



Is Jesus Really Returning? (Part II)

Matthew 24:3: (NASB) As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?

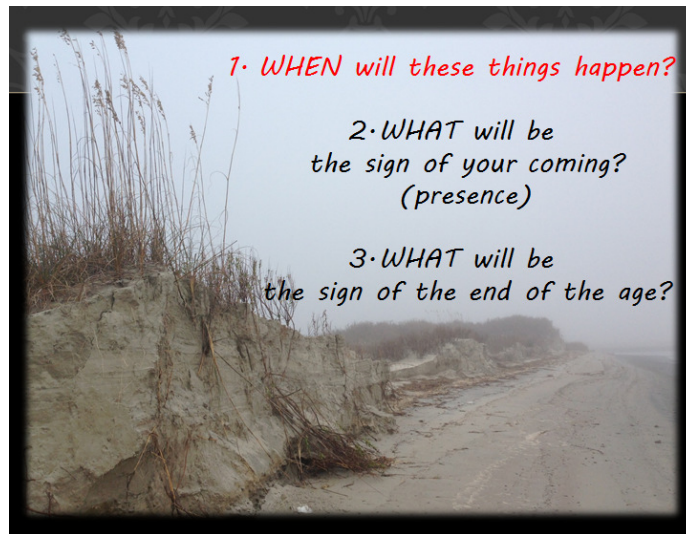


A few weeks ago (*"Is Jesus Really Returning? Part I" - January 19, 2014*) we began to unfold one of the greatest Bible prophecies ever spoken, the prophecy that Jesus himself spoke relating to his return. We talked about how returning was a process and how his eventual revealing would be similar to a sunrise. We talked about how it was built upon the sacrificial work of his first advent to pay the price for sin and how the second advent is to reclaim the world from Satan.

Today we continue that conversation and focus on just how he answered the three questions in our theme text.

Let's start by looking at the three questions:

Matthew 24:3: (NASB) As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, 1. when will these things happen, 2. and what will be the sign of your coming, 3. and of the end of the age?



Let's review the context...in Matthew 23, the disciples heard Jesus scold the Pharisees and their hypocrisy while at the temple. The chapter ends with the proclamation of the desolation of Jerusalem.

Matthew 23:37-39: (NASB) ³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹For I say to you, from now on you will not see me until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

The expectation was that the Messiah would come to set up a kingdom with the centerpiece in Jerusalem. This proclamation of the desolation of Jerusalem would have been contrary to such an expectation.

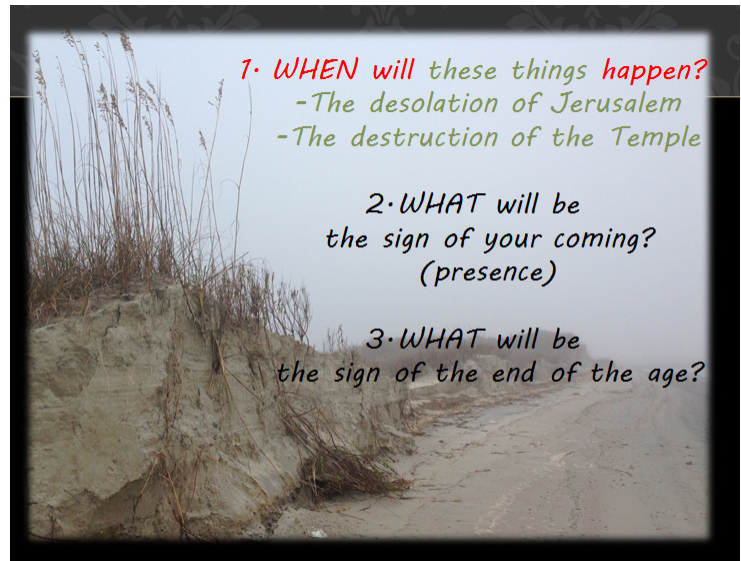


After this stark proclamation, Matthew 24 begins:

Matthew 24:1-2: (NASB) ¹*Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when his disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to him.* ²*And he said to them, do you not see all these **things**? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.*

So, the *things* the disciples asked about were: 1. The desolation of Jerusalem, **AND** 2. the Temple's destruction.

