

/We will now begin the seventeenth lecture on Matthew. /The main text is Matthew chapter 24. /The title is "The End of the Age."

/First, signs of the end of the age. /Verses 1-14. /Second, flee to the mountains. /Verses 15-28. /Third, the Second Coming of Jesus. /Verses 29-31. /Fourth, preparations for the end of the age. /Verses 32-51.

/Read verses 1-2. /Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

/Jesus and His disciples went to the temple of Jerusalem. /The disciples boasted of the building of the temple. /The temple was adorned with beautiful stones. /Luke 21:5 /It is said that it was made by Herod.

/Herod continuously built the temple from 19 BC to AD 27. /John 2:20 /Later, it was completed in AD 63. /However, the temple was completely destroyed by Emperor Titus of Rome in AD 70.

/Jesus did not look at the beauty of the building. /Instead, He looked at the inside. / Outwardly, rituals conducted in the temple were grand, and priests in beautiful clothing burned incense.

/The priests served God while doing evil. /As we learned in Matthew chapter 23, the Pharisees and teachers of the law cleaned the outsides of the cup and bowls, but they were full of greed and self-indulgence on the inside.

/They were like whitewashed tombs. /They looked beautiful but were filled with all kinds of evil inside. /That is why it was prophesied that God would send the Roman army to destroy Jerusalem.

/Even today, outward appearances are not important. /The church should have life inside of it. /There should be pure faith in the church.

/Verses 3-5. /As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

/The disciples asked about the signs of the end of the age. /The disciples asked about the sign of Jesus' return and the end of the age. /At that moment, Jesus answered what the first thing to watch out for was. /That was, "Watch out that no one deceives you."

/Today, there are many heresies. /There are fifty cults in Europe, /a hundred and fifty cults in the U.S., /a hundred cults in Korea, /and eighty-six in China. /The number is continually increasing.

/The first sign of the end of the age is that people are being deceived by cults.  
/Cults are characterized by greed and sensuality. /They are ethically and morally corrupted.

/A small portion of yeast spreads throughout the entire dough. /Therefore, we must watch out so that we are not deceived. /1 Corinthians 15:33 /What can we do to not be deceived by people? /First, we must rid ourselves of greed.

/Whoever is enticed by greed will be deceived. /The devil deceives people with worldly desires, lust and selfishness. /Worldly desires, lust, and selfishness. /2 Timothy 3:6-7

/Second, we must follow what the Bible tells us. /We must not chase after anything that goes against the Bible. /Third, we must follow our conscience of faith. /Whoever abandons their conscience will be deceived.

/Verse 6. /You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

/It is said that wars will take place. /This means that various events will take place around the world.

/We will continue with Matthew 24:8. /It says that earthquakes will take place in various places. /Earthquakes symbolize riots. /Also, numerous earthquakes have occurred within the last century.

/In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were twenty-four earthquakes, which resulted in the deaths of more than five thousand people. /There were fourteen earthquakes that resulted in the deaths of more than twenty thousand people. /For example, the earthquake in Guangxi, China, in 1920 resulted in the deaths of two hundred thousand people. /The number was two hundred thousand.

/A hundred and forty thousand people were killed in Tokyo, Japan, in 1923. /Sixty-six thousand died in Peru in 1970. /In the year of 1970. /Two hundred and seventy thousand died in Tangshan, China, in 1976. /Six thousand people died in Mexico in 1985. /Six thousand in Mexico. /Six thousand people.

/Ten thousand died in India in 1993. /Five thousand died in Kobe, Japan, in 1995. /Twenty thousand died in Iran in 2003. /A hundred and fifty thousand died in Southwest Asia in December 2004. /A hundred and fifty thousand people. /A hundred thousand died in Sichuan, China, in May 2008.

/More recently, on March 11, 2011, a tsunami struck the northeastern region of Japan. /The tsunami took the lives of twenty thousand people. /It is said that there are many earthquakes at the end of the age. /The end of the world is close. /The Second Coming of Jesus is also close.

/Verses 9-10. /"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

/At the end of the age, believers will be persecuted. /If we give up our faith, there will be no hardships. /However, if we live by faith and live according to the Bible, we will encounter difficulties. /Therefore, we must expect to receive persecutions.

