

Refrigerator Notes 04 October 2015

Fleeing to the Mountains

Text Matthew 24:1-16

1. What is the significance of mountains in the bible? In the OT, the mountains signified where God met His people for worship and In the NT, the mountains became a sanctuary.
2. Many important events in the Bible took place on or near mountains, because it was where God showed up.
3. Scripture tells us in times of troubles, our help comes from the hills — Psalm 121. Meaning our help is from the Lord.
4. Which brings us to our morning scripture in the NT. Therefore, when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.
5. When this signal is given, let it be a notice of and observed, let them that are in the city of Jerusalem, depart out of it, or who are in any other parts of Judea, in any of the towns, or cities thereof, let them not betake themselves to Jerusalem, imagining they may be safe there, in so strong and fortified a place, but let them flee elsewhere, see (Luke 21:21)
6. By Jesus' comments, Jesus set the stage for what appeared to be, to the disciples, a showdown in Jerusalem between Jesus and the religious authorities — the perfect storm.
7. Although the text refers to the destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times, what practical application does the text hold for Christians today?
8. Jesus' discourse is with His disciples on the Mount of Olives
9. Jesus issued a warning to His disciples that they should not be easily deceived by those who claim to be the Messiah or that the end is near
10. The disciples wanted to know, "what was the sign that they could look for, if the end time was imminent?"
11. Jesus described the defining moment of the general tribulation: the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple
12. Jesus further instructs his disciples that they don't want to be in a place that is associated with idolatry
13. Jesus' use of the term desolation meaning that the disciples did not want to be in a place that was uninhabitable (devastated).
14. Jesus suggested that when such times appeared that the people should flee to the mountains
15. The question that I posed to the congregation was "Are we becoming like the Israelites and are we creating an uninhabitable land, cities and a world
16. Which the question brought to mind, are we walking in righteousness?
17. I cautioned the congregation that walking in faith and striving to walk a life without sin is filled with great blessings as well as lots of potholes
18. Our moral integrity has become today much like the Israelites in the OT — none.
19. People of God, if you have a relationship with the Lord, one need not worry about the end times, and if we are the children of God then we need to walk in righteousness
20. For the mountains will come to us, in time of troubles (if you are walking in righteousness)