They then added two other questions that, from their perspective, would seem logical - **and what will be the sign of your coming (presence*), and of the end of the age?**



**Please refer to CQ Program, "Is Jesus Really Returning? Part I" - January 19, 2014*

Sitting where we sit in 2014, it is easy to see how the destruction of Jerusalem was an entirely different event than Jesus' return. Jesus was referring to the literal destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. We would like to suggest that Jesus answered all three questions, but in a somewhat veiled way: What if Jesus answered the first question (which pertained to their lifetime) first and then went on to the others?

Consider this suggestion: Matthew 24:4-13 applies to the time of the Apostles up to A.D. 70. We will see this approach not only tells them what will happen to *them* in their lifetimes, it will also create a template of what would be happening throughout the bulk of the Gospel Age (the time period that the Gospel is spread - we are living in this time period now) leading to the "Time of the End."

Jesus would tell them what is coming sooner (in their lifetimes) **AND** what would be coming later (long after they all died). There are two layers of application - the actual fulfillment in the day of the disciples **AND** after their day, the fulfillment for us over a bigger period of time.

Matthew 24:4-5: (NASB) ⁴*And Jesus answered and said to them, See to it that no one misleads you.* ⁵*For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and will mislead many.*

The first warning for the disciples was: Be careful no one misleads you; stay true to the Gospel message and watch out for false teachers. Obviously this has been a chronic problem for 2,000 years!



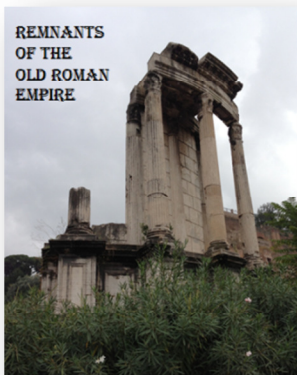
Even in those early times there were false leaders:

Acts 5:36-37: (NASB) ³⁶For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered.

False leadership arises. It never takes long for something good and pure, like Christianity, to be corrupted by greed and pride. People are drawn to that which is good and people like to take advantage of that.

Jesus was concerned about his disciples and wanted to convey as much as possible regarding what would happen in their own lifetime. In this one chapter of Matthew 24, he laid out a comprehensive history of the Gospel from that time to our present day.

Matthew 24:6-8: (NASB) ⁶You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.



Jesus was speaking to them in their own personal context. History shows us what happened next...

(Source: Commentary from "The Peoples' Bible") The Jewish war began in A.D. 66 and ended five years after. During this period all the Roman Empire was filled with commotion. Galba overthrew Nero, the emperor six months after, Otho overthrew Galba; a few months after, Otho was overthrown by Vitellius; a little later, Vespasian overthrew him. All of these but the last who ascended the throne shortly before Jerusalem was destroyed, died violent deaths.

Matthew 24:9-10: (NASB) ⁹Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.



(Source: Bible Commentator Alfred Barnes) And shall kill you - That is, shall kill some of you. Stephen was stoned Acts 7:59; James was killed by Herod Acts 12:2; and, in addition to all that the sacred writers have told us, the persecution under Nero took place before the destruction of Jerusalem, in which were put to death, with many others, Peter and Paul. Most of the apostles, it is believed, died by persecution.

(Right) The Arch of Titus in Rome constructed to commemorate Titus' victories, including the siege of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Notice the detail of the spoils being taken from the Temple, including the Golden Candelabra or Menorah and other sacred objects. Many Jews were taken captive as slaves during the construction of the Coliseum. This Arch was a symbol of Jewish defeat and for centuries, Jews refused to walk under it. On May 14, 1948 when the State of Israel was founded, modern day Roman Jews spontaneously converged on the Arch of Titus in joyous celebration.



