

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 those miseries 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 fiew him the buildings of the temple. ² And he anfwering said to them: Doe you see al these things? Amen I say to you, there shal not be left here a ftone vpon a ftone that shal not be deftroied.

Mt. 10, 17.

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

a) Falso-Prophets shall rise, and shall seduce many. ¹² And because ¹¹ iniquities shall abound, the charity of many shall wax cold. ¹³ But he that shall persevere to the end, he shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world, for a testimony to all Nations, and then shall come the consummation.

Dan. 9, 27.

¹⁵ Therefore when you shall see ¹¹ the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the holy place (he that readeth, let him understand) ¹⁶ then they that are in Jerusalem, let them flee to the mountains: ¹⁷ and he that is on the housetop let him not come down to take any thing out of his house: ¹⁸ and he that is in the field, let him not go back to take his coat. ¹⁹ And woe to them that are with child, and that give suck in those days. ²⁰ But pray that your flight be not in the winter, or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For there shall be then great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, neither shall be. ²² And unless those days had been shortened, no flesh should be saved: but for the Elect the days shall be shortened. ²³ Then if any man shall say unto you: Lo here is Christ, or there; do not believe him. ²⁴ For there shall rise false Christs and false Prophets, and shall shew ¹¹ great signs and wonders, so that the Elect also (if it be possible) may be induced into error. ²⁵ Lo I have foretold you. ²⁶ If therefore they shall say unto you: Behold he is in the desert; go ye not out: Behold ¹¹ in the closets, believe it not. ²⁷ For as lightning cometh out of the east, and appeareth even into the west, so shall also the advent of the Son of man be. ²⁸ Whosoever the body is, thither shall the Eagles also be gathered together.

²⁹ And ¹¹ immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall
Eze. 12, 7.
Joel. 3, 15.
Dan. 7, 15.

^a There were in the People false Prophets, as among you also shall be lying Masters, which shall bring in Sects of perdition. *2. Pet. 2.*

^b Whosoever draweth Christ or his Church from the Communion & fellowship of all Nations Christened, to one corner, town, or Country, believe 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 maieftie. 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 furthest 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 these things, know ye that it is nigh euen at the doores. ³⁴ Amen I say to you, that this Generation fhall not passe til al these things be done. ³⁵ Heauen and earth fhall passe, but my words fhall not passe.

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, so fhall also the comming of the Sonne of man be. ³⁸ For as they were in the dayes before the floud, eating and drinking, marrying 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: so 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 because 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, because 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 confusion. *Chrys. in Mat. hom. 77.* It fhall be no lesse confusion 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 gnawing of teeth.

ANNOTATIONS

2 Not left) This was fulfilled 40. yeares after Chriftes Afcenfion by Vefpafian the Emperour and his fonne Titus. *Eufeb. li. 3. c. 6. & feq. ex Iofepho.* Vpon which words, *There fhall not be left &c.* which threaten the deftruction of the Iewes Temple; and thofe words, *vpon this Rock I wil build my Church*, which promife the building of the Catholike Church of al Nations; S. Chryfoftome making a long comparifon of thefe 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 thofe that ftumbled at him, he abafed, deftroyed, and plucked them vp by the root. Doeſt thou fee how whatfoeuer he hath built, no man ſhall deftroy: and whatfoeuer he hath deftroyed, no man ſhall build? He builded the Church, and no man ſhall be able to deftroy it; he deftroyed the Temple, and no man is able to build it, and that in fo long time: For they haue endeauoured both to deftroy that, and could not: and they haue attempted to build vp this, and they could not doe that neither, &c.

3 The figne) Our Maifter knowing that it was not profitable nor feemly for them to know thefe ſecrets, gaue them by way of Prophecie warning of diuers miferies, fignes, and tokens, that ſhould fall, ſome further of, and ſome neerer the later day: by which the Faithful might alwayes prepare them felues, 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 felues 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 cā
neuer faile.

Heretikes ſeduce
vnder faire titles.

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

Caluinifts, becaufe they beleeeue them, rather then Chrifft 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 Ghofpel hath been preached of late yeares, and now is, by holy Religious men of diuers Orders in fundry great Countries which neuer heard the Ghofpel before, as it is thought.

The Ghofpel 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 Chrifft 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 abolifhing 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 fee me to doe any.

26 In clofets) Chrifft 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 cōuenticles 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 Chrifft; & 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 cōuenticles of Heretikes.

Catholike Chriftians fecretly affembling in time of perfecution.

Act. 1, 12.

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.