

**“The secret things belong to the Lord our God.”  
(Deuteronomy 29:29)  
Secret Things**

Most of our readers are fairly familiar with Matthew 24. If you don't happen to be familiar with this chapter it is considered to probably be Jesus' most well known prophecy concerning the End Times and the Great Tribulation in the Gospels.

“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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:15-21

Verses sixteen and twenty present us with a bit of a conundrum. Verse sixteen uses the word Judaea and verse twenty uses the verse sabbath.

It should be pointed out that Mark 13:14 and Luke 21:21 also use the word Judaea. Mark 13 and Luke 21 also being very similar chapters to Matthew 24.

Although the entire world will experience the Tribulation these verses seem to be speaking specifically to the people who live in Judaea and who must have been pretty observant in keeping the sabbath.

Who is it today that lives in Judaea and faithfully keeps the sabbath. Although there are some Christians in Israel today and many Moslems as well, verses sixteen and twenty would seem to be referring to the majority of people who live in Judea today who are Jews.

(Incidentally when Israel was first established in 1948 as a nation they originally wanted to be called Judaea and not Israel. It was Harry S. Truman, then president of the United States who insisted it be called Israel.)

Now comes the riddle.

If this warning is to the Jews in Israel in the End Time it would appear odd it should be in the book of Matthew in the New Testament.

The great majority of Jews have rejected Jesus as their Messiah and do not believe or read the New Testament.

So how do they get this message?

Could it be the two End Time witnesses, Revelation 11:3, before they begin their Tribulation ministry? We don't know and this would at best be conjecture.

However, even though we don't know now, some day we will know, and we may not have long to wait! Have a great week ahead.

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