Matthew 24:11-13: (NASB) *¹¹Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹²Because lawlessness is increased; most people's love will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

(Source: Bible commentary by Adam Clarke) *False prophets* - Also were to be raised up; such as Simon Magus and his followers; and the false apostles complained of by St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:13, who were deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. Such also were Hymeneus and Philetus, 2 Timothy 2:17, 2 Timothy 2:18.

For Jesus' followers at that time, this was a detailed answer and warning of what was to come. This horrible time of trouble Israel would endure would come soon but it would also serve as a picture of greater trouble to come much later. So there were two layers to this prophecy - an immediate fulfillment and then a picture of what would happen later on a grander scale.

The next verse helps us to see how the focus of the prophecy changes dramatically:

Matthew 24:14: (NASB) *This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

(Source: Biblical commentary by C.T. Russell) Matthew 24:14 - But witnessing to the world does not imply the *conversion* of the world. The text says nothing about *how* the testimony will be received. This witness has already been given. In 1861, the reports of the Bible Societies showed that the Gospel had been published in every language of earth, though not all of earth's millions had received it. No, not one half of the sixteen hundred millions living have ever heard the name of Jesus. Yet the condition of the text is fulfilled: the gospel has been preached in the entire world for a witness—to every nation.



Back in the 1800's, there was a dramatic awakening of the preaching of the Gospel due to the invention of the printing press and thus the ability to distribute copies of the Bible. The message went out around the world in every language. This was a literal fulfillment of this prophecy.

Now we move onto the Dark Ages and something Daniel and Jesus called the *abomination of desolation*.

Matthew 24:15-19: (NASB) *¹⁵Therefore when you see the **abomination of desolation** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains; ¹⁷Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. ¹⁸Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. ¹⁹But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*



There are some critical timing features as seen by the elect (those who see - those who are faithful followers):

- Daniel prophesied about this in the context of the beginning of the "1260 days." (See *Daniel 12* and *CQ Rewind Full Edition "Why Do Historians Dislike Daniel So Much?"* - November 3, 2013)
- Daniel also spoke of the *abomination of desolation* in the context of this particular time prophecy.
- To "see it" must mean it is already there and functional. When, where and how was this established?
- "It" is *standing in the holy place* - where or what and when is that?

How is this *abomination* described in Scripture?

Remember the abomination is brought up long before Jesus tied it into the end time. That means Jesus had not yet returned at the time of the abomination.

A New Testament look:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: (NASB) ³*Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.*

Somebody or something is self-exalted, sitting in the temple of God. What temple could that possibly be since the literal Temple in Jerusalem was already destroyed?

1 Corinthians 3:16: (KJV) *Know ye not that ye are the **temple <3485>** of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

2 Corinthians 6:16: (KJV) *And what agreement hath the **temple <3485>** of God with idols? For ye are the **temple <3485>** of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

So, it is in the context of the development of true church that this lawless one calls himself God. The true church - the faithful individuals following after Christ - is described as the temple of God. This temple is not a physical place.

1 Timothy 4:1-3: (NRSV) ¹*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. ³They **forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods**, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

The New Testament provides specific descriptive clues:

- Forbidding some to marry;
- demanding abstinence from foods;
- calling oneself God; and
- a tool of destruction.





(Please refer to CQ Rewind Full Edition "Why Do Historians Dislike Daniel So Much?" November 3, 2013 for more on the time prophecies of Daniel.)

From the Old Testament, this self-exalted entity is developed in the context of the Roman Empire and becomes a ruthless ruler.

A church-state system developed as the Holy Roman Empire ruled through the papal system as if they were God in A.D.539. This took Christianity way out of the context of what it was supposed to be. Christianity's directive was never to take over ruling the current governments.

When you (spiritual Israelites) see this corrupting of spiritual Israel during the Papal reign then what are you supposed to do?

Matthew 24:16: (NASB) *then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.* (Time context - during the abomination - verified in Luke 21:20-24 - see page 8 for more)

Mountains in Scripture symbolize governments.

