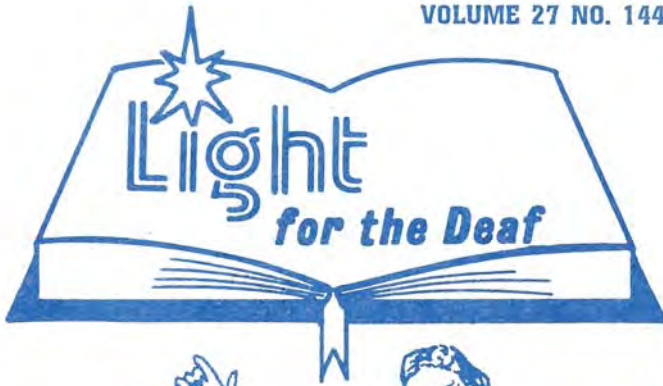


VOLUME 27 NO. 144 APRIL/MAY/JUNE 1994



Jesus is coming again!

Exalting CHRIST among the Deaf

Personally from Billy

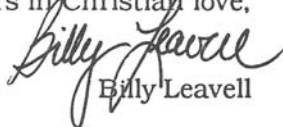
Finally, here is our special issue on Christ's prophecies uttered in Matthew 24-25. It is a continuation of the presentation in the October/November/December 1992 issue (#138). That issue then emphasized the first part of Christ's prophecies, dealing with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This issue now emphasizes the second part of Christ's prophecies, covering Christ's Second Coming which will occur on a date known only to the Father.

In preparing the material for this issue, we have **Frank Rushing**, deaf preacher of Nashville, TN, to thank for the two charts on pages 20 and 21. We appreciate his help!

We hope this issue will help you straighten up the confusion caused by many popular teachers and preachers who misunderstood the prophecies in Matthew 24. These religious preachers for the most part are sincere but they have thought the prophecies about Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D. really meant events near the end of the world. Some of their speculations are wild and "way out".

It is time we calmly and carefully examined these prophecies. To be sure, Christ is coming again, and we should be glad, but we don't need to embarrass ourselves by wild and unsupported speculation.

Yours in Christian love,



Billy Leavell

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Christ's Prophecies about the End and His Coming

IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE, WE
LEARNED ABOUT THE
PROPHECY OF THE
FUTURE THAT JESUS
MADE TO HIS APOSTLES.

MATTHEW 24:1-51,
25:1-46

WE ALSO LEARNED THAT
THIS PROPHECY HAS
TWO PARTS.

THE **FIRST** PART OF
JESUS' PROPHECY WAS
ABOUT THE TERRIBLE
DESTRUCTION OF BOTH
JERUSALEM AND THE
JEWISH NATION.

THIS HAPPENED IN A.D. 70,
WHEN GENERAL TITUS
FROM ROME LED HIS
ARMY AGAINST THE CITY.
IT WAS ONLY 40 YEARS
AFTER JESUS LEFT THE
EARTH.

THE **SECOND** PART IS
ABOUT **JESUS'**
SECOND COMING.

BUT IT CAN BE DIFFICULT
TO TELL WHICH PART
JESUS WAS TALKING
ABOUT.

WHICH IS WHY SOME
PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND
SOME THINGS JESUS
DISCUSSED.

BELOW WE REVIEW WHAT JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES (PETER, JAMES AND JOHN) WOULD HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE...



"BE CAREFUL THAT NO PERSON **FOOLS** YOU! WHY? BECAUSE MANY WILL COME IN MY NAME, SAYING, 'I AM CHRIST!' THEY WILL FOOL **MANY** PEOPLE!"

"YOU WILL HEAR OF **WARS** AND **RUMORS** OF WARS. DON'T WORRY. WHY? BECAUSE ALL THESE THINGS **MUST** HAPPEN. BUT THE **END** ISN'T YET. A NATION WILL COME AGAINST ANOTHER NATION. A KINGDOM WILL COME AGAINST ANOTHER KINGDOM."



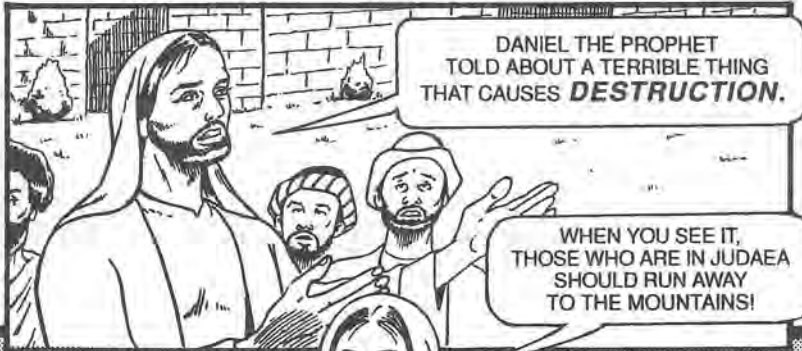
"THERE WILL BE TIMES OF **HUNGER** AND **DISEASE**. THERE WILL BE **EARTHQUAKES** IN DIFFERENT PLACES. ALL THESE ARE THE BEGINNINGS OF **SADNESS**."

"THEN PEOPLE WILL GIVE **TROUBLE** TO YOU. THEY WILL **KILL** YOU. MANY PEOPLE IN MANY NATIONS WILL **HATE** YOU BECAUSE OF MY NAME. MANY WILL **LOSE** THEIR FAITH AND DO **WRONG** AGAINST EACH OTHER. THEY WILL **HATE** EACH OTHER!"



