

THE KEY OF DAVID

Tomorrow's News
Today

TRANSCRIPT – MATTHEW 24 (0533)

VOICEOVER:

The Key of David with Gerald Flurry

GERALD FLURRY:

Greetings, everyone. America has just been struck by another deadly hurricane. Hurricane Rita turns out to be one of the ten deadliest hurricanes *ever* to strike this nation. The question, “Is God cursing us?” was asked on a radio talk show, and most of the people responding said that they didn’t think God curses us. On the contrary, they didn’t think God *did* such things. As far as I could tell, most of those people were religious. I’m always amazed at how little people know about the Bible, and the Bible is supposed to be the *source* of Christianity. The problem is nobody really answered for God or spoke for God. God says that the whole *world* is going to be under a *massive* curse just before Jesus Christ returns to this earth. Now, God starts cursing Israel first because they’re the only ones who’ve ever had a history with Him, and we explain that in our booklet on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which is free if you don’t have a copy.

The Bible is Jesus Christ in print, and, of course, a Christian is supposed to be someone who follows Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ said in Matthew 4 and verse 4 that we ought to live by *every word of God!* That’s the Old and New Testament—*live by every word of God.*

Now, would it be a safe assumption to assume that if you don’t know the Bible, you don’t know God? I mean we do need to think about these problems and questions very seriously. The problem is most people in this world talk about Christ, but they don’t really talk about His message or understand His message. The book of Revelation is the most prophetic book in the New Testament, and it can’t be unsealed unless Jesus Christ unseals it Himself, and a lot of that unsealing is done in Matthew 24—that one single chapter which really is the most important single chapter, the most pivotal single chapter on prophecy in *all* of the New Testament. I mean, it is the most important one of all, and I’d like to go through that chapter with you, and try to put these hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, and other crises, into a context, and give you Christ’s *own words* about these curses, or sorrows, as they’re called in Matthew 24.

Notice Matthew 24 verses 1 and 2. Verse 1. **And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.** ²**And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

Now, the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D., but the Wailing Wall is left, and the Jews still use it every day, but Jesus Christ makes a prophecy here that there won't even be *one stone* left upon another when He returns to this earth. Now, that is certainly—when there's not going to be one brick on another—that's certainly a *great curse*, and God does curse nations, and He does curse individuals because of sin or evil or wickedness, or whatever you want to call it.

Verse 3. **And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?** That's the number *one* question. **...and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** Which is the number *two* question.

So this is about *right now*. And since Matthew 24 is the number one chapter on prophecy in the Bible, and really unlocks a lot of the book of Revelation, which is the one book that puts *all* of prophecy into a time frame, so you can begin to see the importance of this one chapter where Christ talked about prophecy. And it is, again, the most pivotal chapter on prophecy in the New Testament; and Christ, Himself, gave us these words. Now, there are parallel accounts in Luke 21 and Matthew 13. But this is the most important warning that Christ gave us, and I want you to see what it is. It may be a little shocking to you but here it is—the most important, the most deadly warning, the most devastating curse, or the problem that's going to cause curses, in the New Testament, and in our lives today.

Notice verse 4 and 5. **⁴And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵For**

many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Now, here's the number one reason for curses, and notice it's about being deceived. They're going to talk *about* Christ. They're going to come in His name and talk about Jesus Christ, and they're going to *deceive many*. How could they do that? Well, it's very simple. Christ says, "They talk about *Me*, but they don't talk about *My message*."

So that, in fact, makes it a false message—whatever message they have—and really a "false Christ," because Jesus Christ always talked about His message, which happened to be His Father's message. And of course, if we follow Christ, we have to do the same thing today, and there certainly are curses involved here. Christ said another place, "Why do you call Me "Lord, Lord," and do not the things which I say? Why do you talk about Christ all the time, and then you won't do what I tell you to do? Or you don't obey My commandments?" Again, the Bible is the source of *all* Christianity.

