

# MATTHEW 24

## **CHRIST PROPHECIES DESTRUCTION AND PERSECUTION (24:1-14)**

An early commentary on Matthew on why the disciples asked about the end of the age:

They asked questions about the temple for their own benefit, but those questions concerning the end of the age were asked for our benefit. We never saw the destruction of the temple, nor did they see the end of the age. It was expedient therefore that they hear about the signs of the temple's destruction and that we learn to recognize the signs of the world's consummation...It is also of some benefit to be able to recognize the end of the age, for when a man is on a journey, the closer he gets to home, the more he begins to celebrate.

## **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (24:15-28)**

St. Epiphanius the Latin on false signs and wonders:

You see then, beloved, what great love the Lord displays toward us. He carefully instructs each one of us individually regarding the future so that even if we see all these signs come to pass (having been forewarned by Him) we will be wise to the enemy and accept nothing contrary to Christ and the catholic faith.

## **THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN (24:29-31)**

Blessed Theophylact on the coming of the Son of Man:

'The sun shall be darkened,' instead of being blackened; not disappearing, but being overwhelmed by the light of Christ's appearance, and so too will the stars and the moon...But the powers of the heavens shall also be shaken, that is, the angelic hosts will be astonished and will tremble seeing creation changed, and all mankind from Adam until now about to give an account.

## **NO ONE KNOWS THE HOUR (24:32-44)**

St. Hilary of Poitiers on the Parable of the Fig Tree:

The fig tree's branch therefore represents the antichrist, who is a son of the devil, a partaker of sin and protector of the law. When it begins to grow tender and green, then the summer, which here represents the day of judgment, is near. The greening of the tree then refers to the rise of sinners, a time that will be marked by the flowering of slanderers and the popularity of criminals and favor for blasphemers. This signals that summer, the heat of eternal fire, is near.

## **FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS (24:45-51)**

St. Cyril of Alexandria on the unfaithful servant:

Jesus teaches that those who have not carried out faithfully the ministry given to them in this present life will not receive another from Him...For the cutting Jesus reveals is not a bodily one but the stripping of their adoption as sons from the Spirit.

***Find more study guides and other resources online at [orthodoxyouth.org/matthew](http://orthodoxyouth.org/matthew).***

Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew Ia and Ib* (IVP)  
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

© 2010 Jason J. Barker and the Department of Youth Ministry—Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.