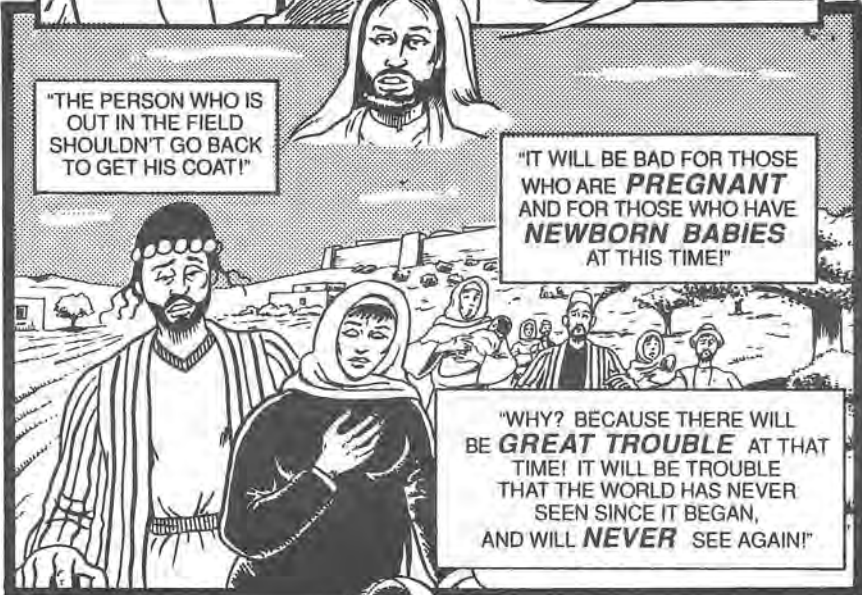
"MANY **FALSE PROPHETS** WILL COME AND WILL FOOL MANY PEOPLE. SINCE THERE WILL BE SO MUCH SIN, THE LOVE OF MANY PEOPLE WILL BECOME **COLD**. BUT THE PERSON WHO **CONTINUES** TO THE END WILL BE **SAVED**."

"THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD FOR A WITNESS TO ALL NATIONS. AND THEN THE **END** WILL COME."



DANIEL THE PROPHET
TOLD ABOUT A TERRIBLE THING
THAT CAUSES **DESTRUCTION**.

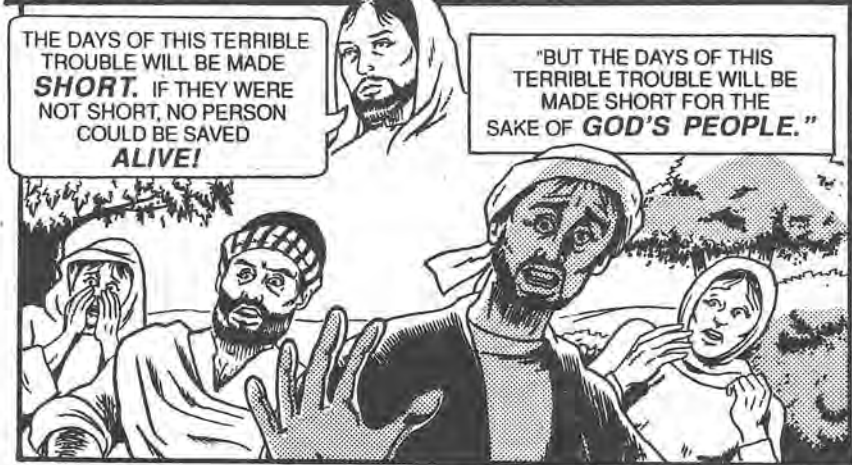
WHEN YOU SEE IT,
THOSE WHO ARE IN JUDAEA
SHOULD RUN AWAY
TO THE MOUNTAINS!



"THE PERSON WHO IS
OUT IN THE FIELD
SHOULDN'T GO BACK
TO GET HIS COAT!"


"IT WILL BE BAD FOR THOSE
WHO ARE **PREGNANT**
AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE
NEWBORN BABIES
AT THIS TIME!"

"WHY? BECAUSE THERE WILL
BE **GREAT TROUBLE** AT THAT
TIME! IT WILL BE TROUBLE
THAT THE WORLD HAS NEVER
SEEN SINCE IT BEGAN,
AND WILL **NEVER** SEE AGAIN!"



THE DAYS OF THIS TERRIBLE
TROUBLE WILL BE MADE
SHORT. IF THEY WERE
NOT SHORT, NO PERSON
COULD BE SAVED
ALIVE!

"BUT THE DAYS OF THIS
TERRIBLE TROUBLE WILL BE
MADE SHORT FOR THE
SAKE OF **GOD'S PEOPLE.**"



"AT THAT TIME, IF ANY PERSON SAYS TO YOU, 'LOOK, HERE IS CHRIST!' OR 'LOOK, THERE IS CHRIST!', DON'T BELIEVE IT!"

"WHY? BECAUSE **FALSE CHRISTS** WILL COME, AND **FALSE PROPHETS** WILL COME!"

"THEY WILL SHOW **GREAT SIGNS** AND WONDERS IN A WAY THAT IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, THEY WOULD **FOOL** EVEN GOD'S PEOPLE!"

REMEMBER, I'VE TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE!

