

Matthew 24

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Whether Donald Trump is a false Christ

Trump has spent his political career actively enlisting the support of Christian voters, especially evangelical Christians. His campaigns often incorporated Christian elements and strengthened his political profile by emphasizing alignment with Christian values. For example, he used religious slogans at rallies, such as "Jesus is my Savior, Trump is my president," as a way to attract supporters. Although Trump is not universally seen as a devout religious believer, he is considered one of the presidents in U.S. history who is most committed to appealing to Christian evangelicals.

The views of supporters and detractors

Christians who support Trump believe his stance on issues such as abortion and LGBTQ+ rights align with their beliefs, despite controversy over his personal life and legal issues. Critics, however, questioned the sincerity of his faith, arguing that he used religious symbols for political gain, and questioned his moral behavior.

While Trump is seen among some Christians as a leader in defending Christian values, his image has also been challenged by many critics. Whether or not to see him as a "false Christ" depends more on an individual's perception of the sincerity of his faith and his political behavior.

The concept of "false Christs" in Christianity

In the Christian faith, false Christs are those who claim to be Christ or imitate Christ in an attempt to replace or mislead believers. According to Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation in the New Testament, these false Christs often bring great confusion and illusion and attract a large number of believers to follow them. However, the characteristics of false Christs are not simply related to political leaders, but more to the role of religious authority and spiritual leaders.

Despite his strong political clout and support, Trump has not shown self-proclaimed Christ or messianic qualities. Rather, his image is based more on realpolitik and economic reforms than on religious salvation or spiritual leadership to appeal to believers. So, despite his large following, Trump does not fit the traditional definition of a false Christ in Christianity.

The similarity of Trump's influence to the False Christ

While Trump does not claim to be Christ, it can be noted that the loyalty of his influence and supporters does bear some resemblance to the image of some "savior." His words and actions often lead to certain strong demands for the role of "leader". This situation may be interpreted by some as something akin to an "antichrist," but this does not mean that it will fit the traditional Christian definition of an antichrist.

Is it possible that there will be a false Christ in 2025?

There are several factors involved in this issue. First, the emergence of false Christs is often associated with religious beliefs and social unrest. If there is great economic, political, or social upheaval or catastrophe across the globe or in certain regions, this may cause some people to seek a savior, creating a need for false Christs. Such a situation can be a breeding ground for the emergence of false Christs.

In modern society, information spreads so rapidly that social media and online platforms can become channels for false Christians to promote their ideas. Against this backdrop, in 2025 there may be certain individuals or groups that use modern technology to claim to be Christ or Savior and try to attract believers.

From a psychological point of view, when people are in fearful, uneasy, or difficult situations, they may be more easily attracted to certain individuals with messianic traits. Such characters may exploit people's desire for stability and hope to portray themselves as "saviors" and try to satisfy their needs. Therefore, such psychological needs may prompt the emergence of false Christs at certain times in the future.

While there is no specific biblical text that marks the year 2025 as the exact date of Christ's return, some eschatologists may associate the year with their prophecies or interpretations.

Global events: If a major global event occurs in 2025 (such as a large-scale disaster, war, or economic collapse), this may increase susceptibility to the emergence of false Christs.

While there is no conclusive evidence that a false Christ will emerge in 2025, the possibility exists based on historical precedent and societal dynamics. The key is to be vigilant, think critically, and test any person or group that claims to be a savior. The reminder is that these observations and inferences are based on existing patterns and circumstances and do not imply that they will necessarily occur, but rather point to such conditions and circumstances that may make the emergence of a false Christ credible.

Matthew 24 talks about the signs of Jesus' return and the end of the age after Jesus prophesied that the temple would be destroyed.

Signs of the end of the age:

Jesus warned of false Christs, wars, famines, and earthquakes, which were "the beginning of production" (vv. 4-8) ◦

Believers will be persecuted, betrayed, and sinned in abundance, and the gospel will be preached in all the nations of the world (vv. 9-14) ◦

The desolate abomination (vv. 15-28) :

Jesus referred to Daniel's prophecy about an abomination that caused desolation.