/Also, why do people hand over believers to be persecuted? /That is because they will be killed if they do not hand over the believers. /Therefore, we must keep our faith even if it costs us our lives. /We must have the spirit of martyrdom.

/Verse 11. /and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

/Here, Jesus reemphasized the fact that many false prophets will appear.

/Verse 12. /Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

/At the end of the age, wickedness will increase. /Many people will fall to temptation and will go after one another. /The generation will be morally corrupted and wicked.

/Verse 13. /but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

/It says that he who stands firm to the end will be saved. /This means that we must continue to love. /However corrupted the world may be, we believers must love until the end.

/We must love our enemies. /We must love all peoples. /Then, we can attain salvation. /We will grow in faith. /Romans 8:23 /1 Peter 2:2

/Verse 14. /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.

/Before Jesus comes again the gospel will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations. /Of course, there are many who are not yet believers. /However, the gospel of the Lord has been preached to most parts of the world.

/This gospel began in Jerusalem. /Then it was preached in Samaria and Asia Minor, /then to Europe, /and then to Greece and Rome. /It was preached in Europe.

/Next, it was preached in America and Africa. /After that, it was preached in Asia. /That is how people in Japan and Korea came to believe in Jesus. /People in China also believe in Jesus Christ. /Then this gospel will be preached throughout the Islamic World.

/Now Christians are arising from among Muslims. /This gospel will again be preached in Jerusalem.

/In this way, the gospel will circle the earth. /We must preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. /There are still many who do not believe in Jesus.

/Verses 15-16. /"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-- let the reader understand-- then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

/“The abomination that causes desolation” was prophesied by Daniel. /Daniel 9:27 /11:31 /12:11 /In history, the Roman army invaded Jerusalem in AD 70. /The Roman army planted its flag in the temple of Jerusalem.

/This means that the authority of Rome rules over the temple of Jerusalem. /This means that the authority of nations will seize churches. /It was the same case during Japanese Imperialism. /Politics and religion must be separated.

/The church must be ruled by God. /Churches must not be government-controlled institutions. /It says, “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” /In AD 70, Roman Emperor Titus invaded Jerusalem.

/At that time, those who fled to the mountains were saved. /Today, there is a holy purpose. /Today, we must flee to the holy mountains. /Galatians 4:26 /Revelation 14:1

/We must enter the spiritual world. /Thus, we must pray. /We need to walk with Jesus. /We must be strengthened by the power of God.

/This does not mean that we should flee to huge mountains or to Mount Geumgang. /Today, we must enter the spiritual world, to the place of prayer.

/Verses 17-18. /Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

/No one on the roof should go down to take anything out of the house. /The roof is the place of prayer. /Do not cease to pray while praying. /Acts 10:9 /Lot's wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt.

/Here, “anything out of the house” symbolizes material things. /We must not look back to take anything out of the house because of materials and our worries. /Luke 9:62 /No one in the field should go back to get his cloak.

/To work in the field refers to what believers do. /It is to sow seeds of the gospel, /and harvest. /It is to do what believers do. /Luke 8:11 /Matthew 13:11 /We believers are all workers in the field.

/It is fine to have the cloak or not. /Luke 22:36 /It is not a necessary item. /Luke 10:42 /We must not walk away from faith because of unnecessary things.

/Verse 19. /How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

/It says that it will be dreadful for pregnant women and nursing mothers. /When the Roman army invaded Jerusalem, pregnant women and nursing mothers

encountered great sufferings. /There is a divine meaning in this.

/The divine meaning is that the pregnant women refer to those who have greed.  
/James 1:15 /Today, those who have greed have fear. /The nursing mothers will have fear.

/This means that they are bound to worldly matters. /It symbolizes attraction to the world. /The elements we need to keep our faith are taken away from us.

/Mind, time and money are taken away by the world. /It symbolizes the taking away of time, environment, and money.

/Verse 20. /Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

/Here, “flight” refers to running the race of faith. /We must be good runners of faith. /In “winter” everything is frozen. /It symbolizes a time when there is no touch of the Holy Spirit.

/We must follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /Song of Songs 2:11-13 /It says, “The winter is past.” /The good season of spring has come. /It has become a time overflowing with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and grace. /At that time, we can run forward in faith.

