

Where is the Christ?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 24:23-28.

B. Men are tremendously fascinated by the character and person of Jesus Christ.

II. Jesus is referring to the “end of the age”—the seven-year section that closes the present age before and during the Great Tribulation.

A. This time is remarkably similar to the forty days after Jesus’ resurrection where Jesus appeared to the disciples intermittently.

B. During this time rumor will break out that Jesus is present on the earth.

1. It is rightly believed that Christ will be physically present on earth during this time.

2. The Lord indicated that after He was crucified there would be a time when the Jews would seek Him but not find Him. (John 7:11, 32)

III. There will be an augmented program of deceit during this time.

A. This will be characterized by dynamic personalities.

1. False christs always come with an ostentatious display of power and authority.

2. Religion has a great power to mislead.

B. This will also be characterized by false propaganda.

C. There will be apparent proof of Jesus’ return.

IV. The authentic pattern of truth.

A. The coming Jesus is referring to here is His “presence” among men in the manner mentioned previously.

B. His coming like lightning marks the universality of His presence during this time. (Romans 10)

1. Christ is available to anyone at any time that is willing to admit his or her need today.

2. True Christianity teaches that Christ is universally available.

C. Wherever a certain activity is going on, there is always identifying marks.

1. Christ is at work wherever there are the signs of His activity.

2. The sign of Christ is the transformed heart.

Application questions:

1. What are some cults today that have claimed that Jesus has already returned?

2. How would you describe Jesus' coming distinguishing it from false claims of His return?

3. Why is it important to know the pattern of Jesus' return today? Explain.
