

Matthew 22-03-27b

We're ready now to resume our study in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24, and we have come to verse 6. Verse 6, And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars, see that you are not troubled, for they must come to pass, but the end is not yet. They must come to pass, but the end is not yet. We begin with the phrase, And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

It's a very catchy phrase, but in my opinion it's not really what it means. The word here is, you will hear, is from Akuo. We get our word acoustics from this, and it is all about the hearing.

So, you will hear of wars. This is just the standard word for war. It is Palemós, P-O-L-E-M-O-S, and that's what it is.

It's wars. These are national conflicts of a military nature. We have a spiritual warfare as well.

The spirit wars against the flesh, and the flesh wars against the spirit, and it's the verb form of this same word. But this is the noun, Palemós, in the plural, you will hear of, but there is a missing word here. As you know, you know how annoyed I get when they leave out a word, and they've left out a word, because the first word in this sentence isn't translated in your New King James, and it is Melo, M-E-L-L-O.

Remember the Scottish singer Donovan, and he had that song? Anytime Patty makes Jell-O, I sing that song. They called me Melo Jell-O. Melo, but this is Melo, M-E-L-L-O, and it means to begin.

This is in the second person plural, and it is a future active indicative, and it means you will begin. You will begin. This personalizes it.

You will begin, and then you have a kuo in the infinitive. You will begin to hear, and the translation here just messes that all up. You will hear, you will be hearing, you will have heard.

I mean, none of those meanings are there. You will begin. You all will begin to hear.

You'll begin to hear. That's important, because there have been wars since Cain killed Abel, in terms of conflict between entities, beginning with individuals. As people get into groups, you have wars.

We don't have any record of wars in the Bible until after the flood. Interestingly, there was a lot of wickedness, but we don't hear of wars per se. It's not like, you know, even in the days after the flood, you don't hear of wars until you get well into the biblical record.

You will begin to hear. So this is going to be something new. The question is threefold.

When will these things be? What will be the sign of your coming? What will be the sign of the end of the age? Jesus is going to answer these in the reverse order. So he's starting here with the signs of the end of the age. At the end of the age, there will be an exceptional danger of being deceived.

Nobody ever wants to be deceived. Deception has been going on since the garden. Eve was deceived by the serpent.

Deception is nothing new. But Jesus says, talking about the end of the age, be careful that no one deceives you. So there will be an exceptional opportunity for deception.

Exceptional, exceptional, deceptional. Why? There's going to be a lot of people affirming that Jesus is the Christ, is the Messiah, is the anointed one of God, and they're going to deceive many. I would say probably deceive most.

And you will begin to hear of wars. You get the idea, you're going to begin to hear about these in a new way, in an exceptional way, in a fresh and innovative way that has not previously existed. I would argue that would certainly be fulfilled with our modern technological instantaneous global communications.

This is a sign of the end of the age because we begin to hear, we hear about them before they even start. Somebody's massing their troops on the border and you hear about them. What was that, Patty? You see them too, immediately.

Well, yeah. And we'll be getting to the seeing here shortly. But you hear about them and you begin to hear about them.

And you begin to hear about them in a way that they've not been heard of before. They've been heard of throughout history, but we're not reading about them in books. We're not finding out about them by travelers or messengers days and weeks after the event.

This is new and fresh. Wars and rumors of wars. Why would Jesus say this? Why isn't it you will hear of wars or there will be wars? There will be wars everywhere.

There's any number of ways he could have said this. I'm fascinated by the fact that he says there will be wars and rumors of wars. So what do you think we should look at next to figure out what this means? You will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

The wars is the same word. So we want to know what are rumors, right? What is a rumor? Well, the word rumor is the very same word group as you will begin to hear. We had the infinitive of Akuo.

This is a noun form from Akuo. If you translate this literally, it is you will begin to hear of

wars and hearings of wars. You will begin to hear of hearings.

Remember that seeing they will see and not perceive, hearing they will hear and not understand. You're going to hear hearings. And this comes to mean or be accurately translated reports.