/We must follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /1 Corinthians 2:2 /It says that the flight should not take place on the Sabbath. /The Sabbath is to follow the commandments before God. /Therefore, it means that we must not run away while breaking the commandments.

/We must run in faith while holding on to the Word of God. /We must run forward in faith with God’s Word as the standard. /Romans 10:2-3 /Galatians 4:17

/Verse 21. /For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.

/There will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now and never to be equaled again. /There will be sudden distress. /Therefore, we must be awake and be prepared. /When we say we are in peace, distress will come suddenly.

/Verse 22. /If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

/The distress will be great. /Hence, God will cut short those days. /There will a seven year great tribulation. /We will encounter hardships for the first three and a half years of the seven year great tribulation. /However, we will not experience tribulations during the next three and a half years.

/This is because our Lord will cut short those days of tribulations. /We will be raptured in the middle of the seven year great tribulation. /After the first three and a half years, Jesus will return in the air. /We believers will be transformed into

spiritual bodies and be raptured. /We will meet Jesus in the air.

/Verse 23. /At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

/Here, again, Jesus emphasizes. /There will be many heresies in the end of the age. /Deuteronomy 13:1 /2 Thessalonians 2:9 /There will be false christs. /The false christs are not the real Christ but they claim that they are Christ.

/They claim that they are Christ who came again. /They claim that they are the Helper Holy Spirit. /There will be many false christs. /Next, there will be many false prophets. /The false prophets will teach the Bible wrong.

/They distort and teach the Bible. /For example, there is heaven and hell in the Bible. /However, some false prophets say that there is no heaven or hell. /They give false teaching about the Bible.

/Here, it says that they will deceive even those who have been chosen. /Therefore, we must be cautious as not to be deceived.

/We must not follow anyone who claims that Christ is here or there. /We must not follow them when they say that Christ is somewhere in the mountains, /and we must not follow them when they say that Christ is in a town.

/Verse 25. /See, I have told you ahead of time.

/In verse 26, it says we must not believe when anyone tells us that Christ is in the inner rooms. /Jesus Christ will not return in secret.

/Verse 27. /For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

/When Jesus comes, everyone will see His coming. /The whole world will witness His coming. /Acts 1:11 /We will see His coming with our eyes.

/The Lord will come all of sudden. /He will surely come. /All of mankind will see His coming.

/Verse 28. /Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

/The “carcass” symbolizes rotten sins. /The “vultures” symbolize God’s judgment. /Wherever there is sin, there will be God’s judgment.

/Verse 29. /“Immediately after the distress of those days” “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

/There is a sign of Jesus’ Second Coming. /The sun will be darkened. /“The sun” symbolizes the truth. /Thus, it means that the truth will be darkened. /It is possible that the sun will actually be darkened.

/The moon will not give its light. /“The moon” symbolizes the church. /At the end of the age the church will be secularized. /It will follow realism. /It also says that the stars will fall from the sky.

/This means that pastors will fall. /Revelation 1:20 /Daniel 12:3 /The heavenly bodies will be shaken. /This means that solid and great powers will be shaken. /It means that all the great powers in the world will fall.

/Verse 30. /"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

/We will see the sign of Jesus' Second Coming. /All the nations of the earth will mourn. /Those who do not believe in Christ will mourn.

/Those who disobey Christ will mourn. /Jesus will return on the clouds. /Matthew 17:5 /He will return on clouds of glory. /He comes with great power and glory.

/Verse 31. /And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

/The Lord will send his angels with a loud trumpet call. /He will gather his elect from the four winds. /1 Thessalonians 4:16 /Jesus will come again in the air. /He will return on clouds. /At that time, we will be changed into spiritual bodies and go up to the clouds.

/Verse 32. /"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

/The “fig tree” symbolizes the Jewish nation. /Jeremiah 24:2-6 /This means that the Jews would become independent. /Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70. /Israel had been scattered throughout the world for 1,900 years.

/May 14, 1948. /On May 14, 1948, Israel gained independence. /Romans 11:25-26 /The independence of the Jews is like the fig tree. /The Lord's coming is near. /It will all take place.

/In verse 35, heaven and earth will pass away, but God's words will never pass away. /The truth of our Jesus is forever.

