Putting it All Together

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-30
Subject: Future
Central Theme: Jesus' answer about the Future
Objective Statement: We can understand Jesus' to His disciples about the signs of His coming and of the end of the age with these 5 descriptions.
Keyword: Descriptions
Points:
Description #1. Daniel's 70th Week.- The Whole Tribulation Period (v. 15, Daniel 9:24-27)
Description #2. Birth Pains- Starting at the beginning of the Tribulation Period (v.4-14, Revelation 6, 7 etc)
Description #3. Abomination of Desolation- Happening in the middle of the tribulation period. (v.15, Daniel 9:27)
Description #4. Great Tribulation- The last half of the tribulation period. (v.16-26)
Description #5. Coming of the Son of Man- Ending the tribulation period. (v.27-30)

Introduction:

Connection:

- Let me tell you a story.
- Imagine being a jewish person in AD 30 when Jesus was on the earth.

- You lived in Israel, under the occupation of the Romans. Everything that you are allowed to do is at the pleasure of the Romans.
- Life has been hard living under their occupation. Living each day to make your "daily bread" is the reality of life. You live in poverty by modern day American standards.
- As a jew under this occupation, you long for the days of David. He was the ultimate king who wrote many of the songs you sing to worship God. He was a good king who had the a heart for God.
- And this is more than just a longing for days gone by for you. You know that God said that there was a Messiah that is coming that will sit on David's throne and establish justice and righteousness forever.
- You also know that the coming of this Messiah King would be preceeded by an Elijah type figure in a time that will be a time of tribulation, a time of Jacob's trouble.
- As a jew, you revere the Old Testament prophets. You know that they tell of one who will come and will make Jerusalem the center of the world.
- What you begin to experience at this time is the ministry of a guy that seems to fit the description of Elijah, the forerunner to the Messiah. His name is John the Baptist. He seems to have the spirit of Elijah and may be the fulfillment of that prophecy. Most importantly, this John the Baptist pointed to a man named Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah- one that comes in the name of the Lord.
- There was a man named Jesus who you find out came from Nazareth, but was born in Bethlahem. He was of the house and lineage of David.
- Imagine being one of the disciples who believed all that I just told you, but then had been eyewitness to what Jesus said and did.
    - **He's teaching authoritatively as God**, not just as someone from God.
    - **His authoritative teaching is confirmed by miracles.** He's healing the sick. He's making the blind see, and the lame walk. He's even raised multiple people from the dead.
    - **He is fulfilling prophecy that you believe.** The miracles themselves are also fulfillment of the prophecies about this messiah when he comes.
    - **Then you have a discussion with him** where he asks, "Who do men say that I am?" "But who do ye say that I am?"
    - Then he tells you not to tell people because He is supposed to die.
- The time of the Passover is coming and you are on your way to Jerusalem with your Messiah that will be king.

- He tells you to go get a donkey, and supernaturally tells you where it will be and what to say to those who ask you about it.
- **He then rides in on that donkey to the people of Jersualem greeting Him as a coming king.** This is a fulfillment of prophecy.
- **He goes into the temple, and begins to turn over tables** saying, "My fathers house is a house o fprayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."
- He goes to the temple the next day and argues with the religious leaders who ask Him with what authority He threw over those tables and Jesus asked him about John the Baptist's authority. They woudn't say, so He didn't say.
- He then prounces that Jerusalem's has rejected him, their house (the temple) is left unto you desolate, and that He won't be back to the temple until ye say "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". This is an expression that has Messianic overtones about the Messiah King coming to rule and reign.
- As you leave with Jesus, he says to you that the temple is going to be destroyed. He says that one stone will not be left on another.

Tension

- Believing all of that, and experiencing all of that, you would come to Jesus with the exact question that they asked. There were two parts to the question that really refer to the same events.
- Verse 3 of Matthew 24 has the question.

Matthew 24:3

3 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?

- Today, it is my intention help you understand Jesus answer by taking everything I taught you the last two Sundays and what we will see today to understand Jesus' answer to this question.
- How will we know that Jesus is about to come back to rule and to reign and to usher in the end of the age.

We can understand Jesus' to His disciples about the signs of His coming and of the end of the age with these 5 descriptions.

Description #1. Daniel's 70th Week.- The Whole Tribulation Period (v. 15, Daniel 9:24-27)

- When you read Jesus' answer, there is a clue in verse 15 that tells you that the time to which He is reffering is found in the book of Daniel.

Matthew 24:15

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

- The time to which Jesus referred is found described by Daniel the prophet.
- We referred to it last week, and I went through it quickly. I want to show it to you again to firmly place this answer in your mind. It is found in Daniel 9.
- Let's look at the verses.