IF PEOPLE TELL YOU, "LOOK, THE CHRIST IS IN THE DESERT," DON'T GO OUT THERE TO SEE!

IF PEOPLE SAY, "HE'S IN THE INSIDE ROOMS," DON'T BELIEVE IT.

THE LIGHTNING COMES FROM THE EAST AND SHINES TO THE WEST. THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN WILL BE **LIKE THAT!**

WHERE THE DEAD BODY IS, THERE THE EAGLES* WILL GATHER TOGETHER!

*THE ORIGINAL GREEK SAYS "EAGLES", BUT SOME TRANSLATIONS SAY "VULTURES".

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TERRIBLE TROUBLES IN THOSE DAYS, THE SUN WILL BECOME **DARK...** THE MOON WON'T GIVE ITS **LIGHT...** THE STARS WILL **FALL...** AND THE POWERS OF HEAVEN WILL BE **SHAKEN.**

THEN THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN WILL APPEAR IN THE SKY.

THEN ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH WILL **MOURN.**

THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN WITH **POWER** AND **GREAT GLORY!**

THE SON OF MAN WILL SEND HIS ANGELS WITH A LOUD TRUMPET CALL. THEN THE ANGELS WILL GATHER TOGETHER HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

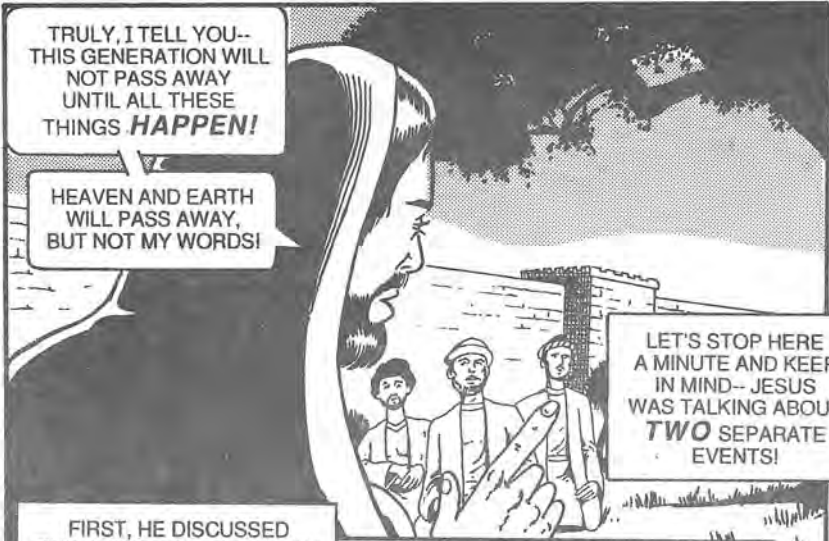


NOW LEARN THE LESSON OF THE **FIG TREE:** WHEN ITS BRANCHES BECOME TENDER AND START GROWING LEAVES, THEN YOU KNOW THAT **SUMMER** IS NEAR.

IN THE SAME WAY, WHEN YOU SEE ALL THESE THINGS, THEN YOU KNOW IT* IS **NEAR**, YES, AT THE DOORS!



*SOME TRANSLATIONS SAY "HE". THE PARALLEL PASSAGE IN LUKE 21:31 SAYS "THE KINGDOM OF GOD."



TRULY, I TELL YOU--
THIS GENERATION WILL
NOT PASS AWAY
UNTIL ALL THESE
THINGS **HAPPEN!**

HEAVEN AND EARTH
WILL PASS AWAY,
BUT NOT MY WORDS!

LET'S STOP HERE
A MINUTE AND KEEP
IN MIND-- JESUS
WAS TALKING ABOUT
TWO SEPARATE
EVENTS!

FIRST, HE DISCUSSED
THE FUTURE DESTRUCTION
OF JERUSALEM.



WE KNOW THE DESTRUCTION OF
JERUSALEM DID HAPPEN IN 70 A.D.,
FORTY YEARS AFTER JESUS' TIME.
A WELL-KNOWN HISTORIAN,
JOSEPHUS, WROTE ALL ABOUT THIS
TERRIBLE EVENT.

SECOND, HE DISCUSSED
HIS SECOND COMING AND
THE JUDGMENT OF THE
WHOLE WORLD.

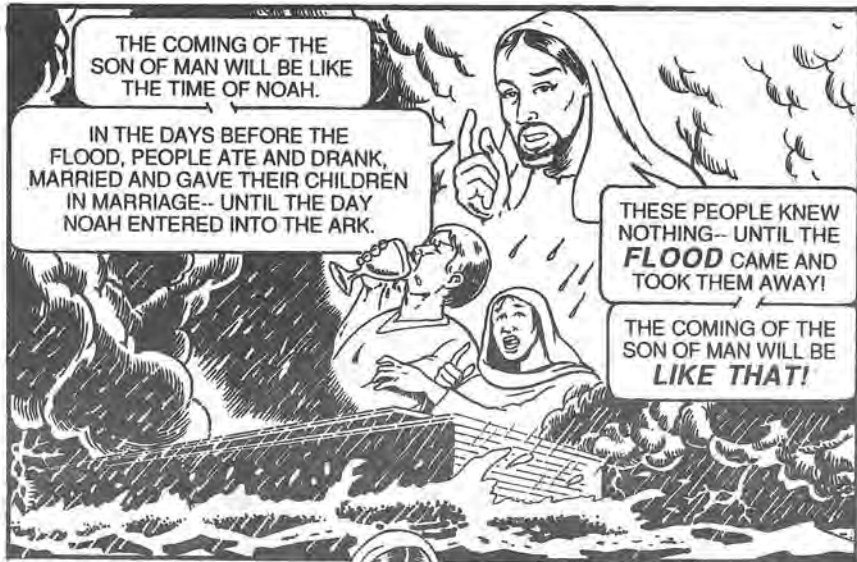


BUT LET US GO ON WITH
WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT
HIS **SECOND COMING.**