He instructed the people of Judea to flee to the mountains when they saw this mark, indicating that there would be a time of tribulation that had never been seen before (vv. 15-22) °

There will be false Christs and false prophets who will deceive people by miracles (vv. 23-26), but His return will be as evident as lightning from east to west (v. 27) °

The Coming of the Son of Man (vv. 29-31) :

After the tribulation, there will be celestial visions (the sun darkening, the moon not shining, the stars falling), followed by the coming of the Son of Man in the clouds with power and majesty.

No one knows that day or hour (vv. 36-44) :

No one knows that day or hour, not even the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but the Father.

A call to be vigilant and prepared, like Noah's day, when people lived normally until the flood came suddenly.

Eschatology: Matthew 24 is crucial to Christian eschatology, dealing with eschatological prophecy, Christ's return, and final judgment.

Matthew 24 is thus both a prophetic warning and a moral instruction on how believers should live while waiting for Christ's return.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to You with anticipation and hope in our hearts, knowing that the Lord Jesus will return to bring eternal peace and redemption. Your promises are real, and our hearts yearn to come face to face with You and see Your glory.

Lord, please give us the unwavering faith that will help us to wait for Your return in this world, not to be shaken by the temptations and difficulties of the world. Pray that You will give us the power of the Holy Spirit to keep us awake in our daily lives, to live out Your love and truth, and to bear witness to You until the day You return.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Matthew 24

Amplified Bible

Signs of Christ's Return

24 Jesus left the temple *area* and was going on His way when His disciples came up to Him to call His attention to the [magnificent and massive] ^[a]buildings of the temple. ² And He said to them, "Do you see

all these things? I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, not one stone here will be left on another, which will not be torn down.”

³ While Jesus was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, and said, “Tell us, when will this [destruction of the temple] take place, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end (completion, consummation) of the age?”

⁴ Jesus answered, “Be careful that no one misleads you [deceiving you and leading you into error]. ⁵ For many will come in My name [misusing it, and appropriating the strength of the name which belongs to Me], saying, ‘I am the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed),’ and they will mislead many. ⁶ You will *continually* hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but that is not yet the end [of the age]. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs [of the intolerable anguish and the time of unprecedented trouble].

⁹ “Then they will hand you over to [endure] tribulation, and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ At that time many will be offended *and* repelled [by their association with Me] *and* will fall away [from the One whom they should trust] and will betray one another [handing over believers to their persecutors] and will hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will appear and mislead many. ¹² Because lawlessness is increased, the love of most people will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures *and* bears up [under suffering] to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ This good news of the kingdom [the gospel] will be preached throughout the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end [of the age] will come.

Perilous Times

¹⁵ “So when you see the ^[b]abomination of desolation [the appalling sacrilege that astonishes and makes desolate], spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the Holy Place (let the ^[c]reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains [for refuge]. ¹⁷ Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things that are in his house [because there will not be enough time]. ¹⁸ Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. ¹⁹ And woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight [from persecution and suffering] will not be in winter, or on a Sabbath [when Jewish laws prohibit travel]. ²¹ For ^[d]at that time there will be a great tribulation (pressure, distress, oppression), such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will [again]. ²² And if those days [of tribulation] had not been cut short, no human life would be saved; but for the sake of the elect (God’s chosen ones) those days will be shortened. ²³ Then if anyone says to you [during the great tribulation], ‘Look! Here is the Christ,’ or ‘There *He is*,’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will appear and they will provide great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect (God’s chosen ones). ²⁵ Listen carefully, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ So if they say to you, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out there, or, ‘Look! He is in the inner rooms [of a house],’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming [in glory] of the Son of Man [everyone will see Him clearly]. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the ^[e]vultures will flock together.

