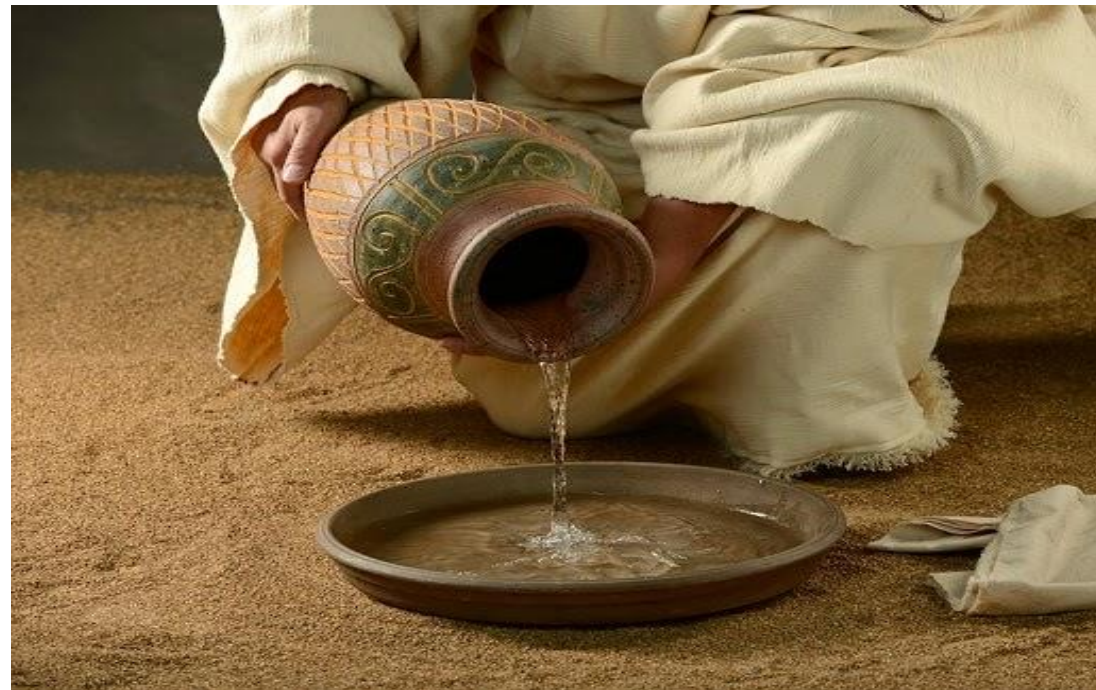

Living in The Last Days

Matthew 24:1-14



the
Gospel
according to
Matthew



Blessed New Year!

HLCE Theme 2026

Church on the Move

***The Spirit Empowered
Mission and Service***

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'



THE Spirit
MISSION WITH
Jesus Christ!





Matthew 24–25 **The Olivet Discourse**

A Wake Up Call To Be Ready

**Every generation has wondered:
*Are we living in the last days?***

When wars break out, economies collapse,
cultures decay, natural disasters increase,
or society becomes more divided



Matthew 24:1–14 Living in The Last Days

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ² ‘Do you see all these things?’ he asked. ‘Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.’ ³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. ‘Tell us,’ they said, ‘when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?’ ⁴ Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, “I am the Messiah,” and will deceive many.



⁶ You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth-pains. ⁹ 'Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



Jesus said something shocking

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ² ‘Do you see all these things?’ he asked. ‘Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.’

Complete devastation of the temple

*Centre of their life, nation, identity, worship,
and the presence of God destroyed*



The disciples stunned, asked the time and sign of his coming and end of the world

“Not When but Be Ready”

Jesus Issued Three Calls:

1. A Call to Discernment
2. A Call to Endurance
3. A Call to Mission



1. A CALL TO DISCERNMENT

⁴ Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no one deceives you.

*⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming,
"I am the Messiah," and will deceive many.*

"Don't be deceived"

Many will come in His name

Cult leaders, False teachers

End-times date-setters, Prophets of fear

Modern Day Cults

Jim Jones

Peoples Temple Church

Jonestown Guyana 1978

909 died with mass suicide murder from cyanide poisoning.



David Koresh, Branch Davidians, Waco, Texas, 1993

a splinter group of the Seventh-day Adventists, 70 burnt dead.

Shincheonji Covid, Easter 2022

War and Peace in the Last Days.

Unification Church, Sun Myung Moon

Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses



He gave the signs:
Global Turmoil,
Persecution,
Spiritual Coldness

Global Turmoil:

- *Wars, Rumours of wars,*
- *Famines, Earthquakes,*
- *Nation rising against nation,
Political upheaval.*



PERSECUTION

⁹ 'Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.'

Following Jesus, standing for truth will cost you. Loyalty to Christ will divide families, cultures, and nations

A Painful Reality:

"Many will fall away, betray one another, false prophets will arise."