NO MAN KNOWS **WHEN**
THAT DAY AND HOUR
WILL BE, NOT EVEN
THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN.
ONLY MY **FATHER IN HEAVEN**
KNOWS!



*THE PARALLEL PASSAGE IN LUKE 13:32
SAYS EVEN JESUS DIDN'T KNOW HIMSELF!



THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN WILL BE LIKE THE TIME OF NOAH.

IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE FLOOD, PEOPLE ATE AND DRANK, MARRIED AND GAVE THEIR CHILDREN IN MARRIAGE-- UNTIL THE DAY NOAH ENTERED INTO THE ARK.

THESE PEOPLE KNEW NOTHING-- UNTIL THE **FLOOD** CAME AND TOOK THEM AWAY!

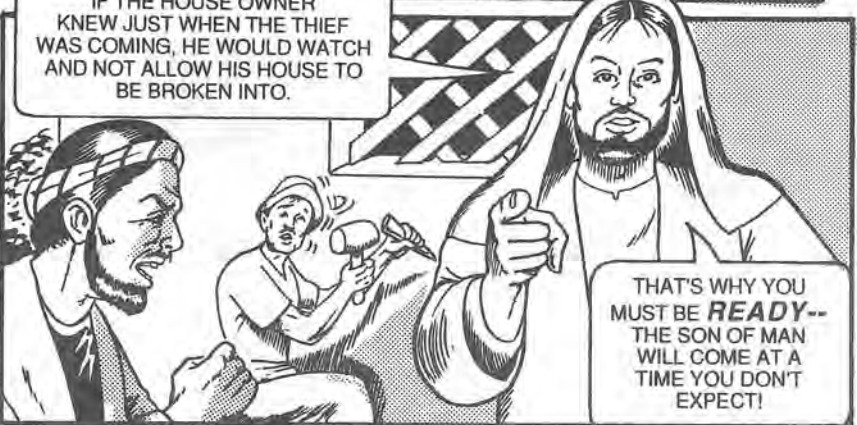
THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN WILL BE **LIKE THAT!**



TWO WILL BE IN THE FIELD. ONE WILL BE TAKEN, AND THE OTHER LEFT.

TWO WILL BE GRINDING AT THE MILL. ONE WILL BE TAKEN AND THE OTHER LEFT.

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST WATCH-- YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN **YOUR LORD WILL COME!**



IF THE HOUSE OWNER KNEW JUST WHEN THE THIEF WAS COMING, HE WOULD WATCH AND NOT ALLOW HIS HOUSE TO BE BROKEN INTO.

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST BE **READY**-- THE SON OF MAN WILL COME AT A TIME YOU DON'T EXPECT!

WHO IS THE FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT? HE IS THE ONE THE LORD LETS RULE OVER HIS HOUSEHOLD! THIS FAITHFUL SERVANT FEEDS ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE AT THE RIGHT TIME.



IF THE SERVANT'S LORD FINDS HIM DOING HIS DUTIES WHEN THE LORD RETURNS HOME, THE LORD WILL BLESS THE SERVANT.

THE LORD WILL REWARD THE SERVANT AND LET HIM RULE OVER ALL HIS PROPERTY.



BUT SUPPOSE AN EVIL SERVANT SAYS TO HIMSELF...



MY LORD DELAYS HIS COMING!

THE SERVANT BEGINS TO HIT THE OTHER SERVANTS, AND WASTES HIS TIME EATING AND DRINKING WITH DRUNKS--



WHAT WILL HAPPEN? THE LORD OF THAT SERVANT WILL COME ON A DAY WHEN THE SERVANT DOESN'T EXPECT HIM.



THE LORD WILL BE ANGRY. HE WILL WHIP THE EVIL SERVANT UNTIL HIS FLESH IS CUT.

THEN THE LORD WILL THROW HIM OUT WITH THE HYPOCRITES!

THERE WILL BE **CRYING** AND **GRITTING** OF **TEETH!**

WHEN WE READ ON INTO THE 25TH CHAPTER OF MATTHEW, WE FIND JESUS TELLS HIS APOSTLES THREE PARABLES RELATED TO HIS SECOND COMING--

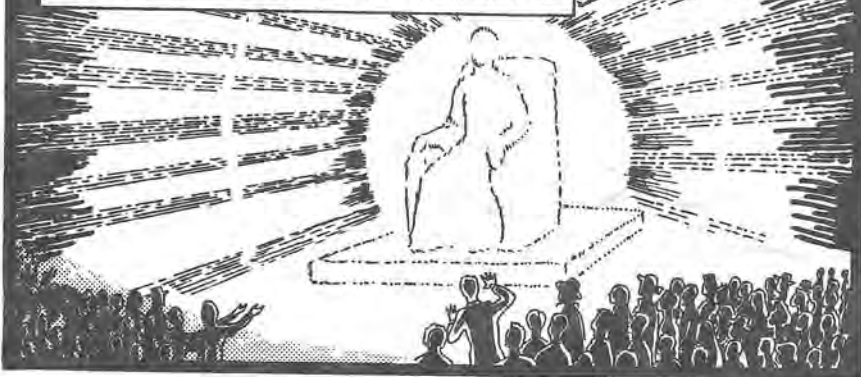
1. THE TEN VIRGINS (UNMARRIED WOMEN). MATTHEW 25:1-13



