

HILLSBORO CHURCH OF CHRIST

BULLETIN ARTICLE

H A Y E S'
H O O R A H !

(Jan. 17th)

“HOW TO APPROACH A STUDY OF (MATTHEW 24)”

(Adapted from J. Meadows' material on “Matt. 24.”)

MATT. 24 IS THE CULMINATION OF A SERIES OF PROPHECIES AGAINST THE JEWISH NATION:

There was a warning given by the forerunner of the Christ, John the Baptist, to the Jews. The warning to the Jews was that the “...ax is laid upon the root of the trees...” (Matt. 3:10). Another warning given, equally as strong as John's, was the one our Lord gave of judgment to the Jewish nation (Matt. 23:33)- “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” Consequently, the Jews did not repent, and Matthew 24 shows how the ax would fall upon them.

THE WARNING OF MATT. 21:

The warning of Matthew 21, teaches the Jews that they would not possess the kingdom of God. In the parable of the man who had two sons, Jesus severely condemned the Jews. He said, “Verily I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you” (Matt. 21:28-32). In the parable of the husbandman our Lord said, “The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder” (Matt. 21:33-45). Verse 45, shows us that the CHIEF PRIESTS and the PHARISEES “perceived that He spake of them.”

THE FINAL DEBATE:

The final debate between our Lord and the Jewish leader is recorded in chp. 22 of the gospel of Matthew. He silenced the Pharisees and the Herodians in the answer that He gave about paying tribute to Caesar; He did so in such a way that the Bible says they "marveled, and left Him, and went their way" (Matt. 22:15-22). The Lord silenced the Sadducees, when He answered their question about the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33). Later the Pharisees devised a plan to try and trap our Lord in His speech, by sending a lawyer. But once again, our Lord put pressure on those who were seeking to ensnare Him, by asking them some questions about the Son of the Living God (Matt. 22:34-45). "And no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions" (Matt. 22:46).

MATT. 23:

In Matthew 23, Jesus sums up the sins of the Jewish nation and gives His verdict: "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matt. 23:38). In a series of woes, our Lord denounced their sins (Matt. 23:13-19). In (Matt. 23:32), He told them to "fill up then the measure of your fathers." Their fathers had killed and persecuted the prophets of God (Matt. 23:34). They had manifested the same attitude and were filling up the cup to overflowing by crucifying the Son of the Living God. Jesus said, "all these things shall come upon this generation" (Matt. 23:36). The temple was no longer "my house" (Matt. 21:13), but "your house" (Matt. 23:38). God had forsaken it, It was then that Jesus departed from the temple (Matt. 24: 1-2).

CONCLUSION:

We must use the proper methodology when studying any part of the Word of God (II Tim. 2:15). Matt. 24, is one of the most abused and misused chapters of the Word of God today. We, as members of the Body of Christ, must uphold the Truth by keeping things in their context and "rightly dividing the word of Truth."