

Signs of the “End of the World” (Con’t)

However, some have struggled with what they thought the disciples asked when they spoke of the end of the world and the coming of Jesus. Because of their questions, some think the signs given are signs of the time when the earth will be destroyed when Jesus comes the second time to judge the world.

To fully understand this question, it is absolutely essential to note that they did not ask what will be the signs of the end of earth. Yet, we think that was what they were asking about because the King James Version uses the word “world.” Check almost every other translation and you will see the correct translation of the Greek word. That Greek word indicates the end of the age, not the end of the physical earth. There is an entirely different Greek word for earth and that is not the word Jesus used in Matthew 24. Jesus had just told them of the destruction of the temple, the focal point of Judaism, and they asked about the end of that Jewish age to be brought about by the destruction of the temple. Jesus said it was to end in that generation and they wanted signs which would precede the end of the age of the temple and Judaism.

Also note that prior to this event Jesus had said almost nothing about the end of the physical earth. It is only after this event that Jesus talks to the apostles about the time when Jesus would destroy the earth. How could these disciples be asking about the end of the earth, for how could they know about that end?

To see that there was a world (age) which ended in the first century, consider two other times the King James translates the word “age” using the word “world.” When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he looked back at the Old Testament events and said, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon who the ends of the world are come” (1 Cor. 10:11, KJV). He does not use the past or future tense. The ends of the world are coming on you.

Hebrews 9:26 speaks of Christ and says that “...now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” Christ came at the end of world—not the earth, but the age. Let the Bible explain its words!

~Dan Jenkins

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Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

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Minister:

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Signs of the “End of the World”

So many think that the signs of “the end of the world” given by Jesus the week before He died show that it won’t be very long until Jesus shall appear. It is true that Jesus gave signs when the “end of the world” would come, but what “world” did He have in mind? When the disciples asked for these signs given in Matthew 24, what were they asking about?

Look at the context. Jesus had taught the parable of those who had refused to pay the owner for the use of his vineyard. He sent servants to ask for the payment and all of them were abused. He finally sent his son and they laid out plans to kill him. Read the parable of God sending His Son to the Jews in God’s vineyard. What was the expected response on these wicked men? “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers” (Matt. 21:41). Jesus further then amplified the application of the parable when He said, “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it” (Matt. 21:43).

Look closer at the context of the signs. In Matthew 23, He told these same Jewish leaders that God’s plan was to bring judgment on the Jewish nation who had killed all the prophets sent to them and would soon to kill the prophets Jesus was sending to them. He said that wrath and judgment was to come on the generation then living (Matt. 23:34-36). God’s judgment was to come on those who had killed God’s messengers/prophets and were at that moment planning to kill His Son. It was to happen in that generation. God was no longer with them and their “house was left...desolate” (Matt. 23:38).

He then walked out of that desolate house, and they showed to Him the beauty of that house, that temple. Jesus’ response was that the time was coming when not one stone of the temple would be left on another. He left the city and Peter, James, John and Andrew said to Him, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?” (Mark 13:3-4). The house was desolate. God was about to destroy it, and the disciples wanted signs it was about to happen.

Jesus gave the signs and then said, “When you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place” (Matt. 24:33-34). He had told them the Jewish nation was to be removed, its temple destroyed and these disciples would see all these signs! It was to all happen in the generation then living on the earth.

The destruction of the temple, when not one stone was left upon another, brought a visible end to Judaism. Its destruction made it impossible for the Levitical priesthood to any longer be able to offer animal sacrifices for those who had been God’s chosen people.

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Keep These Dates in Mind

August 1 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship

Sept 5 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship

Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events, prayer requests or birthdays she hasn't included so she can include them in the bulletin.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Debbie Bolt 8/8
Danny Mendoza 8/13
Clarence & Melinda Botts 8/13
Ron & Ila Stephens 8/13
Maddison Reeser 8/18
Merry Bunker 8/22
Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25

Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25
Eddie Petross 8/28
Bonnie Johnson 8/28

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes
Sunday a – 1 Samuel
Wed p – Jonah

**Young Adults class-
Teen Room** (led by
Danny Mendoza)

Ladies Class
(Contact Sandi
Gray for
information)

Eunice Petross fell on Thursday night and broke her hip. She is in Trios and had surgery on her hip on Saturday morning. Please keep their family in your prayers.

Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

When God pushes you to the edge
Trust him fully.
Because only two things can happen.
Either he will catch you when you fall,
Or He will teach you how to fly.



IF I BELIEVED THAT THE SIGNS SIGNIFYING THE END OF THE AGE HADN'T ALREADY HAPPENED, I'D BE GETTING WORRIED ABOUT NOW.

Komedy Korner

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry - Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Trembling at God's Word

"Thus says the Lord: 'Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,' says the Lord. 'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word'" (Isaiah 66:1-2).

Throughout the book of Isaiah, God expresses His frustration with His people Israel, because of their rebellious attitude towards Him: "I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts; a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick; who sit among the graves, and spend the night in the tombs; who eat swine's flesh, and the broth of abominable things is in their vessels; who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day" (Isaiah 65:2-5).

As a result of such a rebellious attitude towards His Word among His own people, God's judgment was coming upon them, just as He had warned them throughout His Word which He communicated to them through His faithful prophets such as Isaiah. However, as the opening verses indicate, God would spare those in Israel who had a "poor and contrite spirit" and who trembled at His Word (Psalm 66:1-2). To these faithful souls God said, "'Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word: 'Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name's sake, said, 'Let the Lord be glorified, that we may see your joy.' But they shall be ashamed.' The sound of noise from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the Lord, Who fully repays His enemies" (Isaiah 66:5-6)!

As I consider these verses from the prophet Isaiah, it reminds me of the profound respect God expects us to show Him regarding His Word. God's message to us, as revealed in the Scriptures, is not something which is to be taken lightly. After all, we are going to be judged based on whether or not we followed His Word: "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" (Revelation 20:12). Jesus Himself said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

Do I tremble at God's Word or do I treat it lightly? Note the psalmist attitude towards the Scriptures, "My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments" (Psalm 119:120). In addition, does it bother me when those around me rebel at God's Word or have I become comfortable and cozy with the sinful behavior of others? Again, the psalmist wrote, "Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law" (Psalm 119:136). Furthermore, the psalmist adds, "I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your word" (Psalm 119:158).

I am not suggesting that we should spend all of our time in judgment of others. God will take care of that in the last day. However, our hearts need to be pricked when we see God's Word not being heeded not only by others, but especially by ourselves. Today, I rejoice in the guidance God gives me through His Word. I am blessed to live in an age where I can have my own copy of the Scriptures. As I study the Bible and God's message to me, I will tremble at His Word! ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

"I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your statutes" (Psalm 119:63-64)