2. THE THREE SERVANTS AND THE MONEY THEY TOOK CARE OF FOR THEIR MASTER. MATTHEW 25:14-30



3. THE GREAT JUDGMENT. MATTHEW 25:31-46



ALL RIGHT NOW, WE UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS TALKED ABOUT TWO SEPARATE EVENTS IN HIS SPEECH TO HIS DISCIPLES, FIRST ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, AND SECOND, ABOUT HIS SECOND COMING.



BUT WHEN WE READ JESUS' WORDS, WE CAN BE CONFUSED ABOUT WHICH PART JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT. THIS IS WHY SOME PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND JESUS' WORDS.



WE MUST KEEP IN MIND JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT **TWO** DIFFERENT THINGS:

1. THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM (AND THE END OF THE JEWISH NATION): THERE WOULD BE SIGNS TO SHOW THIS TERRIBLE EVENT WAS COMING NEAR!



MATTHEW 24:32-34

2. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (AND THE END OF THE WHOLE WORLD): THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNS THIS EXCITING EVENT WAS COMING NEAR!



SEE THE DIFFERENCE?

BUT LET'S GO BACK AND SEE WHERE PEOPLE HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD JESUS.

MATTHEW 24:36

WHEN JESUS WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, SOME PEOPLE THINK HE WAS TALKING ABOUT SOME VERY TERRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN AT THE END OF THE WORLD.



THAT IS WHY SOME SINCERE, BUT MIS-GUIDED TEACHERS POINT TO THE SIGNS THEY THINK WILL SHOW JESUS' SECOND COMING IS NEAR.



BUT THE SIGNS JESUS SPOKE ABOUT POINT TO THE **DESTRUCTION** OF JERUSALEM IN 70 A.D.-- NOT TO HIS SECOND COMING.

JESUS SPOKE OF DIFFERENT SIGNS SHOWING THE TIME FOR JERUSALEM'S DESTRUCTION WAS NEAR...



WHEN THE GOSPEL HAD GONE INTO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE ROMAN WORLD, THE **END** WAS NEAR FOR THE JEWISH NATION.

THE WRITINGS OF JOSEPHUS, A JEWISH HISTORIAN, AND OF ROMAN HISTORIANS TACITUS AND SUETONIUS, ALL TELL US WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE 70 A.D....

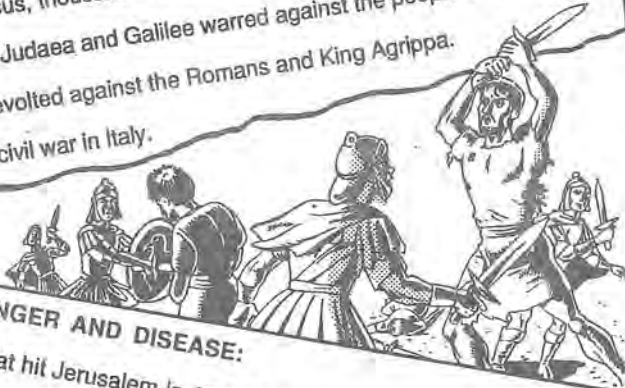


FALSE CHRISTS AND PROPHETS:

1. An Egyptian false prophet led 30,000 men into the desert. Acts 21:38
2. Simon Magus led the people of Samaria to believe he was the great power of God. Acts 8:8,10
3. Dositheus from Samaria told people he was the promised Christ of God.
4. Theudas was a false prophet who led many people to the Jordan River. He told them he would divide the Jordan River so the people could pass through! Naturally, this never happened.
5. Josephus the Jewish historian wrote that there were so many false Christs and prophets during the rule of the Roman Emperor Nero that some were taken and killed almost every day!

WARS:

1. The Roman Emperor Caligula made many Jews in Jerusalem very angry when he sent out an order to put his statute in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Jews refused to permit this to be done. Josephus the Jewish historian says the Jews were so upset about Caligula's order that they neglected their farms!
2. In many places, like Caesara, Scythopolis, Ascalon, Ptolemais, Alexandria, and Damascus, thousands of Jews were killed in battles.
3. The Jews of Judaea and Galilee warred against the people of Samaria.
4. The Jews revolted against the Romans and King Agrippa.
5. There was civil war in Italy.



TIMES OF HUNGER AND DISEASE:

1. The famine that hit Jerusalem in 46 A.D. (Acts 11:28) led to many Jews starving to death.
2. A famine also hit Rome.



EARTHQUAKES:

There was an unusual number of earthquakes that hit many Roman cities. Rome, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Collssee, Smyrna, Miletus, Chios, Pompeii and Samos were among those cities that suffered earthquakes. Earthquakes were also reported in Crete and Judea. Violent storms also hit Judea and many people there sensed these storms and earthquakes were signs of something very terrible soon to happen. (And they were right, in 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed Jerusalem!)