Daniel 9:24-27

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 9- Daniel's 70 Weeks

Number of Weeks	Number of Years	What is the sign?	Status?
7 Weeks	49 years	Restoration of Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25)	Happened!
Three Score and 2-62 Weeks	434 Years	Messiah is cut off. (Daniel 9:26)	Happened!
1 week	7 years	Covenant made for 1 week (7 years). (Daniel 9:27) In the middle of the week there wil be abominations that shall desolate. (Dan. 9:27)	Future!

- I believe these are weeks of years because that is exactly what happened in the past.
- I believe that the 70th week didn't happen yet because of two "mysteries" spoken of in the New Testament.

  - The mystery of the church (Ephesians 5:31-33)
  - The myster of the rapture. (1 Corinthians 15:50-52)

- So we know that Jesus' answer includes Daniel's description of the 70th week, because it includes the abomination of desolation, and this is when Daniel describes it as happening.
- It was described in Jeremiah as the time of Jacob's trouble.
- From their we see the second description, another one that we studied last week.

Description #2. Birth Pains- Starting at the beginning of the Tribulation Period (v.4-14, Revelation 6, 7 etc)

- The "birth pains" are described from verse 4 through verse 14.
- The word comes from the word translated "sorrows" in verse 8. It is the word "odin" which means travails or birth pangs/birth pains.
- Birth pains start slow and build up speed. Birth pains start with a little pain and the pain gets more intense.
- We see a coorelation between the "birth pains" Jesus described here and the judgements found in Revelation.

Birth Pain in Matthew 24	Judgement in Revelation
Deceptions by false christs. (v.4-5)	Seal Judgment #1 (Revelation 6:1-2)
Disputes and warfare among the nations. (v.6-7a)	Seal Judgment #1 and 2- Revelation 6:2-4
Devestation throughout the world. (v.7b-8)	Seal Judgmenet #3-4, Seal Judgment #6- Revelation 6:5-8, 12), Trumpet Judgments 1-4, Revelation 8:7-12)
Deliverance of believers to tribulation (v.9)	Seal Judgment #5- Revelation 6:9-11
Defection of False Believers (v.10-13)	Revelation 13:1-4, 12-15, 9:20
Declaration of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world. (v.14)	Revelation 11:6-7, 14:6-7, 7:1-5, 13-17,

Description #3. Abomination of Desolation- Happening in the middle of the tribulation period. (v.15, Daniel 9:27)

What is the abomination of desolation?

1. The Words defined.

"abomination"- βδέλυγμα

bdelugma

bdel'-oog-mah

From G948; a *detestation*, that is, (specifically) *idolatry:* - abomination.

ἐρήμωσις

erēmōsis

Thayer Definition:

1) a making desolate, desolation

- So, to put that together the abominable thing that makes desolate.
- The word for abomination is often used about things related to Idolatry.
- It desecrates. It makes something desolate.

Matthew 24:15

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

- Notice also the word here "holy place"?
- What is the "holy place" It's the temple.
- This kind of thing already happened.

Daniel 11:31

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(31) And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

- Now, in chapter 11, the first part of the chapter – and this is a rather long chapter. It's devoted to some historical things and the latter part to the end time things. But while you're looking in chapter 11, notice verse 31. And here in verse 31 we have a very, very graphic description of an interesting historical figure. And by the way, I don't know that any Bible commentary that I've ever read, no matter what their viewpoint on prophecy, has ever interpreted this any other way, at least no reputable scholar has, than as a reference to an historical figure by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes. He was a Syrian king who basically reigned from about 175 to 165 B.C. He called himself

Epiphanes which means "the great one." He wasn't a very modest fellow, so he called himself Antiochus Epiphanes, Antiochus, the Great One. The people called him Antiochus Epimanes, which means "maniac." So – I suppose they didn't call him that to his face, but that's what they called him.

- But anyway, this particular man is a very interesting figure. In verse 31 it says this about him, and if you study the whole text, it's clear who it is. History makes it very obvious. "Forces shall stand on his part and they'll pollute the sanctuary of strength, take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate." There's that same phrase again. He is going to bring about an abomination of desolation, that is Antiochus Epiphanes. So here we have a historical picture of what the end time abomination is going to be like. He was a great persecutor of the people of Israel. If you read – have an old Catholic Bible or you can get an Apocrypha, you'll find the books of Maccabees, 1 and 2 Maccabees. If you look in there, you'll get a whole rundown on Antiochus because it was written in the period in which he lived, a period about 400 years after Daniel prophesied and prior to the New Testament era. But you read in there that he tried to stamp out Jewish religion, and in so doing, he slaughtered thousands and thousands of Jews, including men, women, and even children. He, in the worst act, as far as Jewish history is concerned, desecrated the temple. He abominated the temple by going in there and slaughtering a pig on the altar and then stuffing pork down the throats of the priests and then setting up a god in that place. An abomination – a Greek god.

