

B.O.S.S. Study Guide
“The Coming Ages”
Week of January 18, 2010

Matthew 24 gives us via the words of the Lord Jesus a very clear explanation of the period of time known as the “Great Tribulation”. This term comes from Jesus’ words in 24:21 “great distress” NIV- “great tribulation” KJV. From Daniel we understand that the time will last for 7 years and it reaches its culmination and conclusion with the return of Jesus and the establishment of His Kingdom.

24:36 tells us exactly when this is going to happen, which is when?

Though no one knows the exact time - the remaining parables (24:37-25:46) give more detail as to what the end and His coming will be like.

24:37-41 It will be like the coming judgment of the flood; life will go on as normal even though calamity is at the door. Not until it actually occurred do the masses take note. It will be so sudden for most that it will be like someone working along side of someone else and suddenly one of them is gone – as if a flood took one of them away.

24:42-44 It will be like a thief coming in the night, it will be unexpected except for those who have determined to be watchful.

24:45-51 Is probably addressed to those who have taken a unique responsibility of caring for God’s people but have misused their position and are slack when their master returns. Jesus may again be condemning the same individuals in 23:33.

25:1-13 For the nation, the coming will be like what?

Young women who are waiting for the groom’s return - however, some will be prepared while others will miss it due to their own decisions.

25:14-30 For the nation of Israel, Jesus’ returns will be a time of reckoning, compared to what?

A land owner who leaves individuals in charge of managing there assets - some of the children of Abraham are found faithful while other are not - for the most negligent the fate of 23:33; 25:51; are the same in 25:30. This is not talking about the judgment of New Testament Christians, this again only has Israel in mind. The church is not even in existence at this time; Christians are judged at a different time and manner, as are the unbelieving Gentile world.

25:31-46 Tells us what the judgment after the tribulation will look like for the Gentile world. Those who have been saved during the tribulation as a result of 24:14 - will be

assembled on His right; those who still defy God's invitation of repentance and salvation (see Rev. 9:20-21) they will be those described in 24:10-13 will be gathered to His left and their fate will be what?

This is clearly not a judgment of New Testament Christians; our eternal destiny is not based on our social concern for others - though important - we are saved by faith, not by works - though those who know God love their brothers also. Those who are saved and survive the tribulation - see 24:13,14 - will also have a love for others and a desire to care for their needs - see James 2:14-17 - will inherit eternal life.

According to Jesus in 25:31-46 and James 2:14-17 how important is it that our faith impacts our desire to love others. The evidence that we truly love others is a willingness to meet their humanitarian needs, even at ones own expense, in keeping with the story of the Good Samaritan.

Prayer and Praise Time: