

# THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

## MATTHEW 24

### *A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles*

(This Message appeared in the Church's Gospel Email on August 24, 2015)

To all Members and Friends of The Church of Jesus Christ:

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles met in a special session on August 14 - 15, 2015. We discussed the role of our church in today's challenging spiritual environment throughout our worldwide church. We felt God's blessing as we read the 24th chapter of Matthew. Jesus explained to His disciples and to all of us what would happen from 33 AD to the end of the world.

Within Jesus' prophecy is a description of our current world environment in 2015. Jesus accurately describes what we are seeing in our news media. Many articles and internet sites are predicting **wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, pestilences, earthquakes**, financial collapses, major storms, meteorites, comets and natural calamities.

Many of our members also are concerned about the times in which we live. Jesus explains very clearly what will happen as Jesus' disciples also had the same concerns in 33 AD. We believe that you will have a better understanding of future events as you read what Jesus prophesied almost 2000 years ago.

#### **Matthew 24: 3-14**

*"And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"*

*And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of **wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.***

*Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**"*

Be Ready at Any Hour. Readiness is personal preparation of a solid relationship with our Lord.

#### **Matthew 24:36-44**

***“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***

***Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”***

The key words are **"be ye not troubled"** when you see these things happening as they must come to pass but the **"END IS NOT YET"**.

Iniquity must abound as we have seen that the leaders in this Promised Land have defied and rewritten the commandments of GOD. It appears that Christians who believe in the Scriptures are being mocked and in some countries hated, tortured and killed for their belief that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is the beginning of sorrows for Jesus said that **the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to the entire world** (7 billion people) as a witness to all nations and **then shall the end come**. During these Latter Day times we are awaiting the fulfillment of God's plan. Prophesied in the Bible and Book of Mormon are many of God's truths. The "Peaceful Reign," also called "Zion" on Earth in the flesh, will come along with the "Choice Seer" who will convince the Native Americans/Joseph of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And so we see much will yet happen prior to the end of time, or the conclusion of the "First and Second Resurrections".

There are many false prophets in the world that have predicted the end times; all have failed in their prophecies: Jesus **said "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only"** We believe in His words where he told us two important things we must do:

**Watch! – because we do not know what hour the Lord may come;** our end of the world may come at any time when we close our eyes for the last time on earth and open them in the "Paradise of God."

**Be Ready! – for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh Then He will come.**

Jesus then related a **parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins**. We recommend that you read this carefully as you reflect on your personal walk with God.

**Matthew 25: 1-13**

***“They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. .... they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh”***

We have a daily challenge to live in this world but not participate in things that are contrary to God's commandments. As the Apostle Paul said in Romans 12:2 (KJV):

***“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”***

May God continue to richly bless you and your families as we strive to keep God's commandments.