



## **World Tamil Christian Fellowship**

60, High Worples, Rayners Lane, Harrow  
Middlesex, HA2 9SZ, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 208 429 9292

[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)

[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

# **Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 10**

## **Tribulation – 04 - Signs of End Times**

Let us review our second coming study for a moment.

- God called Abraham and made a nation through his descendants.
- Israel as nation chosen by God!
- God made a covenant with Moses for the people to follow Him and He brought them out of slavery and planted them in their Promise Land.
- People turned back from the Lord God.
- God promised to rule them eternally through the lineage of king David in a covenant made with him.
- People turned back from the Lord God.
- God led them once again into Captivity and then HE brought them back.
- Yet again they failed to follow God.
- So far God had been sending His prophets and Messengers now finally He decided to send His Beloved Son.

- They reject Him and He was speaking to them that they are going to face the judgement.

This is where we are going to study what the Lord Jesus has to say in Matthew 23 & 24.

Jesus had some of the harsh saying against only the religious leaders. In the whole chapter Jesus pronounces the curses upon them. Very serious ones.

Jesus uncompromisingly condemned the false spiritual leaders of Israel against the scribes and Pharisees. They held the dominant power and influence in Judaism. Jesus warned about them in His first sermon, the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:20; 7:15), and His last sermon (Matthew 23)

Remember, previous day, Jesus chased the money changers inside the temple and threw them away. The next day He speaks to them publicly.

Jesus calls them names such as,

- sons of hell,
- blind guides,
- fools,
- robbers,
- self-indulgent,

- whitewashed tombs,
- full of hypocrisy,
- lawlessness,
- serpents,
- vipers,
- persecutors and
- murderers of God's people.

He uttered every syllable with absolute self-control but with devastating intensity. Can imagine it must have been like thunder and lightning. Most fearful and dreadful statements that Jesus uttered on earth.

Jesus follows the Old Testament prophets model of pronouncing the curses upon the religious leaders who are morally corrupt. **Isaiah 5:8-23**, there are six woes, and in **Habakkuk 2:6-20**, there are five we can find in our Bible.

### **List of seven woe's**

- 1. *For making salvation hard for other people (v. 13)***

Jesus criticized the Pharisees for wanting to be at the top to lead the parade. But in their desire to receive the praise of the people, they parade as if they had taken the

people to the doors of heaven. Neither they go in nor they let the people to go into the presence of God.

Jesus rebuked them for not letting them others and if Pharisees were not there then the people would have received their salvation.

In our days people tell many stories about heaven and God but their life is full of lies.

## ***2. For corrupting converts (v. 15)***

The Pharisee's not only go in to the Kingdom or not letting them go but they corrupt them with false teachings. They travel far and wide to do this. The Judaizers who opposed Paul, traveling as far as Galatia to corrupt the new in faith of his Gentile converts.

## ***3. For rude religion (vv. 16-22)***

Jesus used examples of which he had spoken at other times and in other places, chiefly the way in which lawyers distinguished between legally binding and nonbinding oaths.

Their position was that only oaths taken in the name of God were binding. But since the Jews did not usually use the name of God in their speech but rather employed synonyms such as "heaven," or the "temple," or God's "throne". It became a debatable matter whether a specific oath was in the name of God or not.

The Jews would call swearing by the temple invalid, while swearing by the gold of the temple was valid.

Swearing by the altar was insignificant, but swearing by the gift that had been placed on the altar counted.

#### ***4. For neglecting what is actually important (vv. 23-24)***

The way the Pharisees handled tithing. The law required tithing of grain, wine, oil, and the firstborn of the flocks (Deuteronomy 14:22-29). Leviticus 27:30 also mentions fruit from trees. But the Pharisees had greatly expanded this to include a tenth of even household spices such as mint, dill, and cumin. These were grown in household plots and existed in small amounts.

Jesus' complaint is about their preoccupation with mere nonsense. He does not say they are wrong to tithe spices.

On the contrary, they should not neglect such tithing (v. 23). However, what was wrong is that they had concern for small details but very vague on such weightier matters as "justice, mercy and faithfulness"

#### ***5. For self-indulgence (vv. 25-26)***

The Pharisees debated about what means to keep a kosher kitchen, and the rules they devised were many and complex. "The food or drink inside a vessel might have been obtained by cheating or theft. It might be luxurious and gluttonous, that did not matter, so long as the vessel itself was ceremonially clean."

Most church going people seem to have this attitude. Keeping up appearances as long as we go to church, speak biblical lingo, give a bit of our money to charitable causes, and do our civic duty, it does not seem to matter. What matters if we are dishonest in business, covetous in money matters, cruel in dealings with our families, selfish, proud, or arrogant.

#### ***6. For wickedness within (vv. 27-28)***

This was Passover week and it was a Jewish practice to use the preceding month of Adar to renew the

whitewashing on tombs. The purpose of painting them so that it will be clear for them to see. This religious people who were on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover would not accidentally defile themselves by touching these tombs. If they touch a place or a tomb, where the bodies of the dead were buried will make them unclean.

