



Introduction

Jesus predicts problems to come.



Questions

1. What do the disciples ask Jesus in response to his prediction about the destruction of the temple?
2. What are the first two warnings Jesus gives?
3. In what way does Jesus say the days of Noah will be like those of the coming of the Son of Man?



Summary Points

- **1 to 3** The disciples ask for more information when Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple
- **v 4 to 12** He tells them to expect:
 - false christs and prophets
 - wars and national upheavals
 - persecution
- **v 13 and 14** Jesus gives encouragement to endure, and assurance that the Good News of the Kingdom will be known worldwide
- **v 15 to 22** Christ warns his followers to flee immediately when they see the abomination of desolation (see information) standing in the holy place
- **v 23 to 27** Christ again warns not to believe false christs (see information) because when he does come it will be as obvious as a lightning flash
- **v 28 to 31** Jesus talks about what it will be like before, and at the time of his return (see theme)
- **v 32 to 36** Jesus says that there will be signs of his coming, but no one knows exactly when he will return
- **v 37 to 43** People who are busy living their lives will be caught unawares when the Son of Man comes
- **v 44 to 51** Christ warns his followers to occupy themselves well while waiting for his return

Timeline 30 AD (see below)



Theme / Information

The abomination of desolation

In the prophecy on the Mount of Olives, Jesus refers to the abomination of desolation mentioned by the prophet Daniel. The relevant verses in Daniel's prophecy are:

Daniel 11 verse 31 and 12 verse 11

These verses make it clear that the abomination of desolation refers to a time when offerings made in connection with the worship of God in the temple will be replaced. Sacrifices stopped when the temple was destroyed in AD 70.



False christs

There have been many false christs or messiahs since the time of Jesus.

Martin Gilbert in his book *Atlas of Jewish history* lists 25 false messiahs in Europe between 400 and 1816.

The *Wikipedia* website lists 14 Jews, 34 Christians, 8 Muslims and 10 other people who have claimed to be christ between the first and twentieth centuries.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says "Almost every generation had its messianic precursors and pretenders—the best-known case being that of the 17th-century pseudo-messiah Shabbetai Tzevi".

A recent example of a false christ occurred in Sheffield.



The Sheffield newspaper The Star had a headline on June 22 1988 giving details of a Sheffield man claiming to be Christ. He had taken out a High Court writ against all 1,800 members of parliament because they had refused to talk with him.

Jesus Christ will return to the earth

A selection of verses showing that Jesus will return to the earth.

Matthew 16 verse 27, 24 verse 30 and 25 verse 31

Mark 8 verse 38

Mark 13 verse 26

Luke 18 verse 8

Acts 1 verses 10 and 11

1 Corinthians 11 verse 26

1 Thessalonians 1 verse 10, 4 verse 16

2 Timothy 4 verse 1

James 5 verses 7 to 9



? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 3, Q 2: v 4 to 6, Q 3: v 38 and 39

Bible timeline