Judea is a picture of Christendom and not the literal countryside. Those there are to flee to the pure source of truth:

Isaiah 2:2: (NASB) *Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.*

Matthew 24:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷*Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.*

Those truly most spiritual are the closest to God, metaphorically *on the housetop*. But they are not separated from the corruption. For example, Peter prayed on the housetop when given the vision to convert Cornelius. The admonition here is to leave all behind. Don't waste any time staying where it has been corrupted.

¹⁸*Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.*

In the field = One coming from the world and seeing these corruptions of Christianity.

Matthew 13:37-38: (NRSV) ³⁷*He answered, the one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,*

History shows just how dark and ominous the Dark Ages were.

Matthew 24:19: (NASB) ¹⁹*But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!*

It is a sad circumstance to bring new babies to a form of Christianity in such a corrupted atmosphere.

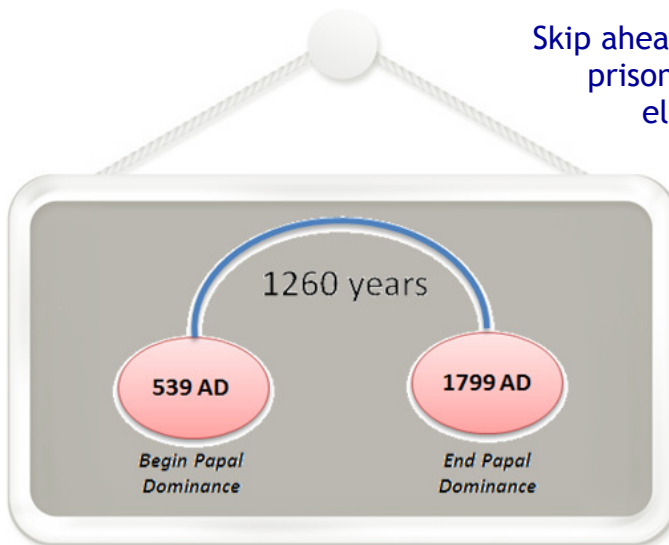
Matthew 24:20: (NRSV) *Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.*

You - back to the *personal* direction to those separated and striving. The previous verses discussed *those*. This personal approach sets the scene for the verses to come.



Matthew 24:21-22: (NASB) ²¹For *then* there will be **a great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²²Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

This begins a new time frame from A.D. 1799, when the papal reign ended, to present day. When is the *then* mentioned in **Matthew 24:21**? After all of the darkness of the Dark Ages. In A.D. 539, the Pope was unambiguously in control of Rome as a political appointee. Rome was no longer just a religious power but also now a political power.



Skip ahead 1,260 years to A.D. 1799 when the Pope died as a prisoner of Napoleon, and Napoleon would not allow the election of a successor. Napoleon crowned himself king showing that the Pope had no authority over him. Prior to this time, the Pope and the Roman Pontiff would always have been the ones to govern the affairs of Europe. After the Napoleonic wars, the Pope was not even invited to the conclave that resolved things and as such, papal political power ended. This was a new chapter in the history of Rome. The Catholic Encyclopedia recognizes 1799 as the very lowest point of Papal fortunes in modern times.

“Time of Trouble” Scriptures:

Daniel 12:1-4: (NIV) ¹At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be **a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then**. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered. ²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. **Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.**

The increase of transportation and of knowledge has spiked sharply since the 1800's, and even more so in the last decade!

James 5:1-5: (NIV) ¹Now listen; you rich people weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. ²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

This is where we are headed right now. We are absolutely in a world where this type of trouble has never before been seen. Diseases, moral decay, terrorism, environmental destruction...the list goes on.



Still describing the post-papal era - our time now:

Matthew 24:23-27: (NASB) ²³Then if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ, or there he is, do not believe him. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶So if they say to you, behold, he is in the wilderness, do not go out, or, behold, he is in the inner rooms, do not believe them. ²⁷For just as the **lightning** comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.



Remember - lightning here actually means as a sunrise!

False Christs and prophets are different than the Anti-Christ.