PERSECUTION:



1. Peter and John were beaten and thrown into prison, and delivered to the Jewish Council. **Acts 4:3,5**
2. Paul was arrested and appeared before four important officials: Gallio (Acts 18:12); Felix (Acts 24); and Festus and Agrippa (Acts 25).
3. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. **Acts 16:23**
4. Stephen and James were the first Christian leaders who were killed for their faith. **Acts 7:59, 12:2**
5. During the rule of the Roman Emperor Nero, a very terrible persecution led to the death and imprisonment of many Christians. The Bible does not say, but scholars believe that it was during this time both Peter and Paul were captured and put to death.

PEOPLE LEAVING THE FAITH:




1. Hymenaeus and Philetus believed in Christ, but they taught false teaching by telling people that the Resurrection was already past. **1 Timothy 2:17, 18**
2. Paul warned of false apostles. **2 Corinthians 11:13**
3. Some people changed the gospel of Christ. **Galatians 1:7**
4. John warned people not to believe every teacher, but to test them because many false prophets had gone out into the world. **1 John 4:1**



THE TERRIBLE THING THAT CAUSES DESTRUCTION (the King James Version says "Abomination of Desolation"):

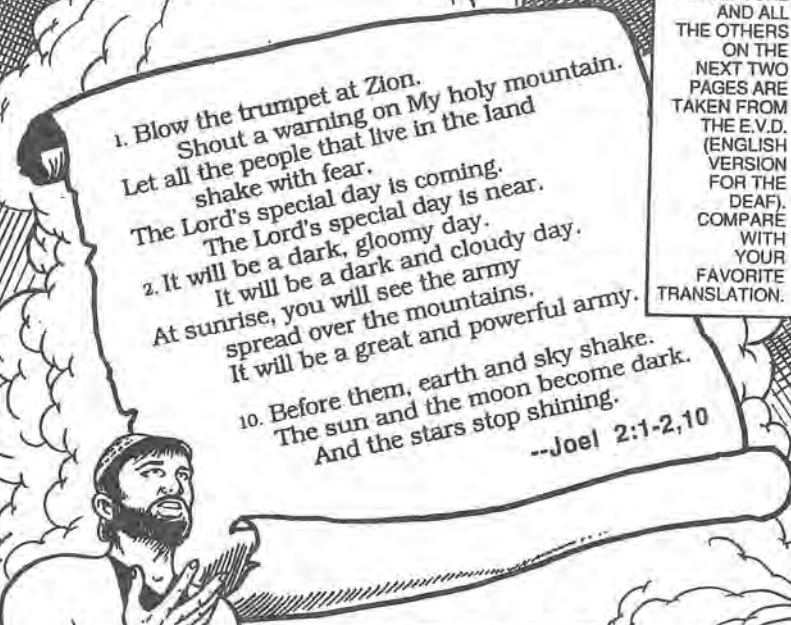
When the Roman army surrounded Jerusalem, they brought statues of eagles which symbolized the Roman Empire. They also brought idols. The Jews hated idols greatly, so they called these statues and idols "terrible things" or "abominations".



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE
SUN AND MOON BECOMING
DARK AND THE STARS
FALLING FROM HEAVEN?


AREN'T THEY SIGNS
OF JESUS' SECOND
COMING?

THIS MAY SURPRISE YOU, BUT THE **SAME** COLORFUL LANGUAGE
WAS USED BY THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS-- AND THEY WERE
NOT TALKING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD!



1. Blow the trumpet at Zion.
Shout a warning on My holy mountain.
Let all the people that live in the land
shake with fear.
The Lord's special day is coming.
The Lord's special day is near.
2. It will be a dark, gloomy day.
It will be a dark and cloudy day.
At sunrise, you will see the army
spread over the mountains.
It will be a great and powerful army.
10. Before them, earth and sky shake.
The sun and the moon become dark.
And the stars stop shining.
--Joel 2:1-2,10

THIS
SCRIPTURE
AND ALL
THE OTHERS
ON THE
NEXT TWO
PAGES ARE
TAKEN FROM
THE E.V.D.
(ENGLISH
VERSION
FOR THE
DEAF).
COMPARE
WITH
YOUR
FAVORITE
TRANSLATION.



JOEL, IN 760 B.C., WAS PREDICTING
BABYLON'S INVASION OF JERUSALEM,
WHICH HAPPENED IN 597 B.C., MORE
THAN 650 YEARS BEFORE THE ROMANS
DID THE SAME IN 70 A.D.

9. Look, the Lord's special day is coming! It will be a terrible day. God will become very angry, and He will destroy the country. God will force all people that sin to leave the country. 10. The skies will be dark. The sun, the moon, and the stars will not shine.

11. God says, "I will cause bad things to happen to the world. I will punish the evil people for their sin. I will cause the proud people to lose their pride. I will stop the bragging of the people that are mean to others. 12. There will be only a few people left. There will not be many, the same as gold is hard to find. And these people will be worth much more than pure gold. 13. With My anger, I will make the sky shake. And the earth will be moved from its place."

That will happen on the day the Lord All-Powerful shows His anger. 14. Then the people from Babylon will run away, like wounded deer. They will run like sheep that have no shepherd. Every person will turn and run back to his own country and people. 15. But the enemy will chase the people of Babylon. And when the enemy catches a person, the enemy will kill that person with a sword. 16. Everything in their houses will be stolen. Their wives will be raped. And their little children will be beaten to death while the people are watching.