The Glorious Return

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not provide its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ And at that time the sign of the Son of Man [coming in His glory] will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth [and especially Israel] will mourn [regretting their rebellion and rejection of the Messiah], and they

will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory [in brilliance and splendor]. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet and they will gather together His elect (God's chosen ones) from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Parable of the Fig Tree

³² "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its young shoots become tender and it puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near; ³³ so you, too, when you see all ^[i]these things [taking place], know for certain that He is near, right ^[e]at the door. ³⁴ I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, this generation [the people living when these signs and events begin] will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth [as now known] will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁶ "But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son [in His humanity], but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man (the Messiah) will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the [very] day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not know *or* understand until the flood came and swept them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be [unexpected judgment]. ⁴⁰ At that time two men will be in the field; one will be ^[u]taken [for judgment] and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken [for judgment] and one will be left.

Be Ready for His Coming

⁴² "So be alert [give strict attention, be cautious and active in faith], for you do not know which day [whether near or far] your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: If the head of the house had known what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore, you [who follow Me] must also be ready; because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.

⁴⁵ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his master has put in charge of his household to give the others [in the house] their food *and* supplies at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that [faithful] servant when his master returns and finds him doing so. ⁴⁷ I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that servant is evil and says in his heart, 'My master is taking his time [he will not return for a long while], ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards; ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour of which he is not aware, ⁵¹ and will cut him in two and put him with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger].

Matthew 24 is a pivotal chapter in the New Testament where Jesus provides prophetic teachings about the end times, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, His second coming, and the need for vigilance and preparedness. It's a mixture of both immediate and distant future events, some of which were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., while others point to the ultimate return of Christ at the end of time. Here's a full description of Matthew 24, key verses, and its spiritual influence.

1. Background (Matthew 24:1-3)

The chapter begins with Jesus leaving the Temple in Jerusalem and His disciples pointing out the grandeur of the buildings. Jesus then foretells the Temple's destruction, saying that "not one stone will be left on another" (Matthew 24:2). This prophecy confuses the disciples, and they ask Jesus three questions:

1. When will this happen?

2. **What will be the sign of Your coming?**
3. **What will be the sign of the end of the age?**

Jesus answers these questions, starting with signs of the end times.

2. The Signs of the End Times (Matthew 24:4-14)

In response to the disciples' questions, Jesus outlines several signs that will precede His second coming:

- **False Messiahs and Deception (v. 4-5):** Many will come in Jesus' name, claiming to be the Christ. This is a warning to be discerning and not be deceived by false prophets.
- **Wars and Rumors of Wars (v. 6-7):** Nations will rise against nations, and there will be famines and earthquakes. These are signs of the "beginning of birth pains," meaning that they will signal the onset of difficult times, but they are not the end itself.
- **Persecution and Apostasy (v. 9-12):** Believers will face persecution, and many will fall away from the faith, betraying and hating one another. The love of many will grow cold due to the increase in wickedness, but those who stand firm will be saved.
- **The Gospel Will Be Preached to All Nations (v. 14):** Jesus affirms that before the end comes, the Gospel must be preached to all nations, indicating the church's mission to spread the good news to the world.

3. The Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15-22)

Jesus refers to the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). This event marks the desecration of the Holy Place, often interpreted as the Temple. This could refer to the events leading up to the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. by the Romans, but it may also have future fulfillment during the reign of the Antichrist.

- **Warning to Flee (v. 16-20):** Jesus urges those in Judea to flee to the mountains when they see the "abomination of desolation" standing in the Holy Place. He warns of great distress, especially for pregnant women and nursing mothers. This tribulation will be unparalleled in history.
- **The Shortening of Days (v. 22):** Jesus emphasizes that those days will be shortened for the sake of the elect, as the tribulation will be so severe that no one would survive if they were not shortened.

