

Chapter 24

To his Disciples (by occasion of Hierufalem and the Temples destruction) he foretelleth, 4. what things shal be before the confummation of the world, as specially 14. the Churches ful preaching vnto al Nations: 15. then, what shal be in the very confummation, to wit, Antichrift with his pasing great perfecution and seduction, but for a short time: 29. then incontinent, the Day of iudgement, to our great comfort in thofe miferies vnder Antichrift. 35. As for the moment, to vs it pertaineth not to know it, 37. but rather euery man to watch, that we be not vnprouided when he commeth to each one particularly by death.

*Mr. 13, 1.
Luc. 21, 5.*

And IESVS being gone out of the temple, went. And his Disciples came to fhew him the buildings of the temple. ² And he anfwering faid to them: Doe you fee al thefe things? Amen I fay to you, there fhall not be left here a ftone vpon a ftone that fhall not be deftroied.

Mt. 10, 17.

³ And when he was fitting vpon Mount-oliuet, the Disciples came to him fecretly, faying: Tel vs when fhall thefe things be? and what fhall be the figne of thy comming, and of the confummation of the world? ⁴ And IESVS anfwering, faid to thē: Beware that no man feduce you: ⁵ for many fhall come in my name faying, I am Chrift; and they fhall feduce many. ⁶ For you fhall heare of warres, & bruits of warres. See that ye be not troubled. For thefe things muft be done, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For Nation fhall rife againft Nation, and Kingdom againft Kingdom; and there fhall be peftilences, and famines, and earth-quakes in places; ⁸ and al thefe things are the beginnings of forowes. ⁹ Then fhall they deliuer you into tribulation, and fhall kil you: and you fhall be odious to al Nations for my names fake. ¹⁰ And then many fhall be fcandalized: and they fhall deliuer vp one an other: and they fhall hate one an other. ¹¹ And many

a)Falfe-Prophets shal rife, and shal feduce many. ¹² And becaufe ¹¹iniquitie shal abound, the charitie of many shal waxe cold. ¹³ But he that shal perfeuer to the end, he shal be faued. ¹⁴ And this Ghospel of the Kingdom ¹²shal be preached in the whole world, for a tefimonie to al Nations, and then shal come the confummation.

Dan. 9, 27.

¹⁵ Therefore when you shal see ¹¹the abomination of defolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, ftanding in the holy place (he that readeth, let him vnderftand) ¹⁶ then they that are in Iewrie, let them flee to the mountaines: ¹⁷ and he that is on the houle-top let him not come downe to take any thing out of his houle: ¹⁸ and he that is in the field, let him not goe back to take his coate. ¹⁹ And woe to them that are with child, and that giue fuck in thofe dayes. ²⁰ But pray that your flight be not in the winter, or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For there shal be then great tribulatiō, fuch as hath not been from the beginning of the world vntil now, neither shal be. ²² And vnles thofe daies had been shortned, no flesh should be faued: but for the Elect the daies ¹²shal be shortned. ²³ Then if any man shal fay vnto you: Loe ¹¹here is Chrif, or there; doe not beleeeue him. ²⁴ For there shal rife falfe Chriftes and falfe-Prophets, and shal shew ¹²great fignes and wonders, fo that the Elect alfo (if it be poffible) may be induced into errour. ²⁵ Loe I haue foretold you. ²⁶ If therfore they shal fay vnto you: Behold he is in the defert; goe ye not out: Behold ¹¹in the clofets, beleeeue it not. ²⁷ For as lightning commeth out of the eaft, and appeareth euen into the weft, fo shal alfo the aduent of the Sonne of man be. ²⁸ Wherfoeuer the body is, thither shal the Egles alfo be gathered together.

²⁹ And ¹¹immediatly after the tribulation of thofe dayes the funne shal be darkned, and the moone shal
Eze. 12, 7.
Ioel. 3, 15.
Dan. 7, 15.