It literally means news. Let me show you. And by the way, if you like having your laptop nearby or your PC or even your phone and you're reflecting, you're doing your own investigations into the Word of God, which I encourage, it's a great, there's nothing better.

How can that possibly be a waste of time? If you've got your responsibility sorted and you have an opportunity and you want to spend some time looking at scripture, I will tell you, even though I've got, you know, expensive Logos Bible software and so on. I typically use what I am about to show you here, which is Bible Hub. You may have ones that you use.

People use different pieces of software or different websites and so on. But this is Bible Hub and it starts out with the verse. I go and pull up the verse and it gives me all the different translations over here in the left-hand column.

I'll blow this up a little bit. So you got your New International Version, the New Living Translation, English Standard Version, Berean Bible, on and on and on. King James, New King James, New American Standard, on and on.

And so if you want to see different translation choices, you notice almost everybody says wars and rumors of wars. It's become such a set piece of a phrase that nobody has really decided to change it. In the New Living Translation, it says you will hear of wars and threats of wars, possibilities of wars.

But notice the central idea of the word echoe is hearing. Over here on the right, you have the context. And this is really handy.

They give you the verse before and the verse after. Many will come in my name. And you got those single quotes, which I would take out.

Claiming I am the Christ will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. All right, so I'm interested.

I want to know about this word rumors. So what would I do? You can do this on your iPad even. Just come up here and it says, what is the Greek? They have interlinear and they have Greek.

I like this Greek because then when I pull this up, here is the Greek word order. Notice you have, you can see it in the blue there. I am just unconsciously reading the Greek.

But it says meleisate. Meleisate. This is from mellow.

If you wanted to know what the verb is, you could tap that 3195 in the left. That will take you to the strong lexicon. But I've already told you mellow means to begin.

You have the post positive conjunctive particle da. Post positive just means when Greeks wanted to say and or or but, they don't make it the first word in the sentence. They make it the second word.

So it literally says you will begin then or you will begin now or you will begin but or or or whatever. It's just a Greek thing. They put their conjunction second.

So it's called the, that's a fancy way of saying it's the second word. Would you rather say second word or post positive conjunctive particle? I'd rather say the latter. Anyway, then you have akouane.

You can see the A-K-O-U. Even if you don't read Greek, that's just obvious. A-K-O-U.

Then E-I-N, that makes it the infinitive. You will begin to hear, there's your polymous, kaiakouas. See that A-K-O-A-S there? That's the noun form from akouo.

And it's translated rumors. Well, I want to know more about this. Why are they saying it's a rumor and it's it's just just a rumor you hear or what? So over here on the left you see where it says 189.

That's the Strong's word because it starts with A and they're listed alphabetically in Strong's Concordance. So in the in the 100s makes sense for words that start with A. So I tap that and it already tells me I think this is meaning E. There's going to be definitions in the Concordance, A-B-C-D-E. It says we think this is meaning E. So when I tap that, now it brings up Strong's Concordance.

I've also got Englishman's Concordance over to the right. But here it is, akoua, hearing or the sense of hearing. It's a feminine noun.

Hearing, faculty of hearing, ear, report or rumor. Properly hearing, used of inner spiritual hearing that goes with receiving faith from God, Romans 10 17. Spiritual hearing, discerning God's voice, see also Galatians 3. You can go on a on a wonderful excursion here looking at it.

And you can see other lexicons down below if you want other opinions and different ways that it's used. The sense of hearing, it can be the ear itself. But the best thing is over here on the right you have the Englishman's Concordance.

We're not Englishmen but we can still use it. We speak English. So over here notice, even without looking him up, in Matthew 4 24 the news about him spread.

His fame went throughout as is the King James. But this is the report. People began to hear about Jesus.

The the news about him spread throughout that region. Here's Jesus in Matthew 13 quoting the Old Testament. Hearing you will hear not understand.

Matthew 14 1 heard the news about Jesus or his fame. This is this is a report that goes out. You can go down and look at the rest of these.

Notice in Mark 7 35 his hearing was opened. Meaning his ears were open. But it's the faculty of hearing.

