

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #19

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

Email responses may be sent to: TychicusTruths@johnpolkll.com

The End Times by John T Polk II

Question: "Are we seeing signs of the end times?"

Answer: Let's study Scripture for the answer.

1) There is no Bible "sign" that precedes Jesus' second coming. Jesus predicted the destruction of the Temple in

Jerusalem (**Matthew 24:1-2**) and His disciples asked when that would take place and added another question about His coming (**Matthew 24:3**). Jesus then proceeded to answer the first (**Matthew 24:4-34**) by **pointing to common**

occurrences: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake." (**Matthew 24:7-9**)

The **"beginning of sorrows"** connected with Jerusalem's destruction should have caused Jesus' disciples to begin watching what would otherwise be regular events, but when they circled closer to Judea, His disciples should be on the alert (**Matthew 24:10-14**). **When these events entered the Judean area**, then Jesus says disciples should flee from the "abomination of desolation" prophesied by Daniel the prophet (**Matthew 24:15-34**), for this is the final rejection of the Jews as God's chosen people. **The "end" (or "completion")** of which Jesus spoke (**Matthew 24:6,13,14**), was the destruction of Jerusalem, which was clearly understood as the "abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet" (**Matthew 24:15-34**), and identified in **Luke 21:20**: "when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies."

All of the preceding and prediction "signs" Jesus had directed in His prophecy to the destruction of Jerusalem: "And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (**Luke 21:24**).

"The times of the Gentiles" refer to God ruling in the affairs of men to the extent that, just as the Jews had crucified Jesus Christ by "lawless hands," or Roman soldiers (**Acts 2:23**), God would bring His destructive judgment upon the Israelites

through those same "lawless hands" (Roman soldiers). There are no indicators that describe activities before His Second Coming and the destruction of the Earth. The similarity drawn, in **Matthew 24:27-31**, between Divine Judgment upon Jerusalem and the end of the world is to emphasize that it is caused by a heavenly decision and not just earthly events! This destruction of Jerusalem was God's ultimate show of rejection of the Jews as His chosen people. [Please refer to the tract, *Are the Jews God's Chosen People Today*, for further discussion on this point. It is available on my website: johnpolkll.com.] Lest we forget His purpose in this answer, Jesus immediately reminded them that He was referring to "this generation" (**Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:32**), that is, those living then. And His words would not be changed until they were fulfilled (**Matthew 24:35**).

2) But like a broad-brush line painted down the middle of the highway, Jesus turned his attention to His 2nd Coming when He said: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (**Matthew 24:36**). Clearly, He is addressing a **"day and hour"** which will occur at a time known only by God, Himself. This could not be the same event that has been discussed in the previous verses, for that one was identifiable by preceding indicators, and this one has no way of knowing when it will happen. Angels don't know when; Jesus, while on Earth, did not know when; and the Father has not revealed it to anyone, including all who read His Bible. Thus, there is absolutely no Scripture that indicates, hints, or in any way reveals when Jesus Christ is coming again. *Therefore, all who attempt to pry into God's mind when He has chosen not to reveal something are demonstrating their lack of faith in God's Word.*

Jesus proceeds to give four illustrations to show the suddenness with which the 2nd Coming will happen:

- 1. Flood in Noah's day (**Matthew 24:37-42**)** which ends with: "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."
- 2. A thief breaking into a house (**Matthew 24:43-44**)** which ends with: "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him."
- 3. A wicked servant taking advantage of his master's absence (**Matthew 24:45-51**)** which ends with: "The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for

him and at an hour that he is not aware of."

4. The parable of five foolish virgins who were unprepared for the bridegroom's coming (**Matthew 25:1-13**), which ends with: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." The certainty and completeness of that Judgment Day to come are set before us with the parable of the 1-, 2-, and 5- talent men who were to use their talents until their lord settled their accounts (**Matthew 25:14-30**), and the fact that "all nations" will stand before "the Son of Man" who separates the sheep from the goats (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

It is the "untaught and unstable" people who "twist" the Scriptures "to their own destruction" (**2 Peter 3:16**) and unfortunately all who follow their doctrines (**2 Peter 3:17**). *To combine passages that discuss two entirely different things is to ignore the complete inspiration of the Scriptures.* Those who cannot see the difference Jesus drew between the destruction of Jerusalem (**Matthew 24:4-35**) and the Second Coming of Jesus (**Matthew 24:36-51**; **25:1-46**) may be blind to other Scriptures as well. The distinction Jesus drew in **Matthew 24:36** between the two discussions is easy to see if one is paying attention to what the Bible actually says! ~~~jtp!!

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~~"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery." ~~~Winston Churchill

~~"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." ~~~Abraham Lincoln

~~There's nothing like work to take the miseries out of a man... ~George Manville Fenn

~~Honest labor dispels melancholy. ~James Lendall Basford (1845-1915),

Sparks from the Philosopher's Stone, 1882

~~That was but a prelude; where they burn books, they will ultimately burn people as well.

~Heinrich Heine, 1821

THE EVANGELIST



"There are no illegitimate children
— only illegitimate parents."

· EACH DAY I AM
THANKFUL FOR
NIGHTS THAT TURNED
INTO MORNINGS
FRIENDS THAT TURNED
INTO FAMILY
DREAMS THAT TURNED
INTO REALITY
AND LIKES THAT TURNED
INTO LOVE

When is a Sermon Successful?



- WHEN IT IS TRUE TO GOD'S WORD
- WHEN IT IS PREACHED IN LOVE
- WHEN IT IS PREPARED TO MEET A NEED
- WHEN IT IS SPOKEN SO ALL CAN UNDERSTAND
- WHEN IT CHALLENGES PEOPLE TO THINK
- WHEN IT HELPS PEOPLE
- WHEN IT GLORIFIES GOD

"Yes, woe is me, if I do not preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16