^a There were in the People falfe Prophets, as among you alfo fhall be lying Maifters, which fhall bring in Sects of perdition. *2. Pet. 2.*

^b Whofoeuer draweth Chrif or his Church from the Communion & felowfhip of al Nations Chriftened, to one corner, towne, or Countrie, beleeeue him not. *Aug. de unit. Ec. c. 3.*

not giue her light, and the ftarres shal fal from Heauen, and the powers of Heauen shal be moued: ³⁰ and then fhall appeare ^{a)}the figne of the Sonne of man in Heauen: and then fhall al Tribes of the earth bewaile: and they shal see the Sonne of man comming in the cloudes of Heauen with much power and maiestie. ³¹ And he shal fend his Angels with a trumpet, and a great voice: and they shal gather togeather his Elect from the foure windes, from the furtheft parts of Heauen euen to the ends thereof. ³² And of the figtree learne a parable: When now the bough thereof is tender, and the leaues come forth, you know that fommer is nigh. ³³ So you also, when you fhall see thefe things, know ye that it is nigh euen at the doores. ³⁴ Amen I fay to you, that this Generation fhall not paffe til al thefe things be done. ³⁵ Heauen and earth fhall paffe, but my words fhall not paffe.

Gen. 7, 5. ³⁶ But of that day and houre nobody knoweth, neither the Angels of Heauen, but the Father alone. ³⁷ And as in the dayes of Noe, fo fhall also the comming of the Sonne of man be. ³⁸ For as they were in the dayes before the floud, eating and drinking, marying and giuing to mariage, euen vnto that day in which Noe entred into the arke, ³⁹ and knew not til the floud came, & tooke thẽ al: fo also fhall the comming of the Sonne of mā be. ⁴⁰ Then two fhall be in the field: one fhall be taken, & one fhall be left. ⁴¹ Two woman grinding in the mill: one fhall be taken, & one fhall be left. ⁴² Watch therefore becaufe you know not what houre your Lord wil come.

1. Thef. 5, 1. ⁴³ But this know ye, that if the Good-man of the houle did know what houre the theefe would come, he would surely watch, and would not suffer his houle to be broken vp. ⁴⁴ Therefore be you also ready, becaufe at what houre you know not, the Sonne of man wil come.

⁴⁵ Who, thinkest thou, is a faithful and wife feruant whom his Lord hath appointed ouer his familie, to giue

^a This figne of the Sonne of mā, is the holy Croffe, which thẽ fhall appeare to the Iewes to their confufion. *Chrys. in Mat. hom. 77.* It fhall be no leffe confufion to Heretikes that can not abide the figne thereof.

them meate in feafon? ⁴⁶ Bleffed is that feruant, whom when his Lord commeth, he fhall find fo doing. ⁴⁷ Amen I fay to you, that ouer al his goods fhall he appoint him. ⁴⁸ But if that naughtie feruant fhall fay in his hart: My Lord is long a comming: ⁴⁹ and fhall begin to ftrike his felow-feruants, and eateth, & drinketh with drunkards: ⁵⁰ the Lord of that feruant fhall come in a day that he hopeth not, & an houre that he knoweth not, ⁵¹ and fhall deuide him, & appoint his portion with the Hypocrites: there fhall be weeping and gnafhing of teeth.

ANNOTATIONS

2 Not left) This was fulfilled 40. yeares after Chriftes Afcenfion by Vefpafian the Emperour and his fonne Titus. *Euseb. li. 3. c. 6. & seq. ex Iosepho.* Vpon which words, *There shall not be left &c.* which threaten the destruction of the Iewes Temple; and those words, *vpon this Rock I wil build my Church*, which promise the building of the Catholike Church of al Nations; S. Chryfoftome making a long comparifon of these two Prophecies of Chrif, faith thus: Thou feeft in both, his great and vnſpeakable power, in that that he increafed and built vp them that worshipped him, and those that ftumbled at him, he abafed, destroyed, and plucked them vp by the root. Doeft thou fee how whatfoeuer he hath built, no man ſhall destroy: and whatfoeuer he hath destroyed, no man ſhall build? He builded the Church, and no man ſhall be able to destroy it; he destroyed the Temple, and no man is able to build it, and that in ſo long time: For they haue endeauoured both to destroy that, and could not: and they haue attempted to build vp this, and they could not doe that neither, &c.