It's not just his physical ear flaps. It's his ears being opened. Who has believed our news in John 12 38? Who has believed our report? Strange news.

Hearing you will hear. Who has believed our report? Faith comes from hearing. Faith comes from Akua.

Faith comes from getting the news, getting the information, getting the report. And did you receive Christ? Did you receive the Spirit by the law or by hearing with faith? By getting. And this comes to mean not just the the broad news but the details.

The details about Jesus spread throughout the region. The details of the Word of God that we express our faith to. The Word of God which you heard from us.

The news which is the Word of God you received from us Paul says in Timothy. People will turn away. See 2nd Timothy 4 4? In the latter days people will turn away their hearing from the truth.

The news for them is not going to be the truth of the Word of God. It's going to be other things. Hebrews 5 11.

You have become dull of hearing. You think about those who are hard of hearing or who have limited hearing, diminished hearing. They can hear sounds.

They can tell that there is a noise but they can't get the details. They can't get the definition. It just sounds like a thumping or a roaring or a greatly distorted noise rather than discernible speech, discernible music and so on.

You have become dull of hearing. You're hearing but it's dull. It's the last one there in 2nd Peter 2 8 is talking about Lot.

Remember when it talks about him vexing his righteous soul? Seeing and hearing what was going on in Sodom vexed Lot's soul. It was the news. It was the reports of crime and debauchery and criminality and licentiousness that he heard in Sodom.

So what's our conclusion from all of this? When Jesus says you will begin to hear of wars and news, news reports, details about wars. In the past you might know that there was a war in Crimea. You might know that there was the War of the Roses.

You might know that Britain and France were at war. You might know that there is a conflict but it was very difficult to get details because you didn't have the kind of technology and presence and instant communication we have now. Now you've got people with phones and they're in the street and they're taking shaky cam footage of missile attacks.

There has never been a time when this particular detailed description of what would happen at the beginning of the end times has been fulfilled the way it is now. Can you imagine any more detail of news, of reports of wars? You will begin to hear about wars and detailed reports of wars. News, the wars are going to be on the news, in the news.

Beginning with the days of newspapers, extending to the days of radio, furtherance in the early days of television. Remember the satellite feed where there was like a couple of minutes delay, you know, it's just many, many seconds delay. Somebody's talking over a satellite link.

Now it's virtually instantaneous. You will begin to hear of these conflicts, national military conflicts, and detailed reports of those conflicts. One has been true throughout history, but the details, this echo is new and we're beginning to hear that in our day.

So then the next words in verse six are, see that you are not troubled. No, sorry, that is not a good translation. Let me take you back to our screen here in Bible Hub.

And up at the top, we were looking at verse six. Now we're going to look a little further down. You have Mellow, you have a Kuwait and you have Palemas and reports, a co-os of Palemas.

Then it says, Horate. This is from Horao. We're well familiar with this verb, Horao, which means to look at a thing.

We get our word horizon from this. I like to find the English cognate. It helps us kind of remember what the Greek verb means.

But notice it says, behold, in this translation. It doesn't say see that. See that means be sure that.

Remember up in verse four, when Jesus said, take heed that no one deceives you. You could imagine the same thing. He might say, take heed that you are not alarmed.

That's not what's going on here. What this means is you are going to hear of wars and detailed reports of these wars. Look at them, look at these reports.

He's talking about the reports. He's talking about what is translated rumors. And what Jesus is saying is you're not only going to be able to hear these reports, you're going to be able to see them.

He's not saying see that you are not alarmed. He's saying, see the hearings, see the reports. You're going to hear and see.

He could almost say behold these. He's saying, look at them. Look at these reports.

Look at the messengers. Look at the details. Look at, at these wars that are being reported.

Look at them, behold them, but do not be alarmed. Pay attention to the reports. Don't be alarmed.

Do you see that? Behold, may throw they. This is from the verb throw at. Oh, you've heard this word in English.

Again, I like to keep up with the cognates. Learning Greek is relatively easy because we have so many cognates in English. You ever heard of somebody being in the throes of a project or being in the throes of childbirth or, you know, T-H-R-O-E-S.