Notice what this well-known religious leader said recently: "*The Bible says clearly that God has already revealed Himself fully and completely to us.*" That's a terrible, terrible mistake. The Bible says no such thing—says just the opposite, in fact. But notice the quote continues: "*If we accept who Jesus is as He is presented to us in the New Testament, then we will not look for any further revelation, nor has God promised any... God's revelation is complete....*"

Oh, really? Well, all of this has to be revealed in the end time. Did you know that one-third of your Bible is prophecy?

Ninety percent of it is for today, and that ninety percent *has to be revealed by Jesus Christ* just before He returns. Look at Matthew 24. Look at all of Revelation. I mean there's *all kinds* of prophecy that He said He would *reveal* in this end time. If you look at Daniel 12, verses 4 and 9, the whole book of Daniel was not to be understood until the end time. Why? Because it hadn't been revealed until the end time. It has now! *It has now.*

Notice, though, let's go on with Matthew 24. ***6And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes,*** And we could add—hurricanes. ***...in [different] places. 8All these are the beginning of sorrows.***

Or the beginning of curses—wars, pestilence, famine, earthquakes. And other places it even specifically talks about *great storms or hurricanes*. These are the *beginning of sorrows*.

Do you know what is really wrong with religion and humanity, overall? They always deal with the effect. They never deal with the cause. What is *causing* all these sorrows? What is *causing* famine and pestilence and wars? What's the *cause*? That's what Christ is talking about here. It says, look, we must get to the *cause* or we'll *never* solve these problems. And the *cause* is *rejecting the message* of Jesus Christ and being *deceived* about that—talking about Christ all the time, but not His message. Now, that is the number one problem on this earth today. That's what Christ said. If we believe Christ, how can we not believe that?

Now, Hurricane Rita was a very, very disastrous hurricane, but was it still an act of mercy? Most of the experts, or at least quite a few of them, thought there would be just the worst kind of damage to all of our oil rigs and refineries in that area which produce about 25% of our oil, and it is *our oil*. Can you imagine what would have happened if all of those oil rigs and refineries had been destroyed? I mean this economy would have been crippled FOREVER! Wouldn't it? And yet, that didn't happen. I think it was an act of mercy—looking at these scriptures. Please don't blame me. I'm just looking at what Christ says here. Looking at these scriptures, it looks to me like it could very well have been an act of mercy AND a warning. But look, these are words from Christ. Are we going to look at them? Do we have the courage to face them, and turn cursings into blessings? That's what it amounts to. Turning cursings into blessings. What's bad about that? That's what we should all want. Well, I have more on that subject in the next *Trumpet* magazine, so I hope that you will write for that if you don't already subscribe to it.

But notice verses 9-12. ***9Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you:***

Talking to His own disciples. They're going to kill you. People are going to get killed. Is that a curse? Well, it's certainly not a blessing. I mean, I'd say that's a curse—even for God's own disciples who turn away from Him. "They're going to kill you..."

...and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10And then shall many be offended,

Are you offended by Christ's message?

...many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. Deceive many. ¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of MANY shall wax cold.

And that happens to be *agape* love—God’s own love—and He’s talking about His *own people*. And He says MANY are going to have their love *wax cold*—their love for humanity. They don’t get Christ’s message out to them. Where it says, “many shall have their love wax cold,” it should read “the *majority*.” The majority of God’s own people in this end time are going to have their love wax cold. They don’t love humanity. They won’t tell them the truth about what Christ said. They won’t do that. The majority of God’s own people! Do you know what is going to happen to those people? Well, God says they’re going through the worst suffering ever on this planet. Now, that is something we all ought to think about. All of us should.

Notice verse 14. Now here is the answer to that second question asked in verse 3: “*What shall be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?*” Here is the answer. Christ answered it somewhat later, as far as part two is concerned.

