

Matthew 24:16–28

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 24. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today we will talk about Matthew 24:16-28.

What to do

In Matthew 24:15, the Son of God told His disciples to look for the “abomination of desolation” mentioned by the prophet Daniel.

Did the Son of God give any instructions about what the disciples should do when they saw the abomination of desolation? He most certainly did.

Matthew 24:16—“Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

Notice that Luke gave a little more detail in Luke 21:21.

- Flee to the mountains.
- Those in the middle of the city should depart.
- Those in the country should not go back into the city.

Direct circumstances

The advice was very direct—when you see certain problems in the city of Jerusalem, get out of town.

Allow me to share a few examples.

- If a train with nuclear waste derails in your city, get out of town.
- If a huge forest fire approaches your city, get out of town.
- If a devastating hurricane approaches your city, get out of town.

While people around the world are probably paying attention to the circumstances of events (like derailments, fires and hurricanes) in various cities, the advice to get out of town does not directly apply to people who do not live near the derailment, fire or hurricane.

While people around the world were probably paying attention to the circumstances of events in Jerusalem, the advice to get out of town did not automatically apply to people who did not live in Jerusalem.

Important to go quickly

The Son of God made it clear that there would be a time to move quickly.

- Don't go from the housetop back into the house (verse 17).
- Don't go from the field back into the house for clothes (verse 18).

Remember Lot's wife

Luke 17:31-33—"In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

Additional reminders

Following were some additional reminders.

- Fleeing will be difficult for pregnant mothers and nursing mothers (verse 19).
- Fleeing will be difficult when dealing with cold weather or with the city gates in those days being closed on the Sabbath (verse 20).
- Circumstances will be horrible (verse 21).
- God will shorten the horrendous days because of the elect (verse 22).
- When people say Christ is somewhere, don't believe it (verse 23).
- False christs and false prophets will be convincing (verse 24).
- The Son of God likes to tell things ahead of time (verse 25).
- When people say Christ is somewhere, don't believe it (verse 26).
- The Son of God will return in a dramatic fashion (verse 27).

Ponder these words

Matthew 24:28—"For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together."