

May 22–28

Joseph Smith—Matthew 1; Matthew 24–25; Mark 12–13; Luke 21

“The Son of Man Shall Come”



Joseph Smith—Matthew

Joseph Smith – Mathew is the same as JST Matt 24

There are more corrections in JST Matthew 24 than to any other chapter in the New Testament. KJV Matthew 24 contains about 1,000 words, while the JSM it contains about 1,500.

Matthew 24 discuss events that will shortly follow Jesus' death and events that will proceed His second coming. In the KJV it is not always easy to distinguish which is which

Joseph Smith—Matthew

Matt 24:2 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

JS-M 1:4 ...Tell us when shall these things be which thou hast said concerning the destruction of the temple, and the Jews; and what is the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world?

Joseph Smith—Matthew

Bruce R. McConkie

"The end of the world is the end of unrighteousness or of worldliness as we know it, and this will be brought about by 'the destruction of the wicked.' When our world ends and the millennial era begins, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Lust, carnality, and sensuousness of every sort will cease, for it will be the end of the world." (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 848)

Events Soon After the Death of Jesus

JS-M 1:5-11

What will cause many to be offended, deceived, afflicted, hated, and killed?

What is promised to those who remain faithful during these times?

Dallin H. Oaks

“One kind of deception seeks to mislead us about whom we should follow. In speaking of the last days, the Savior taught: ‘Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.’ In other words, many will seek to deceive us by saying that they or their teachings will save us, so there is no need for a Savior or His gospel. The Book of Mormon describes this as ‘the power of the devil, to lead away and deceive the hearts of the people ... to believe that the doctrine of Christ was a foolish and a vain thing’ (3 Nephi 2:2).” (CR, Oct. 2004)

Matt 24:13

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

JSM 1:11

But he that remaineth steadfast and is not overcome, the same shall be saved

Philippians 3

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

Colossians 2

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind

Events Soon After the Death of Jesus

JS-M 1:12

What is “the abomination of desolation”?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Daniel spoke prophetically of a day when there would be ‘the abomination that maketh desolate’ (Dan. 11:31; 12:11)....

“These conditions of desolation, born of abomination and wickedness, were to occur twice in fulfillment of Daniel’s words. The first was to be when the Roman legions under Titus, in 70 A.D., laid siege to Jerusalem, destroying and scattering the people, leaving not one stone upon another in the desecrated temple, and spreading such terror and devastation as has seldom if ever been equalled on earth” (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 12)

Events Soon After the Death of Jesus

JS-M 1:18-20

What historical evidence do we have that this destruction was “only the beginning of the sorrows” of the Jewish people?

Ezra Taft Benson

“Referring to a history written by Will Durant, said: ‘The siege of Jerusalem under Titus [lasted] for 134 days, during which 1,110,000 Jews perished and 97,000 were taken captive... The Romans destroyed 987 towns in Palestine and slew 580,000 men, and a still larger number, we are told, perished through starvation, disease, and fire.’” (CR, April 1950)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:21-22

What event is mentioned here that will occur again before Christ's 2nd coming?

How do we keep from being deceived by the many false teachings among us?

Bruce R. McConkie

“A false Christ is not a person. It is a false system of worship, a false church, a false cult that says: ‘Lo, here is salvation; here is the doctrine of Christ. Come and believe thus and so, and ye shall be saved.’ It is any concept or philosophy that says that redemption, salvation, sanctification, justification, and all of the promised rewards can be gained in any way except that set forth by the apostles and prophets” (The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man, pg. 48)

Harold B. Lee

“Unless every member of this Church gains for himself an unshakable testimony of the divinity of this Church, he will be among those who will be deceived in this day when the ‘elect according to the covenant’ are going to be tried and tested. Only those will survive who have gained for themselves that testimony.” (CR, Oct. 1950)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:23-27

What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us with the Parable of the Eagles?

Hugh Nibley

“The manner of the gathering, we are told, will be in the same miraculous and mysterious way as the gathering of eagles to a carcass lying in the desert—they appear suddenly and inexplicably in the four quarters of the sky and come together from vast distances to that single spot.” (The Prophetic Book of Mormon, pg. 472)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:28-33

What will cause the love of many to “wax cold”?

28: wars, and rumors of wars

29: famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

30: the love of men shall wax cold;

31: this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world,

32: the abomination of desolation (2nd time)

33: sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven

Theodore M. Burton

“True love is based on personal unselfishness, but our modern world does not seem to understand this. Modern man has lost his capacity to love. Jesus warned us that one of the principal characteristics of the last days would be that love among the people would gradually die.... The iniquity of which he spoke is based on personal selfishness. That is the reason why love among the people is dying....

“It may well be that the present attitude of personal selfishness is the cause of most of the unhappiness with life among the people of the world.” (CR, April 1979)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:37

With so much deception and iniquity in the last days, how can we keep from being deceived?

Aileen H. Clyde

“What will make it not possible for his disciples to be deceived is the capacity to discern the voice of truth from among all others that ask for our obedience. The word of God given us in scripture is, indeed, an iron rod which leads us on the path to eternal life. There the truth is spelled out; it can be held on to.... The Spirit must witness these things to us, make us recognize them as true—as of God.” (CR, Oct. 1995)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:38-39

What is the lesson from the Parable of the Fig Tree?

Harold B. Lee

“He said, when the fig tree ‘begins to put forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh at hand.’...”

“He gave them certain signs by which they might know that his coming was nigh, even at their very doors....

