

WORLD DISASTERS

Request: “How do we explain the increase of world-wide disaster as part of the plan of God?”

Answer: There are six ways I biblically evaluate disasters as part of the Plan of God.

- **World disaster** evaluated as the “beginning of birth pangs.” (Matt.24:1-14)
- **National disaster** evaluated as part of God’s rising and falling of nations (Ps.96:3, 19; Gen.17:4; 18:18)

I evaluate a disaster in a Client nation’s as a “warning” divine discipline due to:

§	Anti-Semitism	(Gen.12:3)
§	Anti-Christ	(John 15:18-25)
§	Anti-divine institutions	(1 Tim.3:1-9)
§	And failure of the church	(2 Tim.4:1-5) to teach Categorical Bible Doctrine and support Evangelism

- **Localized disaster** evaluated as divine discipline to reversionistic believers (Jonah 1).
- **Personal disaster** evaluated as undeserved suffering in the angelic conflict (Job 1 and 2).
- **Natural disaster** evaluated as seasonal cycles of creation (Gen.1:14-19).

This lesson will study four aspects of World Disaster as part of the plan of God.

World disaster seems to be the one that most Christian’s show the greatest interest in.

1. World disaster is a common phenomenon during the Last Days (Matt.24:1-14).

The “Last Days” is that period between the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ:

- (Heb.1:2) “In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”
- (Heb.1:2) “The Last Days here means the entire gospel dispensation extending from the first to second advent of Christ.” (NIV)

Some believe that (Matt.24:1-14) refers to the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. I am not in disagreement with this idea of preparatory signs like the temple stones (1 Cor.1:22). However, I believe it also applies to the period of the Last Days prior to the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess.4:13-18; 5:1-11).

2. We will examine Matt.24:1-14 by the following six points outline (Mark 13 and Luke 21).

- **(Matt.24:1 -2)** The Fifth cycle of divine discipline to Israel by Rome
 - (Luke 21:24).temple stones torn down until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled
- **(Matt.24:3)** The three questions by disciples:

- (1 Cor.1:22) “When will these things happen (the 5th cycle of divine discipline); what will be the sign of Your Coming; what will be the sign of the end of the age?” (Period of Jewish age)
- Remember they did not understand the gap between the first and second coming which Paul referred to as the mystery of the church age (Col.1:24-29).
- Remember they did not believe that Jesus had to die to become the Savior of the world (Matt.16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:2) until after His resurrection (**28:18-20**).
- (**Matt.24:4-6**) (but that is not yet the end) (**2 things**)
- (**Matt.24:7-8**) (but all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs) (1 Thess.5:1-3) (**5 things**).
- (**Matt.24:9-13**) (but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved) (**7 things**).
- (**Matt.24:14**) (and then the end will come) (**1 thing**).

NOTE: The Abomination of Desolation of (Matt.24:15, 21, 36) occurs in the middle of the 7yrs. (Dan.9:26-27) (2 Thess.2:1-12; and Rev.13).

3. “The Apostasy” comes first and then man of lawlessness is revealed” (2 Thess.2:1-5)

- The apostasy occurs in the Last Days.
 - (1 Tim.4:1-5; 2 Tim.3:1-9; 4:1-5; 2 Pet.2:1-10; 3:2-9, 17-18; 1 John 4:1-6).
- What restrains the antichrist during the church age is the ministry of the Holy Spirit within the church
 - (2 Thess.2:5-7; 1 John 3:24; 4:4; John 14:16).

4. World evangelism has always been the great commission of the church age (Matt.28:18-20; Luke 24:45-48; Acts 1:8) (Book of Acts).

- (Matt.24:14) “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Some believe (Matt.24:14) refers to the evangelism of the tribulation

- (Matt.24:14) “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”
- (Matt.24:14) “This is the good news that will be preached during the tribulation days concerning the coming of Messiah and the setting up of His kingdom.” (NIV)

NOTE: However, evangelism of the tribulation is specific as recorded in (**Rev. Ch.7**) by 144,000 Jews from 12 tribes and by 2 resurrected OT Jewish prophets in (**Rev. Ch.11**) and finally by three angels in (**Rev. Ch.14**) (God’s “last call”).