



The Kingdom Coming

Signs of the End of the Age (Part Two)

Sunday, January 7/24 --- Matthew 24:29 – 35

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But concerning that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

- Matthew 24:34 – 36

If we are to understand the Biblical writers, we have to learn to read their language in their way...It is vital to read the passage as it would have been heard by Matthew's first audience. And there, it seems, we are back to the great crisis that was going to sweep over Jerusalem, and its surrounding countryside at a date that was, to them, in the unknown future, though we now know it happened in AD 70, at the climax of the war between Rome and Judea.

- Tom Wright

Sermon Outline:

- I. Introduction: Finding the Right Hills to Die On
- II. Looking at the Text through Two Lens'
- III. Looking at the Text through One Lens (vs. 35)
- IV. Keeping Perspective



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Discussion Questions:

1. *Have you ever had a heated debate with another Christian over doctrine? Would you say it was a primary teaching, or secondary? What was the result of the discussion?*
2. *Have you known someone who has strong convictions surrounding end times and how the Scriptures should be understood? What have you learned from them?*
3. *Having heard a brief comparison about this passage (24:29 – 35) between a 'Preterist' (first century fulfillment) position and a 'futurist' (fulfilled at the second coming of Christ) position, do you have a leaning one way or the other? Why?*
4. *What is the most important lesson to remember in reading of the last days?*

Application:

Perhaps you have read and formed your views on eschatology (study of last things), or perhaps you find it confusing and conflictive. Whichever describes you most, what is one thing that you think God might want to help / grow you in through this study?