False = pseudo Anti = in place of, like a counterfeit

2 Peter 2:1-3: (NRSV) ¹But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ²Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned. ³And in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced against them long ago, has not been idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

This reminds us of how so often Christianity has been maligned, turned into a money-making machine and "ME ME ME!" instead of sacrificing our wills to Christ. It becomes idolatrous because it is about *us* instead of Jesus. It should not surprise us since this was prophesied specifically about the time in which we are living. This is how Jesus described the *end of the age* and of his presence.

Will the sun be literally darkened and will stars literally fall from the sky?

Perhaps these next verses are a recap?

Matthew 24:29: (NASB) *but immediately after the tribulation of those days...*

What days? The days of tribulation under the iron rule of Christendom.

We need the Luke account to help make sense of this!

Luke 21:20-24: (NRSV) ²⁰When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹**Then** those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; ²²**for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written.** ²³Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! **For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; ²⁴they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

This proves the necessity to watch Israel to give us clues as to the return of Jesus, the end of Israel's period of disfavor and the end of the age. Israel would be scattered as a nation until a certain period of time, called *the Times of the Gentiles*. What was proclaimed by Jesus in A.D. 33 just weeks before his crucifixion finds its end at the very time of Jesus' return!



When looking for the return of Jesus, one of the things to look at is Israel, because it was said that he would be present during that time.



Here is what this period of spiritual darkness produces, even after its iron rule is diminished:

Matthew 24:29-31: (NASB) *...the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,*

This is a different kind of darkness than we experienced before these end times. The light of truth now begins to be obscured by the new "science" of evolution, which inherently removes the need for the ransom price of Jesus. (Evolution says man is continually evolving on an upward path, contrary to what the Scriptures teach.) Also, the light of the Mosaic Law now begins to be obscured by the idolatry of our modern day that essentially says, "I am my own god..." *Thou shalt have no other gods before Me!*

With the increase of knowledge comes great strides forward and unfortunately backwards as well. We use knowledge to both heal and kill. The internet is the greatest tool mankind has ever been given, but it is one of the greatest evils.

and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.



The stars are the spiritual leaders falling to their own hypocrisy and the ecclesiastical powers (organized churches) are being shaken.

Other prophecies talk about metaphorical shaking of the heavens and earth:

Hebrews 12:26: (NASB) ²⁶*And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.*

Jesus returns to take back what is rightfully his from Satan. Satan was allowed to rule but time is up. There has to be a shaking when that happens. Jesus is performing a marvelous spiritual work with his return. As the Messiah at

his first advent, it was a human work to be the counterpart for Adam and physically show a kingdom on earth. Because the ransom price was paid, now his work is a spiritual work where he fights against spiritual battles as he reclaims God's kingdom.

Luke's account fits in here to help verify that now is considered the great time of trouble:

Luke 21:25-26: (NRSV) ²⁵*There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.* ²⁶*People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

This is not a literal storm at sea. Prophetically *restless seas* = masses of humankind. We see the world very restless right now in a way we have never seen before.



Back to Matthew:

Matthew 24:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send forth his angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Remember the return of Jesus did not begin with an appearing as in the beginning of his return, he was invisible. This set of Scriptures drops in on the process, but will there be a literal trumpet in the sky? No, because all of the other descriptions were symbolic. But we know the signs of his return are being shown to us through the tribulation around us. And there is at least one other clue - the re-establishment of Israel!

Luke adds:

Luke 21:28: (NRSV) *Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

What is the easiest and most clearly understood sign of Jesus' return?



Matthew 24:32-35: (NASB) ³²Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; ³³So, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that he is near, right at the door. ³⁴Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

When someone is right at your door, you are expecting company. When Jesus is *right at the door*, he has arrived! We know he is here when we see Israel being established as a nation.

The Luke rendering adds another dimension:

Luke 21:29-30: (KJV) ²⁹And he spake to them a parable; **Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;** (an increase in the number of countries worldwide) ³⁰When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

How do we know Israel is this fig tree?

Old Testament reference:

Hosea 9:10: (NRSV) *Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree, in its first season, I saw your ancestors. But they came to Baal-peor, and consecrated themselves to a thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved.*

Luke 13:6-9: (NRSV) ⁶Then he told this parable: A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil? ⁸He replied, Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.