Here Jesus criticizes the Pharisees, first for their hypocrisy, whitewashed without but corrupt within. Their fears about outward ceremonial defilement without being profoundly troubled by the inward pollution of their lives.

### ***7. For the murder of God's prophets (vv, 29-36)***

The Pharisees were the true sons of their ancestral fathers who killed the prophets of God, who had been sent to them. Their fathers had murdered all the righteous persons of the past, from Abel, whose death is recounted in the earliest chapters of Genesis, to Zechariah, whose murder is recorded in 2 Chronicles 24:21, the last book of the Hebrew Bible, wicked churchmen always kill the righteous.

## Cry of Jesus

**Matthew 23:37-39,** <sup>37</sup> *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but **you were not willing!*** <sup>38</sup> *See! Your house is left to you desolate;* <sup>39</sup> *for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”*

Imagine how angry Jesus must have been, the words written may not show the emotions to us but we can feel the pain when Jesus spoke the above words.

Three points from the verses.

V 37	V 37	V 38	V 39
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Turned away</b>	<b>Tragedy</b>	<b>Triumph</b>
Came to Gather	Unwilling/ Rejection	Desolation	Sing along

## **Gathering**

Jesus came to gather the Israelites as how a hen will gather the chicks under her wings. The protection, Love, care and everything He wanted for His children.

## **Willfully Turning away**

Willfully turning away, just for a moment you imagine, an Eagle is coming to take away the little chick. The hen comes to gather the chick, but the chick refused to come to hen rather runs into the danger going towards the bird as a prey. Refusing and willingly turning away.

## **Tragedy**

Their house will be desolation. In the same analogy chick runs into the enemy and gets killed how painful is it for the Hen to stand there and watch helplessly. This is the reason Jesus cried out to Jerusalem.

## **Triumph**

There will be a day when all will come back and sing a song saying blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Jesus could see that glorious day and rejoice that moment too.

## Olivet Discourse

Then Jesus spoke to His disciples about the End Times or His second coming.

Many have misunderstood this prediction what the Lord predicted happened in 70A.D

But look at the chapter carefully you will find it is not what Jesus predicted.

After the cry of Jesus about Jerusalem they come to the temple.

**Matthew 24: 1-2**, *Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to them, “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.”*

This prophecy fulfilled in 70 A.D. The Jews revolted against the Roman rule in 66A.D. so the emperor send an army dispatched to deal. One legion (6,000 soldiers) came but they failed and lost their life. So, Emperor Nero sent his commander Vaspian and his son Titus, with a force of 10 legions, 60,000 soldiers.

The forces overcame the defenses and set an ambush upon the temple and the city. The destruction of the temple is still mourned by Jews in the annual fast of *Tisha be-Av*, and the fall of Jerusalem is celebrated in Rome's Arch of Titus.

This first two verses prophecy from Jesus got fulfilled in 70 A.D.

After this only they walk to Mount of Olives there again Jesus gives the prophecy to His disciples.

Jesus spoke to them in privately recorded in all the three Gospels. Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Jesus. (Mark 13:3)

You will find this in Matthew 23&24, Mark 13 and Luke 21

For our study we use the Gospel of Matthew, since he was the tax collector who knew short hand the bible scholars believe that he had taken word by word from the Lord.

So, the disciples asking Him the question.

**Matthew 24:3,** <sup>3</sup> *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when*

*will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

Jesus answering these questions after saying about the destruction of Temple at Jerusalem and the nation of Israel.

Jesus gives 4 Signs to watch. Jesus constantly says don't trust your ears but watch these signs.

1. World
2. Church
3. Israel
4. Sky

**Matthew 24:6-8,** *<sup>6</sup>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.<sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

- 1. World**
  - a) Wars
  - b) Famine
  - c) Earthquake

### a) Wars and rumors of war

As on today (April 2018) there are 15 wars are going on in different countries.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Conflict Related Fatalities</b>
1	Syria	49,742
2	Iraq	23,898
3	Afghanistan	23,539
4	Mexico	12,224
5	Somalia	5,575
6	Nigeria	4,684
7	Sudan	3,891
8	South Sudan	3,544
9	Libya	2,865
10	Pakistan	1,803
11	Egypt	1,707
12	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,565
13	Yemen	1,375

14	Ethiopia	1,114
15	Ukraine	902

From the time Jesus said these words over 1,000 wars have taken place in many countries. There are only 14 countries which does not have any conflict out of 156.

### **b) Famine**

If you look at the World Hunger Index (GHI) you will be astonished to see the hunger level across the globe. Almost one in three people doesn't have two meal a day.

### **c) Earthquake**

We have been experiencing a high number of earthquakes. Last 100 years we have had over 10,000 Strong earthquakes which is more than 5.4 magnitude.