Verse 14. **And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

Now, this is a *sign* of when the end comes. When you see the gospel preached *all around the world*, then we know the end is here. So, that means the gospel wasn’t preached around the world from the first century all the way down to this end time because if it had—I mean, like if it had been preached

around the world in the fifteenth century or the seventeenth century—that would have been the end. But Christ knew it wouldn’t be preached around the world from the first century until the very last century, and that would be a *sign* that we’re in the end time *just before* Jesus Christ returns to this earth. Now, what wonderful news that is. This sign is already come and gone. Now, we are definitely in the end time, and I mean it has come and gone, but you need to note this very carefully. That means that God is *already intervening* in this world—making preparations for His return. There would be a man who would come in this end time and prepare the way for Jesus Christ, and he’s already come and gone. Jesus Christ is *already* intervening in this world—right now—making preparations for His second coming. Now, that’s not bad news.

It’s too bad, though, that God’s own people won’t even tell the world about this message. It does take a certain measure of courage to speak God’s word. After all, it got Christ killed. Didn’t it? And He said, “If they’ve persecuted Me, they’re going to persecute you.” But Christ is still intervening, and He’s getting ready to come back to this earth. I don’t see how anybody could not be *uplifted* by that!

Notice verse 15. **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)**

Now, if you want to know what that abomination is, all you have to do is go to Luke 21 verses 20 and 21. That’s the parallel account of this in the book of Luke, and it says that this “abomination” are “armies surrounding Jerusalem.”

That's explained in our booklet or book on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Let me just give you one quote from that book because Israel is going to be cursed first, and you need to know *who* Israel is. We can't even understand the *Bible* if we don't know who Israel is.

Notice what Mr. Armstrong wrote in that book on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. "*But the all-important master key has been found!*"

"That key is knowledge of the astonishing identity of the American and British peoples—as well as the German—in biblical prophecies. This very eye-opening, astounding identity is the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!"

It's the strongest *proof*—single proof—of the inspiration of the Bible, and the strongest, single *proof* of the existence of a living God. I'd say you need this book. You *need it*. I need it. We all need it.

He goes on to conclude: "*An exciting, pulsating, vital third of all the Bible is devoted to prophecy. And approximately 90 percent of all prophecy pertains to our time, now, in this latter half of the twentieth century! It is a warning to us—to our English-speaking peoples—of immediate life-and-death import. The prophecies come alive once their doors are opened by this now discovered master key! This book will open, to open minds, this hitherto closed vital third of all the Bible. No story of fiction ever was so strange, so fascinating, so absorbing, so packed with interest and suspense, as this gripping story of our identity—and our ancestry.*"

What could be more exciting than fulfilled prophecy today and Bible prophecy today? What could be more exciting than that subject?

Verse 16 talks about: **16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down...**And so on...

So these people that are in Jerusalem are going to have to flee to the mountains. This is not a rapture. They are fleeing to a physical place talked about in Revelation 12 and verse 14, Revelation 3 and verse 10. It's a physical place, and it is "a flight," and it involves a lot more than just Jerusalem. It also involves two other great nations that are going to have armies surrounding them, and people are going to need to flee.

Notice verse 20 and 21. **20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:**

So, you can see this is very physical.

21 For then shall be great tribulation, GREAT TRIBULATION! ...such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

He's talking about a great, nuclear tribulation of the worst kind of curses that are going to come upon us if *we don't listen to Christ's message*. That's what He's talking about.

LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE!

Christ's approval and direction is upon this. He's doing it. He's causing it. He does send curses. Verse 22. And of course, we bring it upon ourselves, but He has everything work out according to

His Master Plan. Verse 22. **And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:** Alive—the Moffat says. **...but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

God—Jesus Christ—makes a promise to us that He's going to cut all of this short, and He's going to see to it that man doesn't destroy *all humanity*—that he doesn't just blast *all human life* off this earth. That's the best news we could possibly hear.

But is that a curse? Are we living in curses? Does God curse us? Well, I'd say He does. You can read Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28, and He says He sets before us blessings and cursings. But He wants to bless us and He does! I'm telling you, I've been living this for over 40 years and I know He *blesses us!* He's just filled my life with blessings. Of course, there are trials, but the blessings are just so abundant, you can't count them. That's what God wants to do to this whole earth.