(Source: Biblical commentary by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown) Luke 13:6-9. fig tree—Israel, as the visible witness of God in the world.



Matthew 21:1-17 describes Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where the people were crying "Hosanna!" ("Save us now!") But soon after came the cursing of the fig tree...

Matthew 21:18-21: (NRSV) ¹⁸*In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, may no fruit ever come from you again! And the fig tree withered at once. ²⁰When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, how did the fig tree wither at once? ²¹Jesus answered them, truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the sea, it will be done.*

This was the actual withering of a fig tree that Jesus used as a picture of Israel rejecting him.

Two chapters later, he casts off Jerusalem:

Matthew 23:37-38: (NRSV) ³⁷*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate.*

Let's go back to our original three questions:

1. When will these things (the desolation of Jerusalem and the Temple being destroyed) happen?

He answered them in Matthew 24:4-14, but he also laid out a template for what would happen during the Dark Ages, a time when one couldn't recognize Jesus in how "Christians" behaved.

2. What will be the signs of your presence?
3. And of the end of the age?

Jesus gave the history of what would happen in their lifetimes, then the history of how Christianity would be corrupted, then the end of the age and his return. He gave them more than what they asked for. The signal for the End Times began in A.D. 1799 with Napoleon taking the Pope prisoner. This is a period of time - a process. The Gospel was preached throughout all the lands. In 1861, the Bible had been translated into every known language in all corners of the earth.

This is the context of Jesus returning and being here. Then the parable of the fig tree...when it begins to sprout leaves, you know that I am right at the door. In 1878, the first settlement of Jews in Israel was called Petah Tikvah, translated "the Door of Hope." That is a literal fulfillment of a prophecy in Isaiah. Jesus was pulling back favor to Israel, the favor they had lost when they rejected him at his first advent.

If Jesus has returned, why aren't we in a better place? Because the end times are a time of trouble and the wrestling back of the world from the grip of Satan. His purpose for being here is on a spiritual level, not on a physical level.



So, in the midst of all of this difficulty and unrest, let us always remember what else the prophet Daniel said:

Daniel 2:44: (NASB) *In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*

*So, is Jesus really returning?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



A few thoughts on some of Matthew 24 that we did not cover:

The calling out of all walks of life to be true Christians with the emphasis on calling OUT of the systems of Christianity which are corrupt:

Matthew 24:40-42: (NRSV) ⁴⁰*Then two will be in the field; one will be **taken** and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be **taken** and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*

be in the field: in the world, outside the nominal house.

Matthew 13:37-38: (NRSV) ³⁷*He answered, the one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,*

grinding at the mill: The place where food is prepared; the theological schools and the ministry.

one shall be taken: To the food of truth

Luke's rendering:

Luke 17:34-37: (NRSV) ³⁴*I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left...³⁷Then they asked him, where, Lord? He said to them, where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

Taken: Strong's #3880 paralambnw paralambano par-al-am-ban'-o

AV-take 30, receive 15, take unto 2, take up 2, take away 1;

1) to take to, to take with one's self, to join to one's self

1a) an associate, a companion 1b) metaph.

1b1) to accept or acknowledge one to be such as he professes to be

1b2) not to reject, not to withhold obedience 2) to receive something transmitted

2a) an office to be discharged 2b) to receive with the mind

Some uses:

Matthew 1:20: (KJV) *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to **take** <3880> unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 4:5: (KJV) *Then the devil **taketh** <3880> him up <3880> into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*



John 1:11: (KJV) *He came unto his own, and his own **received <3880>** him not.*

Acts 15:39: (KJV) *And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas **took <3880>** Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*

Colossians 2:6: (KJV) *as ye have **<3880>** therefore **received <3880>** Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

Hebrews 12:28: (KJV) *Wherefore we **receiving <3880>** a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

Taken where?

the carcass: the body, the food; the real food, a satisfying portion.

Matthew 18:20: (NASB) *For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.*