

STUDY GUIDE

Speaker: Scott Chapman

Series: Signs of the Times

Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026

SUMMARY

It is the start of a brand-new series, and Scott with a message that speaks directly to the moment we are living in. He begins by naming a familiar feeling we often experience at the beginning of a new year. It is that deep desire for change and the hope that this year will be different. But instead of focusing on resolutions or personal improvement, Scott suggests there is something deeper going on. He invites us to consider that this restlessness may be spiritual. The longing for something better could be a signal from God. We were created for something more. A different kind of life. One that only the Kingdom of God can truly fulfill.

To explore this idea, Scott takes us to Matthew 24. In this chapter, Jesus and His disciples are walking through the temple in Jerusalem. The disciples are in awe of the temple's size, beauty, and importance. But Jesus tells them that it is all going to be torn down. This would have been a shocking statement. The temple was at the center of their national identity, their worship, and their connection to God. For Jesus to say it would fall was to say that everything they thought was secure would come to an end.

Later that evening, still wrestling with what Jesus said, the disciples come to Him privately. They ask three big questions. When will this happen? What will be the sign of Your coming? What will be the sign of the end of the age? Rather than avoiding their questions, Jesus gives them a full and detailed answer. His response is known as the Olivet Discourse. It is the second-longest recorded teaching of Jesus in all of Scripture. That alone tells us how important this topic is to Him.

Scott points out that we are living in a moment that is not so different from theirs. Many people today are asking big questions about the future. Not just Christians, but also those who do not believe in God. Concerns about climate change, war, artificial intelligence, and the rise of brain chip technology have led people to wonder if the world is heading toward its end. Even tech billionaires are trying to build rockets in case they need to escape Earth. People are uneasy. The world feels unstable.

But here is the key. Jesus tells His followers not to be alarmed and not to be misled. That is critical. He explains that wars, famines, pandemics, and natural disasters will happen. However, they are not the sign of the end. They are birth pains. They are signs that something new is coming, but they are not the moment itself. The true sign to watch for is this. When the gospel of the Kingdom is preached to every nation, then the end will come. Until then, we are living in what Jesus describes as the present age. And while we wait, His invitation is to live now with the Kingdom in mind.

Scott outlines three essential truths that give us direction and hope.

1. **Our reality is that this world will pass away.**

Just like the temple, everything we think is solid and lasting will eventually come to an end. That may sound unsettling, but Jesus gives us this insight not to create fear, but to offer clarity. Nothing in this world is eternal.

2. **Our hope is that the Kingdom of God will replace it.**

Jesus is not offering an escape from a broken world. He is bringing a completely renewed one. His Kingdom will be marked by justice, peace, compassion, and truth. Jesus will reign as King, and all that is evil and broken will be removed. This is the world we were made for. This is the future that gives us hope today.

3. **Our invitation is to live now with the Kingdom in mind.**

We are called to shift our focus from temporary things to what will last forever. That means rethinking how we use our time, our money, our influence, and our relationships. It means choosing to invest in eternal things. Jesus invites us to live like the Kingdom is already here, because in many ways, it is already breaking in.

Scott does not shy away from being direct. He challenges those who know they are called to ministry but have resisted. He encourages those who have been blessed with wealth to think about how they can use it for Kingdom purposes. He also speaks gently to those who are feeling exhausted, anxious, or unsure of their faith. Whatever you are carrying into this new year, God already knows. He is already saying yes to meeting you right where you are.

This message is not about fear. It is about clarity. It is not about trying to predict when the end will come. It is about living with courage and purpose because we already know how the story ends. The Kingdom of God is not just a future promise. It is a present reality. And the change you long for is not only possible. It is exactly what Jesus came to bring.

So do not be misled. Do not be afraid. Be awake. Be ready. And live like the Kingdom is near. Because in Jesus, it truly is.

SCRIPTURES

- **Matthew 24:1 to 14**
- **Matthew 24:14**
- **Galatians 1:8**
- **Ezekiel 1:4 to 28**
- **Hebrews 12:28**
- **Genesis 1 to 3 and Revelation 21 to 22** (referenced thematically)

MAIN IDEAS

1. The desire for change is deeply spiritual. We were created for more than this world can offer.
2. Even the most secure parts of life are temporary. The temple came down and so will the systems of this world.
3. Jesus calls us to live without fear or deception. Stay grounded. Stay clear.
4. Wars and disasters are not the signs to focus on. They are birth pains.
5. The gospel of the Kingdom reaching all people is the one true sign of the end.
6. The Kingdom is already breaking in. We can live in it now, even before Jesus returns.
7. Everything in this world will pass away. Only what is invested in the Kingdom will last.
8. We are called to build legacy in eternity, not just success in the present.
9. God is already saying yes to those who want to be transformed by His Kingdom today.
10. Fear is not from God. He offers peace and clarity about the future.
11. This is a time for boldness, not spiritual retreat.
12. The world may shake, but the Kingdom of God will never be shaken.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think fuels your desire for change at the start of a new year? How might that relate to your longing for the Kingdom of God?

2. Why do you think Jesus started His answer about the end times by telling His disciples not to be alarmed or misled?
3. How do you typically respond to global crises or uncertain news? What would it look like to respond with Kingdom perspective instead of fear?
4. What are some modern-day “temples” in your life—things that feel unshakable or essential—that Jesus might say will not last?
5. Jesus said the sign of the end is the gospel of the kingdom being preached to all nations. How might you participate in that mission personally?
6. What does it mean to live “with the kingdom in mind” now? Are there areas in your life where you’re investing in temporary things?
7. Scott emphasized the idea of “choosing your investment currency.” What do you think you're currently investing your life in—world or kingdom?
8. How do we maintain hope and peace while living in a world that feels increasingly unstable?
9. In what ways can your life demonstrate that your hope is in a kingdom that cannot be shaken?
10. What is one concrete step you can take this week to realign your priorities around God’s coming kingdom?