

# Confronting The Cloudiness

## According to Matthew

### Chapter 24

(17) 'Let him who is on the housetop not come down to retrieve anything out of his house.'

Materially speaking it is one thing. But Jesus is mainly talking about spirit matters. What belongs in a man's (independent) house? Jesus is saying, "Bring nothing of the old with you. Leave everything behind, take up your banner, and follow me home to the Father in the heavens."

(18) 'And let him who is in the field not go back to get his outer garment. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing in those days!'

Now why would he say that? In the flesh, being pregnant and nursing babies is the most powerful "hostage" there is for man. It is the thing that represents everything that is important and of value for man down here on earth. The mother-instinct is extremely powerful, both in the woman and in the man by extension. Jesus is instructing that when the awareness is established, one must not hesitate to leave everything behind, all of the former attachments and values, and go to the Father.

And spiritually speaking, in my view, if the analogy is applied to christian churches, woe to churches that are "giving birth" to illegitimate children. If a Christian comes to the full realization of the genuine gospel within the context of the christian church of which he is a participant, then great conflict will arise within that church.

(20) 'And pray that your flight not be during the storm but rather for rest.'

This is traditionally translated, "your flight not be during winter or on the sabbath." It is garbled and has no clear sense here. In the Greek, it reads more accurately as I said above and it fits the context. When one experiences the revelation of the genuine gospel displacing the counter-gospel, there is an inevitable emotional storm that ensues, within and without. So Jesus is teaching to pray to be spared this storm and to be brought to the place of rest and peace, the sabbath.

(21) 'For then there will be such great pressure (tribulation), such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.'

I can see very clearly from my point of view what he means here. When the world is made aware of the phenomenon of the counter-gospel having displaced the genuine gospel for these two thousand years, "Armageddon" erupts. It erupts within individuals in their own personal lives, and it will be widespread and society-wide as the awareness spreads to the masses. You who are reading this very work will assuredly identify with what I am saying. Reading this chapter 24 of Matthew with this context in mind makes everything crystal-clear.

In addition, the worldly pressures under which we live truly work against our returning to the Father. Never has there been so much power and knowledge made available to so many. The world is full of distractions, pressures AGAINST receiving the gospel and reconciliation with God.

(22) 'And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be spared; but through the called-out, those days will be shortened.'

This is usually translated as "for the sake of the elect, those days..." In the Greek text, the word used is "dia" which means "through, by means of..." And it again fits the context very beautifully. Tribulation is due to man's choice before God. And it is by man's choice of reconciliation that the age of tribulation can finally come to an end. By resisting the call, by refusing to be a "called-out", I remain in the world wherein tribulation is imposed. But by accepting the call and becoming a "called-out", not only are the days shortened for me personally, but I also stop contributing to the PROLONGING of the age of tribulation in the world as a whole by no longer promoting the very CAUSE of the tribulation. It is only THROUGH the called-out that the age of tribulation can end.

*To be continued next week...*

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