/Verse 36. /"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

/No one knows about the day or hour of Jesus' coming. /Only the Father knows. /Jesus' Second Coming is the Father's sovereignty. /It is in the hands of the Father.

/We must always be awake and prepare because we do not know when Jesus will return. /We do not know the day or hour. /There are some heresies that predict

Jesus' coming. /Jehovah's Witnesses claim that Jesus came again in 1914. /This is wrong.

/The Seventh-day Adventist Church said that /Jesus would return in 1883 and 1884, but they were wrong. /Other than these, there were some who claimed that Jesus' Second Coming would take place in 1992. /Today, there are people who predict Jesus' return with days and hours.

/All these are lies. /They are heresies. /No one knows the day or hour of the Lord's return. /However, we can see the day is approaching. /We know that the Lord's return is approaching through various signs.

/Verse 37. /As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

/It says that Jesus' return will be like the days of Noah. /In the days of Noah, people ate, drank, married and gave in marriage. /To "eat and drink" refers to eating and materialism. /Here, to "marry and give in marriage" does not refer to normal marriages.

/This refers to hedonism. /It refers to lust and debauchery. /We must build an ark of faith in such a time. /We must be well prepared like the five wise virgins who prepared lamps and oil.

/Verse 40. /Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

/There will be two men working in the field. /One will be taken and the other left. /To work in the field means to do what believers do. /That is to preach the gospel.

/Yet, one will be taken. /This means that he is acknowledged by the Lord. /Matthew 10:32-33 /He is chosen and acknowledged before God. /Next, it says, "Two women will be grinding with a hand mill."

/To grind means to give spiritual bread to members in the church. /It means that the two do the works of God. /They are both doing what believers do. /However, one of the two is left.

/The other is taken. /The acknowledged one is one who acted according to God's will. /He worked in obedience to God's commands. /We must also be acknowledged by God in our faith and in our works in the world.

/Verse 42. /"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

/We must keep watch. /We do not know on what day a thief will come. /The day of the Lord will come like a thief. /We do not know when Jesus will come. /Therefore, we must always be prepared to receive Jesus.

/We must keep watch. /We must pray. /We must not indulge in the things of the world. /We must not fall into the world.



/In verse 44, it says, "So you also must be ready." /We must prepare our faith.

/Verse 45. /"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?

/We must be faithful and wise servants. /The "master" here is Jesus. /The "servants in his household" symbolize the believers. /We are the servants of God. / We must give spiritual food to believers.

/We must properly teach the Bible to believers. /We must help their spirits become full. /We must give them spiritual green feed. /We must teach them only with the Word of God.

/We must be faithful. /We must be wise servants. /We must have wisdom about the Bible. /We must become wise people with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. / We must teach according to the Bible.

/Today, we must share proper food with believers in the church. /We must not follow the New Theology. /We must not follow mysticism.

/We must turn away from realism and secularism. /We must throw away ritualism and hypocrisy. /When we become faithful, the Lord will put us in charge of His possessions. /God will pour out greater grace upon the faithful servants.

/Then faith will grow. /Power will grow. /Abilities will grow. /They will be greater in heaven. /They will be acknowledged before God.

/Here, there are those who build a house with gold, silver and jewels. /Then there are those who build a house with trees, grass and straws. /We must obey God's will and commands. /We must build a house with gold, silver and jewels.

/This generation is like the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. /Luke 17:28 /We must not fall to this world. /2 Timothy 3:1

/Verses 48-51. /But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

/We must not be wicked servants. /The wicked think that their master will come late. /They beat their fellow servants. /They eat and drink with drunkards. /This means that they indulge in the world.

/They live wildly in the world. /Revelation 17:1-2 /They do not prepare for the Lord's return. /They do not look forward to the Lord's return. /They live drunk in the world.

/They will be judged when the Lord returns. /The end of the age is coming. /No one knows the exact day and hour of the Lord's Second Coming. /However, we can see signs of the end of the age. /We can see that the Lord's Second Coming is near.

/Therefore, we must be faithful servants. /We must keep watch. /We must pray more. /Then we must receive our Lord in His glory when He returns.

/I pray that you would be faithful servants who will receive Jesus in His glory when He returns.

/Here we will conclude the seventeenth lecture on the gospel of Matthew. /Thank you.