4. The Coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:23-31)

Jesus shifts to His second coming, which will be unmistakable:

- **False Christs and Prophets (v. 23-26):** He warns against false claims of His return, assuring His disciples that His coming will not be secretive or hidden.
- **The Visible Return of Christ (v. 27-30):** When the Son of Man returns, it will be as visible as lightning flashing from the east to the west. The entire world will see Him, and there will be signs in the heavens (sun, moon, stars). People will mourn because they will recognize their rebellion against God, but His coming will be glorious and powerful.
- **The Gathering of the Elect (v. 31):** The angels will gather God's elect from the four corners of the earth at Christ's return. This refers to the final gathering of the faithful.

5. The Parable of the Fig Tree (Matthew 24:32-35)

Jesus uses the fig tree as a metaphor to explain the signs of His return. When the tree's leaves begin to sprout, people know that summer is near. In the same way, when the signs of the end times begin to occur, people should know that Christ's return is near, "right at the door."

6. No One Knows the Day or Hour (Matthew 24:36-44)

Jesus teaches that no one knows the exact time of His return—not even the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. He compares His return to the days of Noah, when people were unaware of the impending flood. Jesus emphasizes the unpredictability of His return, urging believers to be ready at all times.

- **Be Prepared (v. 42-44):** Since the day and hour of His return are unknown, Jesus urges His followers to always be watchful and prepared, living faithfully and in expectation of His coming.

7. The Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servants (Matthew 24:45-51)

Jesus concludes this section with a parable about the faithful and unfaithful servants. The faithful servant is one who, when his master is away, continues to do his work and is rewarded when the master returns. The unfaithful servant, however, abuses his authority and is punished when the master returns unexpectedly.

This parable emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and readiness for Christ's return.

Important Verses and Their Spiritual Impact

1. **Matthew 24:4-5 (False Prophets):**
"Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many."
Spiritual Impact: This warns Christians to be discerning and cautious of false teachings that may lead them astray. It calls for a deep personal relationship with Christ, so believers can recognize truth from deception.
2. **Matthew 24:14 (Gospel Preached to All Nations):**
"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."
Spiritual Impact: This reminds believers of their mission to spread the Gospel, as the fulfillment of this prophecy is tied to Christ's return. It encourages active participation in the Great Commission.
3. **Matthew 24:36 (No One Knows the Day or Hour):**
"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."
Spiritual Impact: The uncertainty of the timing of Christ's return should encourage believers to live faithfully and consistently, without procrastination, knowing that each day is an opportunity to prepare.
4. **Matthew 24:42 (Be Ready):**
"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."
Spiritual Impact: This teaches believers to live in constant readiness and vigilance, not to be

complacent in their faith but always striving to live in obedience and expectation of Christ's return.

5. **Matthew 24:44 (Be Prepared):**

"So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Spiritual Impact: The call to be prepared highlights the urgency of living with purpose, holiness, and alertness in anticipation of Christ's return.

Spiritual Influence and Application

Matthew 24 has profound spiritual influence on Christians:

- **Living with Eternal Perspective:** It challenges Christians to look beyond the temporal world and live with an awareness that Christ's return could happen at any moment. This leads to a life of greater holiness, faithfulness, and service to others.
- **Urgency in Evangelism:** The fact that the Gospel must be preached to all nations before the end comes fuels a sense of urgency for Christians to evangelize and participate in global missions.
- **Endurance in Trials:** The chapter teaches that suffering and persecution are part of the Christian journey, but endurance and faithfulness will result in eternal reward.
- **Hope in Christ's Return:** Though the chapter contains warnings and judgments, it also offers immense hope. The return of Christ will bring justice, reward, and the establishment of God's Kingdom. This hope sustains believers through trials.
- **Readiness and Watchfulness:** The key message is that Christians should always be ready, not knowing the time of Christ's return. This readiness requires spiritual discipline, prayer, worship, and staying faithful to God's word.

Conclusion

Matthew 24 is a rich chapter filled with warnings, signs, and parables about the end times. It serves to prepare believers spiritually for the challenges of the present world and the certainty of Christ's return. It encourages readiness, vigilance, faithfulness, and hope, pointing to the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises in the return of Jesus Christ.