

# MATTHEW 24 IS FOR THE CHURCH

The pre-tribulational rapture position considers Matthew 24 to refer to future and new believing Jews living during Daniel's 70th Week. They do not understand this chapter to have association for church-age believers. They would point to words such as "Judea" (v.16), and "sabbath" (v.20) as distinctively Jewish and not Christian. This may be a popular position, but it lacks expository consistency.

The point of this passage is summed up with the word urgency. Whatever the Antichrist is about to do (Mt.24:15), will happen very quickly. This is especially true if you live in close proximity to the event in Jerusalem. The Temple, where this event takes place, is in Judea. The mention of the Sabbath is used for the same reasons as pregnant women, nursing babies, and winter are used. These slow you down! The following chart will show why Matthew 24 is applicable for the future of the church.

## 1 Jesus Answers Questions From the Disciples

- The pre-trib position applies Matthew 24 to future new Jewish believers during Daniel's 70th Week. However, Jesus knows these disciples become Apostles before the events He describes. They represent the church.

## 2 Mark (a Gentile) Gives the Same Account

- Should we consider Mark (Mk.13:14), when viewing the same time period to be referring to Jewish believers only? It would be difficult to accept that the Gospel of Mark has a Jewish focus.

## 3 Matthew is the Only Gospel that Actually Mentions the Word "Church" (ekklesia)

- Jesus said, "I will build my church" from the response of Peter's confession of faith (Mt.16:18).
- It is in Matthew that we learn how to properly handle church discipline (Mt.18:15-20). It is in Matthew Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper (Mt.26:26; Mk.14:22; Lk.22:19). Matthew gives us the Great Commission (Mt.28:19-20; Mk.16:15-16; Ac.1:8).

## 4 Matthew Tells us Not to Set Dates for the Rapture

- No man knows the day or the hour (Mt.24:36; Mk.13:32).

## 5 Believers Will Be Hated For "My Name's Sake" (Mt.24:9)

- Jews are not hated because of the name of Christ, but Christians are.

## 6 Matthew Speaks of the Elect (Mt.24:22,24,31)

- The word "elect" is never used in the New Testament to refer to the Jews, but to believers.
- This period (Great Tribulation) is "cut short" for the elect's (believers) sake, not for unbelieving Jews.