

Eschatology Two

Matthew 24

I read this news flash this past Friday, Sept., 25, and I vetted the story, I checked it out. “A top Jewish Rabbi living in Israel today named Chaim Kaniewsky is supposedly having meetings with the Messiah today in person and it is claimed that the Messiah will appear shortly! Could the Messiah be informing this Jewish Rabbi about His appearance?” That from an Israeli newspaper called Israel Today. “Could the Messiah be informing this Jewish Rabbi about His appearance?” Yes, he could be. If the report is accurate than the Messiah the rabbi is talking with is a false Christ. Where have we heard that term recently? How about Matthew’s gospel, chapter 24. Could this be “the” Antichrist or His false prophet or His beast or the image of the beast we read about in the book of the Revelation? Yes, it could be. And if this so-called messiah turns out to be a part of Jewish lore and as they teach, the messiah of this generation, they are still fulfilling the warning prophecy of the Lord Jesus. ²³ *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him.*

²⁴ *“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”*

That’s pretty exciting, isn’t it? Don’t get upset by it. If this is the man of perdition Paul warned the churches about in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, it will mean that right after he is revealed the church will be taken out of the way via the rapture. “Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.”

Lets take our Bibles and turn to Matthew’s gospel once more and chapter 24, Mt. 24 and I’ll begin with v.23.

²³ *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him.*

²⁴ *“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*

Notice how Jesus connects false Christs and false prophets. I take it to mean that these two false people will arise in support of one

another. Why? Because it will be the false prophets who are trying to persuade people that he knows where the false Christs are. I have a video for you in just a few minutes of one such modern-day false prophet trying to persuade his huge audience that the Christ is there with him on the platform.

²⁵ *"Behold, I have told you in advance.*

But notice what Jesus said at the end of v.24, *so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*²⁴ *"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.* One of the specific goals of these false Christs and false prophets will be to target the elect with their "great signs and wonders." And what they hope to do with the elect is to lead them away from the truth. That's what the Greek word translated mislead mean. Your version probably has the word "deceive" rather than mislead but it comes from the Greek word that means to mislead. Deceive is an excellent translation, but, mislead is more excellent. These men and women have been deceived or misled by the devil and his messengers and now they are misleading others to try their best signs and wonders to draw away the elect of God to themselves if it were possible and it is not. Paul called them "savage wolves" and Peter called them "false teachers."

John MacArthur says this about the misunderstood misleading of the elect of God:

"It's going to be wondrous to see marvelous things that are so clever they might even deceive the very elect, it says in verse 24.

If it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. You want to know something? It isn't what? It isn't possible. That's why He says that; otherwise, He'd say that they shall deceive the very elect."

²⁶ *"So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.*

²⁷ *"For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

I don't remember when the last total eclipse of the Sun occurred but it was seen potentially at least, by millions of people on our little planet. No solar eclipse can be seen by everyone on Earth at the same time. There was a path the last eclipse took and people from all around our nation flocked to different locations including South Carolina to get a good view of the eclipse.

But not so for the Second Coming of Jesus.

Revelation 1:7 *BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. (Rev. 1:7 NAU)*

Someone suggested that the way everyone will witness His return is by watching the "breaking news" on tv. But not everyone has a tv. His return will be a manifestation of His omnipresence. God is everywhere somehow, and He will be seen everywhere when He returns. That means that everyone who has ever lived will see Him when He returns in His glory and majesty to put an end to this corrupt and wicked world. *even those who pierced Him.* That means that at His coming the resurrection will take place, some to eternal life, the rest to the judgment of the second death. And what is the second death? The lake of fire. Hell, as we usually call it. I'm pretty sure that no one will be at home watching all this unfold on their large screen televisions. And all who have died in their sins, never having trusted in the Messiah, the Son of God, will spend eternity in a state that is called "perishing."

Now look at Mt. 24 and v.28, repeat.

²⁸ *"Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

(Matt. 24:23-28 NAU) The deceived are the corpse and the vultures are the false prophets and false teachers and the false apostles feeding off them. And ruling over them will be the Antichrist and his false prophet and the beast and his image that he will bring to life. And ruling over all that mess is none other than the devil himself.

Turn in your Bibles to 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 and v.1, repeat.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 *Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,*
² *that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.*

³ *Let no one in any way deceive you, What did Jesus command of us, His disciples? “See to it that no one misleads you.” “Let no one in any way deceive you for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,*

⁴ *who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. (2 Thess. 2:1-4 NAU)*

Do you see it? The Lord Jesus tells us “see to it that no one misleads you.” Who is the “you?” The church, the body of Christ. The you is we who are in Christ. “*Let no one in any way deceive you.*”

How can we here at Eastway be deceived? Those who are in Christ can be deceived for a time, but not for long. Remember, we follow the Good Shepherd and we know His voice even if it does get muddled by deceivers occasionally.

First, by lying signs and wonders and fake healings and fake miracles.

Second, by world renowned false teachers and false prophets such as the Copelands and Joyce Meyer and Steven Furtick and Bishop T.D Jakes and the clown of the Word Faith Movement, Jesse Duplantis.

Third, by liberal theology. That’s what has destroyed many of our nation’s mainline denominations. Liberal theology is man-centered and man-pleasing. It preaches a false gospel and a false Jesus. Liberal theology and liberal church-goes tolerate and even promote sinful lifestyles. ⁹ *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,*

¹⁰ *nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10 NAU).* How

many people do we know who are sleeping around, who love money above everything, who are cheating on their spouses, who are homosexual/gay, and whatever else Paul mentions in that verse?

But, to quote the late Paul Harvey, “now for the rest of the story.” **The rest of the story is called “grace.”** This is what Paul wrote after he described the lifestyles of those we just looked at. ¹¹ *Such were some of you; but you **were** washed, but you **were** sanctified, but you **were** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:11 NAU)* And those three “were’s” are the were’s of grace.

If you have ever been dazzled by the stupid false prophets of our day who used to fill up the auditoriums and colosseums in Charlotte pulling their shenanigans, you can imagine how those left behind at the rapture will be dazzled by those who will arise during the apostasy.

I close with this, you and I know what we must do to keep ourselves from being misled and deceived, do we not? Know His Son. Know His word. Fellowship with other believers. Be filled with the Spirit. Pray without ceasing. And put on the full armor of God.

I’m going to keep an eye on the Jewish Rabbi in Israel who is meeting with the false messiah and I’ll let you know if I hear anything.