SPIRITUAL COLDNESS

*¹² Because of the increase of wickedness,
the love of most will grow cold,*

Coldness creeps in when:

- Sin, Distractions become normal
- Prayer, Church become optional
- The Bible becomes closed
- Entertainment becomes king

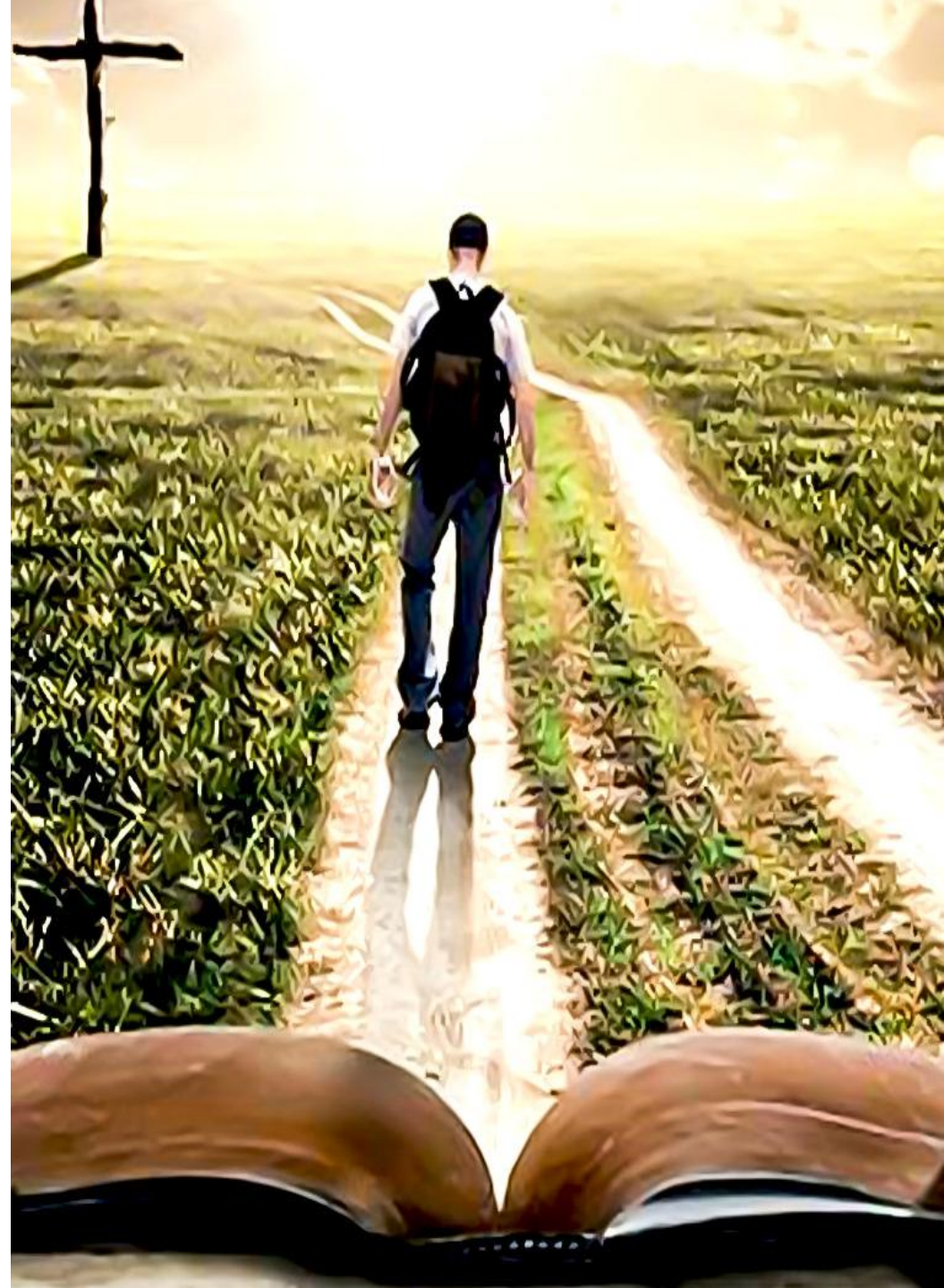


**These things will
happen but don't panic**

*“See that you are not
alarmed, frightened.”*

**Stay Grounded
in Scripture**

- *Keep your love warm.*
- *Keep your heart alive.*
- *Keep your faith burning.*



Be Discerning!

Understand the signs of time

“All these are the beginning of birth-pains.”

Birth pains

Start mild, Grow in frequency and intensity, Lead to something glorious

Wake Up Call to be Ready!

We are moving toward Christ not chaos



2. A CALL TO ENDURANCE

*but the one who stands firm
to the end will be saved.*

Christianity is a Marathon

Endurance is a Gift of God

- . Christ keeps us
- . The Spirit strengthens us
- . The Father holds us
- . The Word sustains us



3. A CALL TO GOSPEL MISSION

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

**The end comes through
gospel completion**

*The last days are not a time for fear,
they are a time for mission.*



How Should We Live?

Be Discerning

Don't be deceived

Be Ready

Stay Rooted in Scripture

- *The end will come.
There will be birth pain first.*
- *The world will shake.
The nations will rage.
The church will suffer.*



Be Enduring **Don't Quit**

*The gospel will triumph.
The King will come.*

- **Stay calm - Don't be frightened**
Christ is sovereign over history.
- **Stay faithful - Don't fall away**
Hard times reveal true disciples.
- **Stay devoted — Don't grow cold**
Keep your love for Jesus burning.



Be Missional - Don't be Silent

*The gospel must be
proclaimed until He returns*

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LIFE IN THE *Spirit*
OUR MISSION WITH
Jesus Christ!



***Come Follow Jesus
Love and Serve Him!***

Be Discerning, Persevere, Go Mission with Him



Blessed New Year 2026