## **2. Church**

**Matthew 24:9-14,** <sup>9</sup>*“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.* <sup>10</sup>*And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.* <sup>11</sup>*Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.* <sup>12</sup>*And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* <sup>13</sup>*But he who endures to the end shall be saved.* <sup>14</sup>*And this gospel of the kingdom*

*will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

a) Universal persecution

Anti-Christian persecution is “worse than at any time in history” and in many cases genocide and other crimes against humanity “now mean that the Church in core countries and regions faces the possibility of imminent wipe-out,” says a new report from Aid to the Church in Need.

Almost 100,000 people are dying every year for their faith in Lord Jesus Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There are more number of people dead in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone against the numbers put together on the last 19 centuries.

**b) Falling away of believers**

Many false preaching has come up to distract people. This is being slowly on the rise. Many have walked away from the Lord because of many issues on churches and doctrines.

**c) Gospel to be preached to all nations**

There are over 300 million ethnic groups in the world but the Gospel is not preached to all of them. But certainly, it had gone to many places which we could not even think

few decades ago. The way China has been reached for Christ is overwhelming. It is estimated around 12,000 people are getting baptized every week in China.

### 3. Israel

**Matthew 24:15-28,** <sup>15</sup> *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),* <sup>16</sup> *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.* <sup>17</sup> *Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.* <sup>18</sup> *And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.* <sup>19</sup> *But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!* <sup>20</sup> *And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.* <sup>21</sup> *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.* <sup>22</sup> *And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.*

<sup>23</sup> *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.* <sup>24</sup> *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.* <sup>25</sup> *See, I have told you beforehand.*

*<sup>26</sup> “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>28</sup> For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.*

**a) Abomination desolation**

Here Jesus quotes the term from Daniel chapter 9. We will study this in our next lesson so that we understand that how everything will get kickstart once this had happened.

- b) Antichrist – lawless one
- c) False Christ/ Prophets

**4. Sky**

**Matthew 24:29,** *<sup>29</sup> “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.*

- a) Sun
- b) Moon
- c) Stars

We can understand that there are few other things in the above list that should happen for our Lord Jesus to return. But Rapture can happen anytime and as soon as the rapture takes place the second coming clock of 7 years of Tribulation will start.

## **Comprehensive look of Revelation 6 and Matthew 24**

### **First seal: False Peace**

When Antichrist comes he will lead the people in to false peace. For the last seven-year period will start with peace in the first half. The second half will start with Great Tribulation.

**Matthew 24:4-5,** <sup>4</sup>*And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

Jesus Christ opens the first seal in heaven. Jesus Christ, who alone is worthy to open the scroll (Revelation 5:5-10)

**Revelation 6:2,** <sup>2</sup>*And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

## Second seal: War

**Matthew 24:6-8,** <sup>6</sup>*And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup>All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

God grants the permission for this Great Tribulation. This is the wrath of God. (For the time timeline read **Daniel 11:36-40**)

**Revelation 6:4,** <sup>4</sup>*Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

## Third seal: Famine

**Matthew 24:7,** <sup>7</sup>*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

Famines is associated with Black horse. (Lamentations 5: 8-10)

**Revelation 6:5-6,** <sup>5</sup> *When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."*

The rider has the scale with him. There will be rationing.

One-quart wheat = One-person meal for a day = One-day wage = One denarius

One-quart barley = Three persons meal for a day = One-day wage = One denarius = Animal food

## **Fourth seal: Death**

One fourth of the mankind will be killed.

### **Matthew 24:6-8**

Many will be dead because of pestilence.

**Revelation 6:7-8,** <sup>7</sup> *When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>8</sup> So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a*

*fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

Can you imagine the deadliest animal which could kill the people?

Rat!

14<sup>th</sup> Century the rat has killed ¼ people in the Europe. If you destroy 95% of the rats they have the ability to reproduce themselves to them to original level within a year.

At a time, a rat can carry 35 deceases.

### **Fifth seal: Vengeance**

**Matthew 24:9-10,** <sup>9</sup>*“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. <sup>10</sup>And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.*

These saints are not from the church. When the tribulation takes place after the rapture there will be people who will be saved.

There are 144,000 people will be preaching the Gospel (Revelation 7:1-8), we will see who they are in the future lesson.

The two witnesses will preach during the Tribulation (Revelation 11) We will study who are these two witnesses in future lesson.

The angels will be preaching in Revelation 14.

**Revelation 6:9-11,**<sup>9</sup> *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup>And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup>Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

### **Sixth seal: Heavenly signs/ Fear**

**Matthew 24:29-30,**<sup>29</sup> *"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. <sup>30</sup>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*

The sun, moon and stars will be switched off. Then the son of God will appear.

**Revelation 6:12-14,** <sup>12</sup> *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

We can see from the above that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke in the Olivet Discourse was explained to Apostle John in vision.

Finally remember Jesus did mention about the end of age in the parables in Matthew 13.

**Matthew 13:39,** *The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the **end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.***

**Matthew 13:49,** *So it will be at the end of the age. **The angels will come forth, separate the wicked** from among the just,*

Do remember in the rapture Jesus comes down from Heaven to take us to be with Him. But in the end of age God send His angels to separate them.