

*Recognize that He is Near*  
*Matthew 24:3-35*  
*Gospel of Matthew part 79*  
*August 6, 2006*

## I. What will happen before Jesus comes again?

*"Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" --Matthew 24:3b*

- A. Birth Pangs (24:4-14)
- B. The Abomination of Desolation (24:15-20)
- C. A Great Tribulation (24:21-22)

## II. When will "these things" happen?

*"So, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place." --Matthew 24:33-34*

3 Views held by Biblical Christians:

### 1. None of "these things" have happened.

- A. "This generation" = race of Jews or last generation (24:34)
- B. Mt. 24 is a description of the last days.
- C. Jesus will not come until "these things" take place.

### 2. Some of "these things" have happened.

- A. "This generation" = race of Jews or last generation (24:34)
- B. Mt. 24 is a description of the last days.
- C. Jesus will not come again until the remaining of "these things" take place.

### 3. All of "these things" have happened and are happening.

- A. These things took place before "this generation" passed away. (24:34)
- B. Mt. 24 is a general description of the entire "church age."
- C. Great Tribulation occurred in A.D. 70 or continues throughout the "church age." (24:21-22)
- D. Jesus could come again at any moment.

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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1. Read Matthew 24 again. What question in what verse drives this discourse? Why is it important to keep this in view?
2. What 3 things does Jesus say must happen before He returns. Where does the text divide to highlight these three things?
3. Why is 24:34 so important for understanding this text? What are the ways that “generation” is interpreted? Is the return of Jesus included in “these things”? (How does 24:33 impact how we answer this question?)
4. Can you remember and articulate the “3 views held by Biblical Christians” regarding when “these things” will take place? Which view do you hold?
5. When we’re studying the Bible is the “simplest and most natural interpretation to be preferred”? Which of the 3 views do you think is the simplest and most natural? In which view could Jesus return at any time?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***Recognize that He is Near***

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Why are the “end times” such a hot topic in our day and age? Are there matters that you’re interested in? Why or why not? What has shaped your perspective on these matters? A study of Scripture or other books and movies?
3. Are “end times” matters essential or non-essential doctrines? Why is it important to be open-minded and charitable with other Biblical Christians when it comes to these matters?
4. What do you think is Jesus’ main purpose in Matthew 24? Is His main purpose to give us a detailed chronology of the “end times”? (Read it again if necessary!)
5. What difference should the imminent return of Jesus make in our lives today?