3 The ſigne) Our Maifter knowing that it was not profitable nor ſeemly for them to know theſe ſecrets, gaue them by way of Prophecie warning of diuers miſeries, ſignes, and tokens, that ſhould fall, ſome further of, and ſome neerer the later day: by which the Faithful might alwayes prepare them ſelues, but neuer be certaine of the houre, day, month, nor yeare, when it ſhould fall. *Aug. ep. 80.*

4 Seduce) The firſt and principal warning, needful for the faithful from Chriftes Afcenfion to the very end of the world, is, that they be not deceaued by Heretikes, which vnder the titles of true teachers, and the name of Chrif and his Ghofpel, wil ſeduce many.

5 I am Chrif) Not only ſuch as haue named them ſelues Chrif, as Simon, Menander, and ſuch like; but al Arch-heretikes be Chriſts to their folowers, Luther to the Lutherans, Caluin to the

The Church cã neuer faile.

Heretikes ſeduce vnder faire titles.

*Mat. 16.
Li. adu. Gentes
quod Chriſtus fit
Deus, prope finum.*

Caluinifts, becaufe they beleeeue them, rather then Chrift fpeaking in his Church.

12 Iniquity abound) When Herefie and falfe teachers raigne in the world, namely toward the later day, wicked life aboundeth, and charitie decayeth.

14 Shal be preached) The Ghospel hath been preached of late yeares, and now is, by holy Religious men of diuers Orders in fundry great Countries which neuer heard the Ghospel before, as it is thought.

The Ghospel now preached to Infidels.

15 Abomination of defolation) This abomination of defolation foretold, was firft partly fulfilled in diuerfe prophanations of the Temple of Hierufalem, when the Sacrifice and feruice of God was taken away, but fpecially it fhall be fulfilled by Antichrift and his Precurfours, whẽ they fhall abolifh the holy Maffe, which is the Sacrifice of Chriftes body and bloud, & the only foueraigne worfhip due to God in his Church: as S. Hypolitus writeth in thefe words: The Churches fhall lament with great lamentations, becaufe there fhall neither Oblation be made, nor incenfe, nor worfhip grateful to God. But the facred houfes of Churches fhall be like to cottages, and the pretious body and bloud of Chrift fhall not be extant (openly in Churches) in thofe dayes, the Liturgie (or Maffe) fhall be extinguished, the Pfalmodie fhall ceafe, the reciting of the Scriptures fhall not be heard. *Hippol. de Antichrifto*. By which it is plaine, that the Heretikes of thefe daies be the fpecial fore-runners of Antichrift.

The abomination of defolation.

The abolishing of the holy Sacrifice of the Maffe by Antichrift, and his minifters.

22 Shal be shortned) The raigne of Antichrift fhall be short, that is, three yeares and a half. *Dan. 7. Apoc. 11*. Therefore the Heretikes are blafphemous and ridiculous, that fay, Chriftes Vicar is Antichrift, who hath fitten thefe 1500. yeares.

Antichrift.

2. *Thef. 2.* 24 Great fignes) Thefe fignes and miracles fhall be to the outward appearance only: for S. Paul calleth them lying fignes, to feduce them only that fhall perish. Wherby we fee that if Heretikes could worke feyned and forged miracles, yet we ought not to beleeeue them, much leffe when they can not fo much as feeme to doe any.

26 In clofets) Chrift hauing made the Churches authority bright and cleare to the whole world, warneth the Faithful to take heed of Heretikes and Schifmatikes, which haue their cõuenticles afide in certaine odd places and obfcure corners, alluring curious Perfons vnto them. *Aug. li. 1. q. Euang. q. 38*. For as for the comming together of Catholikes to ferue God in fecret places, that is a neceffarie thing in time of perfecution, and was vfed of Chriftians for three hundred yeares together after Chrift; & the Apoftles alfo and Difciples came fo together in Hierufalem for feare of the Iewes. And Catholikes doe the fame at this day in our countrie, not drawing religion into corners from the fociety of the Catholike Church; but practifing fecretly the fame faith, that in al Chriftendom shineth and appeareth moft glorioufly.

The fecret cõuenticles of Heretikes.

Catholike Chriftians fecretly affembling in time of perfecution.

29 Immediatly) If the later day shal immediatly folow the Antichrift.
perfecution of Antichrift, which is to endure but three yeares and a
halfe, as is aforefaid, then it is mere blafphemie to fay, Gods Vicar
is Antichrift, & that (by their owne limitation) thefe thoufand
yeares almoft.