I'm in the throes of something painful, something uncomfortable. That's what throw at O is. This is not the word that is used in John 14 one.

Let not your heart be troubled. That's different. This is like the troubled sea when it cannot rest, it's stirred up, caused to be unstable.

Throw at O is only used about three times in the New Testament. And two of them are in this context. Once again, if you use BibleHub as a tool here, we can find out when we click on this 2360 Strongs, you can see here, throw at O to be troubled.

Notice in the Englishman's Concordance, it's only used here in Matthew 24 six. It's used in Mark 13 seven, where Mark is giving the same words of the Lord that we have in Matthew as a parallel. And then in Second Thessalonians two two.

Remember, in that context, Paul is saying, I do not want you to be disturbed by a word or letter that purportedly came from us, as though the day of the Lord has already come. All three New Testament uses of throw at O are related to the end times. Keep your finger here and turn over to Second Thessalonians two.

Brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus and our gathering together to him, we ask you not to be soon shaken in mind or throw at O'd, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. What does he say in verse three? Let no one deceive you by any means. There are reports, there are words and expressions.

This is what spirit means here, by an expression, by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of the Lord had come. Let no one deceive you by any means. In Paul's context and in Jesus context in Mark and in Matthew, when you see this word, the propensity and the possibility of deception is manifest.

These reports are going to be the means by which many are deceived. Paul says, don't be deceived because there are fake letters, there are fake words, there are fake spirits, attitudes, expressions coming your way, wanting to say and wanting to say that Paul says this. Many will come saying, I am the Christ.

Many will come saying, this is what Paul teaches. Don't be deceived. Don't be deceived by someone who is citing an authority or speaking in the name of an authority.

People are sending letters and bringing words and bringing a spirit into the Thessalonian churches and saying, well, you know what Paul says, the day of the Lord has already come. I believe in Christ just like you do. And they're going to deceive many.

This word, *threo*, is unique in New Testament scripture to the end time context of a special kind of alarm, a special kind of concern, being in the throes of a thing. It isn't just disturbing. It isn't just troubling.

It is alarming in a unique way. Only used here. Do not look at these reports.

You're going to hear these reports and the details of these wars. And this in particular, it is the wars. He's not saying you're going to hear reports of pestilences, or you're going to hear reports of famines, or you're going to hear reports of human rights abuses, or you're going to hear reports of economic distress, or you're going to hear reports of governmental abuse or evil.

Specifically, it is the reporting on wars. In our lifetime, this kind of reporting really began with Vietnam. You remember the old thing where they're bringing Vietnam into our living rooms.

It was the first time the American public had had the seeing and the hearing of a war right in their living room. And it changed opinion drastically about our involvement in war because the images and the reporting, what was heard and seen, affected people's thinking in ways that opinion pieces and earlier reporting had not done. Well, that's on steroids now because it is not just network news.

It is multiple channels, multiple sources, people posting handheld video from their phones, people reporting from basements and interviewing people. And the COVID lockdowns that resulted in a lot of reporting no longer feeling like it needed to be dressed up in a coat and tie. And if we're going to interview someone, we need to have them in the studio.

Now, everything is immediate in your shirt collar or your t-shirt. The president of a country can talk to our Congress in a t-shirt because it is designed to, in a nonverbal way, emphasize immediacy. Let's dispense with the formalities.

This is a crisis. It's an unspoken way to communicate. And this combination of sound and sight is something that has begun in our lifetime and is fresh and new.

I am not saying that the return of the Lord could not still be 50 years hence. It could easily be. I am just saying that what we see around us matches the description that Jesus gives in answer to the third question, what will be the sign of the end of the age? And how could it get any more immediate unless they start putting 3D holographic reporting of war in our living rooms? Can you imagine it being any more profoundly vivid and making any greater impact than it does right now? You can watch the war between Russia and Ukraine 24-7 in your living room.