17. God says, "Look, I will cause the armies of Media to attack Babylon."

--Isaiah 13:9-17

ABOVE, ISAIAH IN AROUND 710 B.C. PREDICTED THE DEFEAT OF THE BABYLONIANS BY THE MEDES IN 538 B.C.



BELOW, ISAIAH PREDICTED THE PUNISHMENT OF EDOM.

1. All you nations, come near and listen! All you people should listen closely. The earth and all the people on the earth should listen to these things. 2. The Lord is angry at all the nations and their armies. The Lord will destroy them all. He will cause them all to be killed. 3. Their bodies will be thrown outside. The stink will rise from the bodies, and the blood will flow down the mountains. 4. The skies will be rolled shut like a scroll. And the stars will die and fall like leaves from a vine or a fig tree. All the stars in the sky will melt away. 5. The Lord says, "This will happen when My sword in the sky is covered with blood."

Look! The Lord's sword will cut through Edom. The Lord judged those people guilty, and they must die. 6. Why? Because the Lord decided there should be a time for killing in Bozrah and in Edom.

--Isaiah 34:1-6

14. The Lord's special day for judging is coming soon! That day is near and coming fast. People will hear very sad sounds on the Lord's special day of judgment. Even strong soldiers will cry! 15. God will show His anger at that time. It will be a time of terrible troubles. It will be a time of destruction. It will be a time of darkness-- a black, cloudy and stormy day. 16. It will be like a time of war when people hear horns and trumpets in the defense towers and protected house.

17. The Lord said, "I will make life very hard on the people. People will walk around like blind men that don't know where they are going. Why? Because those people sinned against the Lord. Many people will be killed. Their blood will be spilled on the ground. Their dead bodies will be like dung on the ground. 18. Their gold and silver won't help them! At that time, the Lord will become very upset and angry. The Lord will destroy the whole world! The Lord will completely destroy everyone on earth!"

--Zephaniah 1:14-18

ABOVE, ZEPHANIAH IN AROUND 625 B.C. TOLD OF GOD'S PUNISHMENT ON THE PEOPLE LIVING IN JERUSALEM.



IN EVERY PROPHECY NOTICE HOW THE DARKENING OF THE SUN AND MOON ARE USED TO "PAINT" A PICTURE OF COMING DOOM!

BELOW, AMOS GAVE A TERRIBLE PROPHECY ABOUT THE ISRAELITES' PUNISHMENT.



"I will never forget the things that those people did.
8. The whole land will shake because of those things. Every person that lives in the land will cry for people that died. The whole land will rise and fall like the Nile River in Egypt. The land will be tossed around."

9. The Lord also said these things:
"At that time I will cause the sun to go down at noon. I will make the earth dark on a clear day."
10. I will change your holidays into days of crying for the dead."

--Amos 8:7-10

ON THESE TWO PAGES WE SHOW YOU **TWO** POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF JESUS' DISCUSSION IN MATTHEW 24. THE CHART BELOW SUGGESTS JESUS DOES NOT AT ALL DISCUSS HIS SECOND COMING UNTIL VERSE 36.

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, 70 A.D.

- v. 4-5- Don't let people fool you.
- v. 6- Wars will happen.
- v. 7- There will be famines, sickness and earthquakes.
- v. 8-9- Followers of Christ will be put in prison and murdered.
- v. 10- Many followers of Christ will lose their faith and do evil.
- v. 11- False prophets will come.
- v. 12- The increase of sin will cause the followers of Christ to lose their faith.
- v. 13- The follower of Christ who holds on to his faith to the end will be saved.
- v. 14- The gospel will go into all nations (of the Roman Empire), and then the end (of Jerusalem) will come.
- v. 15-18- When the followers of Christ see the Roman army coming around Jerusalem, they should run away.
- v. 19-20- The followers of Christ should pray that their flight from Jerusalem will not be blocked.
- v. 21-22- The trouble for the Jews in Jerusalem will be great and terrible. (11,000,000 Jews were killed by the Romans in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.; and 97,000 Jews were led into slavery.)
- v. 23-26- Don't believe false Christs.
- v. 27- Jesus' coming will be public like lightning.
- v. 28- The eagles (symbols of the Roman Empire) will gather around the dead body (of Jerusalem).
- v. 29- The sun, moon and stars represent leaders and nations who have fallen from their positions.
- v. 30- Jesus "comes" with great power (through Rome) to destroy Jerusalem.
- v. 31- Jesus sends angels to gather His people. The Greek word translated "angels" means "messengers", so evangelists could be referred to, who "gather" God's people by leading them to Christ through preaching the gospel to them.
- v. 32-33- Buds appearing on a fig tree are signs summer is near; in the same way, the signs above show the end of Jerusalem is near.
- v. 34- All the above will happen within the lifetime of the disciples (the generation in Jesus' time).
- v. 35- Jesus' words will never fail

JESUS' SECOND COMING, (?) A.D.

- v. 36- No one knows when Jesus' Second Coming is!
- v. 37-39- Jesus' Second Coming is as sudden and unpredictable as the flood in Noah's time.
- v. 40-41- Sinners and believers will be separated at Jesus' Second Coming.
- v. 42-44- Watch for Jesus' Second Coming!
- v. 45-47- The Parable of the Faithful Servant.
- v. 48- The Parable of the Unfaithful Servant.