“Brothers and sisters, this is the day the Lord is speaking of. You see the signs are here. Be ye therefore ready....

“Let us not turn a deaf ear now, but listen to these as the words that have come from the Lord, inspired of him, and we will be safe on Zion’s hill, until all that the Lord has for his children shall have been accomplished.” (CR, Oct. 1973)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:40-43

Neal A. Maxwell

“It is no accident that the scriptures have preserved for us certain precious insights about the times in which Noah lived. Those were times, we read, that were ‘filled with violence’ (Genesis 6:11), and corruption abounded. There was apparently a sense of self-sufficiency, a condition to which Jesus called attention. Jesus said this condition would be repeated in the last days. The people of Noah’s time were desensitized to real dangers. So we may become in our time. Noah and those with him had to let go of their world or perish with it!” (Wherefore, Ye Must Press Forward, pg. 13)

Events Prior to Christ's Second Coming

JS-M 1:46-48

What do we learn from the Parable of the Thief in the Night?

Bruce R. McConkie

“The righteous will be able to read the signs of the times. To those in darkness he will come suddenly, unexpectedly, ‘as a thief in the night,’ but to ‘the children of light’ who ‘are not of the night, nor of darkness,’ as Paul expressed it, that day will not overtake them ‘as a thief.’ They will recognize the signs as certainly as a woman in travail foreknows the approximate time of her child’s birth (1 Thess 5:1–6).”
(Mormon Doctrine, pg. 688)

Message from the First Presidency

“Each passing year brings us nearer the date of the Lord’s coming in power and glory. True, the hour and the day when this great event is to take place, no man knoweth; but all the promised signs indicate that it is not far distant. Meanwhile the duty of the Saints is to watch and work and pray, being valiant for truth, and abounding in good works. Despite the uneasiness and discontent in many parts of the earth, the suspicions and jealousies among the nations, the mounting wave of lawlessness and crime, and the seeming spread of the elements of destruction... those who continue to stand in holy places can discern through it all the handworking of the Almighty in consummation of His purposes and in furtherance of His will. That which, viewed with the natural eye, is portentous and dreadful, causes no apprehension to those who have faith that whatever happens, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth”
(Messages of the First Presidency, 1927, 5:256)

Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matt 25:1-13

What does the bride, bridegroom, and marriage feast represent?

What does the lamp and oil represent?

Who do the ten virgins represent?

What will become of those who have not kept their lamps full when the bridegroom comes?

How do you think the wise believers in Christ can keep their “lamps full”?

James E. Talmage

“The Bridegroom is the Lord Jesus; the marriage feast symbolizes His coming in glory, to receive unto Himself the Church on earth as His bride.” (Jesus the Christ, pg. 578)

James E. Talmage

“The lighted lamp, which each of the maidens carried, is the outward profession of Christian belief and practice; and in the oil reserves of the wiser ones we may see the spiritual strength and abundance which diligence and devotion in God’s service alone can insure. The lack of sufficient oil on the part of the unwise virgins is analogous to the dearth of soil in the stony field, wherein the seed readily sprouted but soon withered away.” (Jesus the Christ, pg. 578)

Bruce R. McConkie

"The oil-filled lamps are symbolic of the Holy Spirit which lights the way before the saints." (DNTC 1:684)

Marvin J. Ashton

“The responsibility for having oil in our personal lamps is an individual requirement and opportunity. The oil of spiritual preparedness cannot be shared. The wise were not unkind or selfish when they refused oil to the foolish in the moment of truth. The kind of oil needed by all of us to light up the darkness and illuminate the way is not shareable. The oil could have been purchased at the market in the parable, but in our lives it is accumulated by righteous living, a drop at a time.” (CR, April 1974)

Bernard P. Brockbank

“Take note that the Lord was not talking about five thieves and sinners and five good people; he was talking about ten virgins, ten pure people who believed in God and had a desire to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The five foolish virgins had failed to prepare. Their lights were out; they were in darkness. Their urgent pleas and hasty preparation were not sufficient, and they heard these words from the lips of their God: ‘I know you not.’

“What a shame to be clean and yet unprepared! What a tragedy to fail in service to God and in helping to build his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven! What a shame to be in darkness when the light of Christ has been made possible for everyone!” (CR, Oct. 1972)

D&C 45:56-59

56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

58 And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.

59 For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.

D&C 63:54

And until that hour there will be foolish virgins among the wise; and at that hour cometh an entire separation of the righteous and the wicked; and in that day will I send mine angels to pluck out the wicked and cast them into unquenchable fire.

Spencer W. Kimball

“In the parable, oil can be purchased at the market. In our lives the oil of preparedness is accumulated drop by drop in righteous living. Attendance at sacrament meetings adds oil to our lamps, drop by drop over the years. Fasting, family prayer, home teaching, control of bodily appetites, preaching the gospel, studying the scriptures—each act of dedication and obedience is a drop added to our store. Deeds of kindness, payment of offerings and tithes, chaste thoughts and actions, marriage in the covenant for eternity—these, too, contribute importantly to the oil with which we can at midnight refuel our exhausted lamps.” (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 256)

Victor L. Brown

“We also learn from the parable that preparation necessary to help them meet the immediate circumstances was a simple, everyday task. The arrival of the bridegroom did not require unusual or elaborate preparation. Our preparation should be deliberate and structured to meet today’s problems. We should prepare ourselves one step at a time as the Lord so inspires us.” (CR, Oct. 1982)

Next Week:

May 29–June 4

Matthew 26; Mark 14; John 13

“In Remembrance”