Look, science and the military are ready to destroy *all human flesh*. Do we need Christ's help? Do we need Him to cut this short? He's going to cut it short even if we *don't* repent. But what would He do if we did repent? Why, He would start pouring out blessings upon us that we couldn't have room to receive them all.

They say now that, really, nuclear terrorism is probably the worst problem of all. I mean one nuclear device could destroy millions and millions of people. I mean there isn't any corner of this *earth* that you can go to, to escape the specter of this catastrophe. No escape! And God says, "Look, I'll give you protection whether you're a nation or an individual. I'll protect you." He goes on

to talk about it here. He says one part of His church is left behind, and one is taken; and if I have time I'll get to that and talk to you about it. But He says, "Look, I'll protect you."

Here we have Iran, the number one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world, and they are about to get the nuclear bomb, and they're just absolutely swimming in oil profits, and so they have all kinds of money to spread their terrorism around, and there's nobody on the world scene with the courage or the will to stop Iran. I mean, let's be honest. Everybody in the world knows that. Let's tell it like it is. We're living in dangerous times, and God says this is the King of the South. The King of the South. What is the solution?

Well, when you see this gospel—you should have already seen it going around the world. It's still going around the world, but that's not the main emphasis today. The emphasis today is on "the warning." But look, we're in the end time, and Christ said if He didn't cut this short there would be no flesh saved alive. *No flesh saved alive*. And then He goes on to say, "Look, if there's any man that comes to you don't believe him—saying, "Christ is over here or over there." Don't believe him. Don't listen to a man. Don't listen to me. Listen to Christ. That's the point. Nobody *does*, it seems. Well, very few. Very few listen to Christ. That's talked about in verse 23, and really it's quite profound. But He says you're going to have all kinds of false prophets and people like that coming on the scene.

I want to move on down a little further. I don't have time to get through all of this. Maybe I'll have to give another message on it. But He said in this very generation you can see when it's at the doors. You

can see it all around. Verses 33 and 34. You can see it. But let me just show you the reward that He is going to give if you do respond to this message.

Verse 46. **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.**

Blessed. Not cursed. Blessed is that servant when Jesus Christ comes He find him so doing. Well, doing *what?* Well, doing a work that gets out “the message” of Christ that doesn’t just talk about the person or personage of Christ, but talks about “the message” that Jesus Christ gave when He was on this earth. And then He allowed man to brutalize Him, and savagely slash Him to pieces to pay for our sins. He came to save us, and just sacrifice for us in a way we’ve never seen a sacrifice before. And Christ said, “Blessed is that man who’s doing the work.” And He says, “I’m going to make him ruler over all my goods—THE WHOLE UNIVERSE!” (Hebrews 2 and verse 8.) God says, “If you will do this, I’ll make you ruler over not just this earth but THE WHOLE UNIVERSE—*all my goods*”—the way God puts it. Now, how could you improve upon that reward?

Until next week, this is Gerald Flurry. Goodbye, friends.

VOICEOVER:

Request our free booklet, The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The first rider of the four horsemen of revelation is the white horseman of religious deception. Christ said in Matthew 24 that the first sign of the end would be religious deception. Are you sure that your religious beliefs are founded on the Bible? Many professing Christians are shocked to learn that their beliefs and

practices are founded on the false ideas of men and not on God’s Biblical instruction. Don’t be deceived! Request our free booklet The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. This free booklet will allow you to understand more about Christ prophecies concerning the end as recorded in Matthew 24. You will also learn about the next three horsemen of Revelation. This symbolic riders will show you what will befall unrepentant mankind in the near future. Even if nations do not repent, you individually can come to see and understand God’s will for you and your family. Request the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

You will also be sent a free subscription to our news magazine, The Philadelphia Trumpet. The Trumpet looks at today’s headlines through the clear light of Bible prophecy. This month’s issue deals with the recent devastating hurricanes in the southern United States. Is God warning America through catastrophic weather? You can know God’s will and plan for America and all mankind! To read this month’s issue, log onto thetrumpet.com. therumpet.com is updated on a weekly basis with new and current articles. Thetrumpet.com has a new design and enhanced features to keep you on top of today’s headlines.

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