

B.O.S.S. Study Guide
“The Coming Ages”
Week of January 4, 2010

For the past two weeks we have been studying together Jesus’ teaching of the future from Matthew 24. The teaching known as “The Olivet Discourse”, is the result of questions His disciples had due to the confusion raised from what Jesus said at the end of chapter 23 and the first two verses of chapter 24.

Read together Matthew 23:13- 24:2

What are some of the characteristics of the religious leaders Jesus is addressing?

In verses 33-36 what does Jesus say will happen to the generation of Jews living in Israel at the time of Jesus’ teaching?

It is amazing to think that all of God’s judgment for Israel’s rejection (primarily the religious leaders) of the prophets and teachers God had sent them through the centuries would fall on this generation of Jews. Wow!

In verses 37-39, Jesus pronounces judgment on the nation as a whole – they too had done what to the prophets?

We have studied parts of speech in scripture and though we are literalists, that is, we say we take the Bible literally, we do not believe God is a chicken.

What part of speech is Jesus using at the end of verse 37?

This is a list from our first study on “The Coming Ages”

How Do We Interpret Scripture? - Last fall.

- ◆ Parables-fictitious story with moral or spiritual truth “the good Samaritan”
- ◆ Allegories-figurative story of a metaphorically implied meaning never stated “there was a king who went to a far off country...”

(often distinguished from reality by the use of proper names, locations, dates, factual events)

- ◆ Poetry
- ◆ Symbols –one thing representing another
- ◆ Idioms –saying with cultural, regional or class significance
- ◆ Metaphor -an unexpressed comparison “this is my body”
- ◆ Simile – declaration that one thing resembles another “he shall be like a tree”
- ◆ Euphemisms – saying something delicate in an indirect way “he knew her not”
- ◆ Irony – stating the opposite – Job- “wisdom will die with you”
- ◆ Sarcasm – irony with bitterness or hatred “come down and we will believe”
- ◆ Anthropomorphism – human attribute or body part to God “the arm of God”

Which fits our understanding of Matthew 23:37?

Verse 38 – Jesus laments the fact that the Temple, where Jesus had preached and taught, was now going to be truly desolate due to the fact that Immanuel would no longer be present with them. **They would not see Him again until when?**

The quote of verse 39 of Matthew is from Psalm 118. **Read 21-27.** Jesus teaches that this is a prophetic psalm, predicting the day He will return in victory to His people Israel.

In Matthew 24:1,2 - What does Jesus predict will happen to The Temple complex in Jerusalem?

The wrath on “this generation” for the rejection of God’s ambassadors, desolation due to the presence of God being taken and the total destruction of the Temple were predicted by Jesus. **But what do we know historically about how these predictions come about?**

Read together the appendix page “Titus in Israel”