Now notice when it happens in the future- It happens in the middle of Daniel's 70th week (3 and ½ years in).

(27) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- Daniel 12:10-12 gives us more timing.

Daniel 12:10-11

(10) Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

(11) And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

- Just over 3.5 years.

Described in Revelation 13:11-18.

Revelation 13:1-6

(1) And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

(2) And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

(3) And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

(4) And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

(5) And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

(6) And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

- 42 months. That's how long he has.
- The false prophet makes people to worship the beast. Another name for the Antichrist.

Revelation 13:11-18

(11) And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

(12) And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

(13) And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

(14) And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

(15) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

- This describes exactly what the apostle Paul said would happen in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

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2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

1 *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*

2 *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

- Antiochus Epiphanes set up a Greek god. This one's going to set himself up. Now, you get the picture.
- As we move toward the end of human history, Israel is going to be more and more in a vulnerable position. And to protect themselves from that holocaust which they don't

want to happen, they're going to align themselves up with a seemingly friendly western European power headed up by a prince, a leader, a great leader, an attractive leader. This particular leader is going to be their strength, their support, and their help. The world is going to come against him and Israel at one point out of their hatred for Israel.

- He will defeat them all and in that moment, he will betray his real heart and he will also take power over Israel. He will desecrate their holy place. Now, having defeated the world and having all of them at his feet, he sets himself up to be worshiped.
- He becomes that god of all gods that the world must bow before and establishes the abomination of desolation. From that moment that he establishes that, and the daily sacrifice, which will be in the rebuilt temple in that time, stops and Jewish people no longer go near the place. From that moment on, the Great Tribulation begins. It lasts 42 months, 12 hundred and 60 days, three and a half years, followed by a 30-day period of judging and a 45-day period of transitioning into the millennial kingdom.

Description #4. Great Tribulation- The last half of the tribulation period. (v.16-26)

- Inaugurated by the Abomination of Desolation.
- Called "the great tribulation." (V.21)

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21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

- The Response in that Day. V.16-20
    - Run! (v.16)

Matthew 24:16-26

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Some say, why is Jesus talking to the disciples as if they will be there if He knew that they would not be there?

- This description is answering the disciples question. He is talking to them.
- This is a common occurance in prophecy. We have prophecies given to people in the Old Testament, that were later fulfilled in Old Testament times where the people first given the prophecy were spoken to as if they would be there. The information got to the people who would need it through the people that heard.

- This is obviously the worst time in all of human history in terms of suffering. It describes the last half of the tribulation period, and ushers in that which is described in the last description.
- Notice that what happens is immediate (v17-18).

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:
18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

- Difficult for Mothers. (v.19)

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

- Difficult in winter and on the sabbath. V.20

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

> *"This entire paragraph relates only to Jews, for no Christian believer would worry about breaking a Sabbath law." – Warren Weirsbe*

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

- Reject the Anti-Christ. (v.23-26).

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.
24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
25 Behold, I have told you before.
26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

- Culminated in the coming of the Son of Man. (v.27-28.)
- Seems to correspond with the trumpet judgments (Revelation 8:7-9:19), and the vial judgments (Revelation 16:2-21)

"During the first three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation, the judgments were natural: wars, famines, earthquakes, etc. But during the last half, the judgments will be supernatural and devastating." Warren Weirsbe

Description #5. Coming of the Son of Man- Ending the tribulation period. (v.27-30)

There are seven truths that I want you to know about the second coming of Christ.

1. He will return at the end of the Great Tribulation. (Matthew 24:24-28)

Matthew 24:21-28

(21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

(22) And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

(23) Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

(24) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

(25) Behold, I have told you before.

(26) Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

2. He will return suddenly. (Matthew 24:27-28)

(27) For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

(28) For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

3. He will return right after a sign. (Matthew 24:29-31)

Matthew 24:29-51

(29) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

(30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

(31) And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

4. He will return to fight at Armageddon. (Revelation 16:13-16)

Revelation 16:13-16

(13) And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

(14) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

(15) Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

(16) And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

5. He will return to make war. (Revelation 19:11-14)

Revelation 19:11-21

(11) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

(12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

(13) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

(14) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

6. He will return victoriously. (Revelation 19:15-21)

(15) And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

(16) And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

(17) And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

(18) That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

(19) And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

(20) And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

(21) And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

&. He will return to restore Israel. (Zechariah 12:2-3, 8-10)

Zechariah 12:2-3

(2) Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

(3) And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Zechariah 12:8-10

(8) In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before

them.

(9) And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

(10) And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Conclusion:

Application:

Inspiration: