

Sermon Outline
“The Beginning of the End”
Matthew 24:3-14

- I.** The disciples’ two-part question (*cf.* Mk 13:3-5)
“When shall these things be?”
“What will be the sign of your presence and the completion of the age?”

To which we may ask two questions:

Are these two questions or one? (Some suggest three!)
How does Jesus respond? v. 4 (*cf.* II Thess 2:1-3)

II. Significant terms

Parousia – “presence”

Only occurs 4x in the gospels, all in Matt 24.

II Cor 10:10; Phil 2:12

Mt 10:23; *cf.* 26:64; 16:28; 24:30

The word does not appear in 24:30 (*cf.* v.27)

Sunteleias – “completion” (not finality or “end”)

Aionos – “age” (not the space/time world, but an epoch)

Tauta – “these things”

v. 2 the temple buildings and their destruction

23:36 persecution of prophets, wise men and scribes

Leaving the house desolate 24:2, 15; *cf.* 22:6-7

To be fulfilled during the current generation v. 34

III. Background reading for Mt 24:4-51

These passages provide the prophetic imagery for Jesus words:

Isaiah 13:6-19; 14:4-15; 34:1-4

Ezekiel 32:5-8

Joel 2:10-11, 30-32; 3:14-15

Amos 8:9

Zephaniah 1:14-15

Isaiah 48:20-22; 52:11-12