You can get obsessively, compulsively enmeshed and mired in it, waiting for the next update, waiting for the next piece of film, waiting for the next live report, waiting for the next interview with a Ukrainian family of some kind, athletes, celebrities, government officials, people going, here's the negotiations, here's what's happening in Turkey as they try to come to a diplomatic solution, here's what's happening in Poland where the refugees are fleeing. And it is a non-stop sluicing of Akhoe and Harao. You hear the reports on the news and this has begun in a new and vivid way never before seen.

Jesus says, take a look at it, be aware, Harao this, behold it, but don't get caught up in some kind of special alarm. Don't let Throeo happen. Just as Paul says to the Thessalonian believers, people talking about the end times, this is a special kind of disturbance they can create, don't fall for that.

What is our goal as we observe the signs of the times? If you can look at the fields and see that they are white for harvest, it means get ready to reap, right? I have some personal preparation to do. I want to be ready. I want to be useful.

I want to be of service. I want to be calm and clear-headed. I want to be functioning on all eight of my spiritual cylinders, ready, confident, faithful, knowledgeable, sanctified, fit for God's use in whatever capacity He sees fit to use me.

It is not the time to develop a spirit of fear. It is not the time to start coming unglued, quite the opposite. It is the time to exercise perfect love.

If you feel the temptation to fear, how do you get rid of fear? What does the Bible say is the quickest way to get rid of fear? Perfect love casts out fear. It is love between ourselves and God. It is the love of our brethren and our fellowship.

Love is always outward looking, isn't it? God isn't looking at Himself when He so loved us that He gave His Son for us. He was looking at us. Perfect love, looking at God, how can I

live in a way that is pleasing to Him? Looking at others, how can I be of service? How can I be sacrificial and beneficial? Is there an area where I have a special skill, where I have a gift, where God has given me an extra portion of the Holy Spirit's leading and guiding and enabling to be a blessing? Where can I use that? How can I look at the news, be aware, but don't sit there staring at the news? This should be motivation.

Use it as motivation to do what we should always be doing, but don't move down the road to throw, uh-oh. Move up the road toward the narrow gate that leads to life. This is an opportunity to be even more spiritually motivated, even more spiritually mature, even more of a willing and qualified sacrifice, as in the Romans 12, 1 and 2 mode.

So Jesus says, look, be aware, see these hearings, see and hear, but don't be moved in the wrong direction. These must come. Cross out all, cross out these, cross out things.

All we have here is they. The wars and the reporting about them must come. All of the above must come.

Must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Don't start getting so rapture-minded that you forget to dot the i's and cross the t's. File your taxes, do your job, lay in groceries, continue to march, because the end is not yet.

This is a sign of the end of the age. You will begin to see and hear in this unique way. Don't let that throw you.

Don't let that throw, uh-oh you. These things must come. This is a necessary part of God's plan and purpose, because nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.

It's very interesting to me that you think about the last several centuries, there weren't, we had kings and we had czars and things like that, and then everything kind of went democratic and you had presidents and you had, uh, uh, you know, chairman and, and, and you had these leaders that were given other titles, but now we're, we're, we're starting to see more kings. You know, there's a king in Saudi Arabia. Uh, there's a king in Jordan.

Uh, and when Jesus says kingdoms will rise against kingdoms, a kingdom is different than a nation. And that's why they are distinguished here. There are nations and there are kingdoms.

Nations can have almost any form of government, but kingdoms are led by a king. And so there are going to be national entities that are in conflict, but then there are going to be nations who are denoted and represented and thought of by their leader. Russia right now, because it is personalized with the face form, voice and actions of its president is a kingdom.

Russia kind of is Vladimir Putin and Vladimir Putin kind of is the king of Russia. Uh, any other governmental officials are sort of a rubber stamp. But when Jesus says kingdom will rise against kingdom, you're talking about kings.

Look at the old Testament where you've got the king of Gerar, you've got the Pharaoh of Egypt, you've got a Bimelech, uh, you've got, uh, you know, the, the, the king of Edom or the king of Moab and, and these kings launch conflicts and they are the face and the voice of their nations and their peoples. Well, this current conflagration overseas, what are the faces that the news, the echo is putting on the air that you ho-rah-oh when you look at the news? It's, it's the king of Ukraine and it's the king of Russia. These entities are given faces.

