



## "NO ONE KNOWS"

Written by Clifton Angel

Admittedly, Matthew 24 is a difficult passage of Scripture. It contains figurative language, apocalyptic literature, and statements that easily can be misinterpreted and misapplied. Adding to the difficulty of the passage are the false doctrines that take misinterpretations of the passage to errant extremes—namely, Premillennialism and Realized Eschatology.

Premillennialists teach that Matthew 24 is all about the final coming of Jesus, at which time they claim He will setup His earthly kingdom and reign for 1,000 years upon the earth. Quite often, the passage is applied to modern-day catastrophes, tragedies, and such like to teach that Jesus' final return is near and that these are "signs" (cf. 24:6-8,30). Furthermore, they use the passage to reinforce their false narrative of a secret rapture (cf. 24:40-41).

Realized Eschatologists teach that Matthew 24 is all about the destruction of Jerusalem of A.D. 70, which they claim was His final coming. They assert that all prophecy concerning Jesus, His kingdom, His coming, and the final resurrection was fulfilled in A.D. 70, when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans. It is common

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

VISITORS,  
WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes  
for all ages & fellowship  
for lunch every Sunday!

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

Jim Jackson

### DEACONS

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Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell

JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

for proponents of Realized Eschatology to spiritualize passages where God does not, or to make figurative passages that God intends to be literal.

To understand even the general message of Matthew 24, it is vital that the context and the questions that spawned Jesus' answers be considered, first. Jesus had just been upbraiding the false teachers and hypocrites (scribes and Pharisees) in the temple (cf. Matthew 23). Before leaving the temple, He wept for the spiritual condition of Jerusalem and those who occupied the temple (Matthew 23:37-39). Ironically, as He left the temple, His disciples boasted to Jesus of the temple's physical construction (24:1). Jesus said, **"See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down"** (24:2). Many of the Jews, including Jesus' own disciples, made the mistake of believing Jesus was going to establish an earthly kingdom, make Israel a world empire over all other nations, and fill the Jerusalem temple with more glory than ever before. Jesus said the opposite. He told them the temple would be destroyed. Continuing to be blinded by their false interpretations, the disciples asked, **"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"** (24:3). Herein is the foundation for all the words of Jesus that follow. In the minds of the disciples, they were asking about one event. They believed the destruction of the temple must be the end of the whole world and the final coming of Jesus. However, Jesus' answer indicated the destruction of the temple and His final coming at the end of the world would be two distinct events. The time of the destruction of the temple could be known based upon many evidences, signs, and a time frame that Jesus gave.

First, Jesus gave reference to events that had to take place before the temple was destroyed (24:4-14). It has been shown by history that such events did occur just as Jesus predicted. Wayne Jackson says, "A more thorough discussion of these matters may be found in J. Marcellus Kik's volume, *Matthew 24*."

Next, Jesus detailed signs—tangible indicators—by which His disciples could know when the destruction of the temple was near enough that they would need to ...

... "flee into the mountains" (24:15-33).

Finally, concerning the destruction of the Jerusalem temple and all of the events and signs He has just given to them, Jesus concluded: **"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled"** (24:34). Wayne Jackson says this verse is "the 'key' that unlocks the chapter." Jesus gave a time frame by which these things must occur, culminating with the destruction of the temple.

Beginning at Matthew 24:35, Jesus discussed "the end of the world" (24:3). **"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"** (24:35). He follows the words of Matthew 24:35-51 with other pertinent parables and teachings that applied to His final coming and His disciples' preparation for that day (Matthew 25). **"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only"** (Matthew 24:36). Jesus had told them they CAN know, and even would be given signs, when the destruction of Jerusalem was to take place. But, here, Jesus said they CANNOT know when "the end of the world"—the passing of the universe ("heaven and earth")—will happen, until it happens (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 2 Peter 3:9-10; Matthew 24:42-43). Therefore, be ready, always.

It is ironic to me that rooted in the misunderstandings of Jesus' disciples are principles that are being perpetuated by Premillennialists and Realized Eschatologists. Premillennialists claim Jesus will setup an earthly kingdom, reign from Jerusalem, and restore glory to the nation of Israel. Jesus' disciples also believed this before learning better. Realized Eschatologists claim more significance for Jerusalem, the temple, and the destruction of them than does Jesus. His disciples also believed this before learning better.

Let's learn better. Let's continue to grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

### Works Cited

Jackson, Wayne. "A Study of Matthew 24." *Christian Courier*. Online. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/19-study-of-matthew-24-a>.

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Terry Davis**, recovering from surgery;  
**Wiley Tuggle; Clarence & Faye Edwards;**  
**Sammy Williams; Inez Neyman.**

### **Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters**

#### Family & Friends

**Michael Rocco**, Lara's brother-in-law, doing well in his recovery from pneumonia, linked to COVID; **Charles Savage**, recovering from COVID and battling other health problems; **Loretta Newton**, Joe's aunt, leukemia; **Mac Easley**, rehab; **Axel Holliday**, Ginger's co-worker's grandson; **Paul Perkins; Kathy Gulledge; Betty Culbreath; Martha Williams.**

### *Anniversaries*

8/1 Terry & Dana Davis  
 8/1 John & Suzanne Wofford  
 8/6 Tim II & Rachel Wilkes  
 8/17 Tim & Monica Meredith

### *Birthdays*

8/4 Terry Davis                      8/17 Dana Davis  
 8/6 Monica Meredith              8/18 Carl Honeycutt  
 8/9 Xander Cagle                    8/25 Addi Bayless  
 8/10 Larry Campbell                8/26 Jim Jackson  
 8/14 Lily Wilkes                      8/28 Jerry Davis  
 8/15 Carolyn Davis                 8/30 Hannah Davis  
 8/16 Clifton Angel                 8/31 Kara Strickland

## Get Involved!

### **Resuming 1 PM Services: Sep 6**

No potluck meal;

You may bring your lunch to eat at building, go out to eat, or eat at home if you live close

### **Coldwater Gospel Meeting: Postponed**

Was Scheduled for end of September

Pray for Ed & Iris Casteel

### **Independence Gospel Meeting: Sep 20–23**

Tom Wacaster preaching

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, August 30

### *Morning*

Prayer Before Class	Andy Ratliff
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Noah Davis
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jason Bayless

Assist

Closing Prayer	Jerry Davis
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### *Afternoon*

Song Leader	
Opening Prayer	
Sermon	
Lord's Supper	

**TEMPORARILY  
 CANCELLED**

Closing Prayer

Wednesday, September 2

Song Leader	Noah Davis
Prayer	Jim Jackson
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Tim Meredith

TECH:	Davis Johnson
HALL:	