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, 70 A.D.

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- v. 32-33- Buds appearing on a fig tree are signs summer is near; in the same way, the signs above show the end of Jerusalem is near.
- v. 34- All the above signs (except verses 30 and 31) will happen within the lifetime of the disciples (the generation in Jesus' time).
- v. 35- Jesus' words will never fail!

JESUS' SECOND COMING. (?) A.D.

- v. 27- Jesus' coming will be public like lightning.
- ← v. 29- The sun, moon and stars will become "dark".
- ← v. 30- Jesus comes with great power.
- ← v. 31- Jesus sends angels to gather his people from all over the world.
- v. 36- No one knows when Jesus' Second Coming is!
- v. 37-39- Jesus' Second Coming is as sudden and unpredictable as the flood in Noah's time.
- v. 40-41- Sinners and believers will be separated at Jesus' Second Coming.
- v. 42-44- Watch for Jesus' Second Coming!
- v. 45-47- The Parable of the Faithful Servant.
- v. 48- The Parable of the Unfaithful Servant.

AND THE ABOVE CHART SHOWS ANOTHER INTERPRETATION--
 JESUS MOVED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT
 SUBJECTS, DISCUSSING JERUSALEM'S DESTRUCTION AND
 THEN HIS SECOND COMING, AND BACK TO JERUSALEM, AND SO ON.

MANY PEOPLE, EVEN SOME TEACHERS AND PREACHERS, HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD MATTHEW 24:4-35 AND APPLIED MOST OF IT TO JESUS' SECOND COMING AND FINAL EVENTS ON EARTH, WHEN JESUS WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT THE END OF THE JEWISH NATION IN 70 A.D.



HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE SEEN BY OUR STUDY OF THE REST OF CHAPTER 24 AS WELL AS CHAPTER 25 OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, JESUS **DOES** DEVOTE SOME DISCUSSION TO HIS SECOND COMING.



LET US BE READY FOR THAT MOST WONDERFUL DAY!



But the Day when the Lord comes again will be a surprise like a thief. The sky will disappear with a loud noise. All the things in the sky will be destroyed with fire. And the earth and everything in it will be burned. In that way everything will be destroyed like I told you. So what kind of people should you be? You should live holy lives and do things to serve God.
--2 Peter 3:10, EVD



The Lord Himself will come down from heaven. There will be a loud command. That command will be given with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God. And the people who have died and were in Christ will rise first. After that, we people who are still alive at that time will be gathered up with those people who have died. We will be taken up in the clouds and meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever. So comfort each other with these words.
--1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, EVD



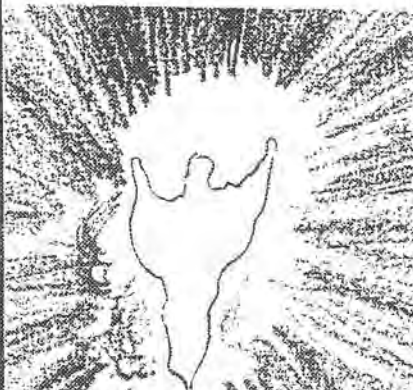
But our home is in heaven. We are waiting for our Savior to come from heaven. Our Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ.

--Philippians 3:20, EVD



What Happens When Christ Returns?

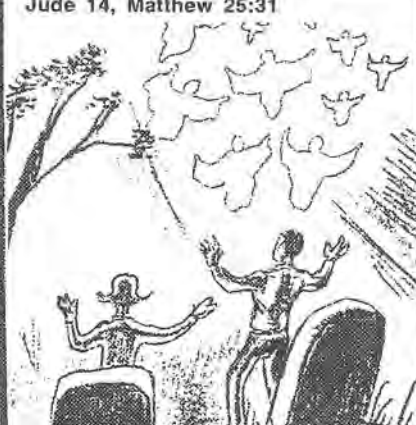
There will first be a **SHOUT** from heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:16



Then **CHRIST** will be **SEEN** by **ALL**, coming in **POWER** and **GLORY**. Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7

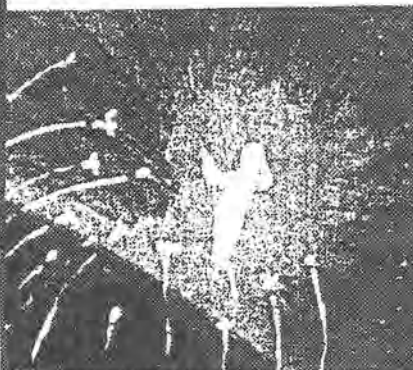
MANY ANGELS will accompany Christ.

Jude 14, Matthew 25:31



The **DEAD** will be brought **BACK TO LIFE**. John 5:28,29

The **FAITHFUL'S** bodies will be **INSTANTLY** changed into a **NEW KIND** of flesh. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54



The **FAITHFUL** will fly into the sky to **MEET** Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

The **WORLD** will be **DESTROYED** by fire. 2 Peter 3:10



The **JUDGMENT** will take place. 2 Timothy 4:1



The **ETERNAL SENTENCES** will be announced. Matthew 25:46



The **KINGDOM** of Christ will be delivered to the **FATHER**. 1 Corinthians 15:24

BIBLE VERSE



And Christ will come a second time, but not for people's sin. Christ will come the second time to bring salvation to those people who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:28, EVD

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