise against nation,” for example), but not all of them.**
* **We can be absolutely certain this will come to pass! 24:35**