If, if England went to war, you wouldn't really expect the queen to be the face of it or even the prime minister. It's the parliament in our nation. It's supposed to be Congress that declares war, but our nation is starting to become a kingdom in, in any presidential administration.

The, the nation seems to be embodied in the president. And we don't talk about Congress going to war anymore. We talk about the president leading us into a war or getting us out of one or whatever.

And when Jesus says there's going to be nations, there's going to be these national conflicts where all of the people are motivated against each other. And these are the kind of ethnic conflicts that you have in Africa, where you've got Muslims and Christians at odds and at war. You think about Ireland, you don't think about a king of Ireland or a president of Ireland or a chairman of Ireland.

You think about the Catholics and the Protestants. Those are people, those are nation groups that have animosity one toward another. I'm talking more historically than in the present with that, but kingdom against kingdom, this means personal faces leading war against other personal faces who are representative of these nations.

And we certainly have that today. And there will be famines, cross out pestilences. It's not in Matthew, not to say there won't be pestilences.

Jesus just didn't say it in Matthew's account. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

All these are the beginning. The idea is just like we saw up above, you will begin to hear. And this is a different word.

Instead of mellow, you will begin to hear. This is, all of these are the archaic. You know, the archetype is the first one of a series.

So archaic, you have the archaicos, who is a leader or a ruler. You have forms of

government that are represented by this word in English, but this is the beginning of birth pains, birth pains. What do you know about birth pangs? They start and then they get closer together, right? You have an episode, then you have a gap.

You have an episode, then you have a gap. But as the interval gets shorter and shorter, you know, the end is near. The birth is about to happen.

These are the beginning of birth pangs. This is the first contractions when you begin to see these. How long now have we begun to see and hear wars in a new way? I would say four, four and a half decades, pretty much since the Vietnam era in the late 1960s, we began to see and hear.

You had Vietnam, then it went away. And you can just think about the wars that you've seen on television since then. You think about Desert Storm.

You think about Afghanistan. But do you notice that we are now almost seriatim, war to war to war, the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, now this war and the implication that it looks like Europe is going to be involved in this. And do you see, you know, you start with World War II.

Then 10 years later, you have Korea. 10 years later, you have Vietnam. But then they start getting closer and closer together.

You have Lebanon in the 1980s. You have Desert Storm in the late 1990s. You have the implication of Iraq after 9-11 and moving on to, and now we just seem to have them closer and closer together.

And Jesus said this would happen at the end times, and they would be seen and viewed in a new way. So our application here is don't be thrown. Don't be alarmed.

Don't be undone by this. These things must come. There is a proper response, and it is not to come unglued.

It is to be further glued. It is not to be undone, but to be better done, to focus on our basics. What are the basics of our Christian walk of faith? Prayer, reflection on the Word, cultivation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, looking for ways to be more completely obedient, and most of all, the measure is love.

Perfect love casts out fear. Rather than obsessing on the news, why don't I look around in my periphery, find ways to express my love to and for God by reflecting on His Word, by praying for His messengers instead of stoning them, looking for opportunities for that Word to be imbibed and to cleanse and renew and motivate our hearts, and look for ways to express it, not only in love for God, appreciation for His Spirit and His Son as they bring us to Him, to God the Father, but looking around for ways to more fully and completely express our love for each other, interceding, praying, putting a shoulder

under the load, bearing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, songs, hymns, spiritual songs. As we draw closer to God through Christ, we draw closer to each other, making an effort, setting aside time to cultivate the fellowship of believers of like mind in love.

When we're doing that, you don't have time for fear. Perfect love casts it out. That's what we need.

Let's close here in prayer. Father, thank You for the wonderful way that Your Word comforts and encourages us, lifts us up out of the miry clay and sets our feet on the rock, reminds us of our eternal life rather than this transitory momentary time in the flesh. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will impress these truths on our hearts, help us to see clearly how we can love and serve You more fully, more completely, with greater sanctification and greater love for one another.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.