



The Good News

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“End of Days” & “Armageddon”...or something else?

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The Bible has so much in way of prophetic language it staggers the mind. It seems that some of the most popular and well-known prophecies tend to focus on the end of the world. The concept of the end of the world fascinates, inspires, and terrifies people, and, thus, captures the imagination. More often than not, man does not correctly interpret prophecies within the Bible, and thus runs head-over-heels in interpretations and concepts to the point that eventually the prophecy itself is lost in nonsense.

One such prophecy comes from Luke 21, for which we have corresponding accounts in Mark 13 and Matthew 24. Many will read this text and interpret the idea of the second coming of Christ being foretold. Yet, He Himself says in Matthew 25, a passage that IS about the second coming, “Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” (v.13) So if we aren’t going to have a warning ahead of time, why would He give us Luke 21 of signs that will be signifying His coming? Also, Luke 21:32 says, “Assuredly I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away until all things take place.” Surely we don’t have a 2,000-year-old generation walking around. This means that everything Jesus said applied to the people of that generation. In v. 34, what day was Jesus warning about coming upon them unexpectedly? The Day of Judgment on Jerusalem, which occurred 40 years later in AD 70. Therefore, if Luke 21, Mark 13, and Matthew 24 are all referring to the same event, then the extent of the prophecies are about the destruction of Jerusalem. “What about the Rapture in v.40?! That is talking about

the end of time!” Notice vs. 28 of Matt. 24, “For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.” Jesus was describing Jerusalem as being a carcass and the eagles as the armies of Rome that God will send to “judge” Jerusalem. Notice the “taking away” is after this in the text. The same words of the aforementioned verse are mirrored in Luke 17:37. Yet, notice the so-called “rapture” text is before that in vs. 34, which includes it in the context of Jerusalem. So how does the “taking away” correspond to the destruction of Jerusalem? Jesus, on numerous occasions in these accounts, warns the people to “watch!” The concept is that one will be ready when the army of Rome comes into view and will leave as they were warned, whereas the other will not and will be caught up in the judgment awaiting Jerusalem.

Can we as Christians take these passages as lessons that we need to be ready for the coming of Christ? Certainly! There were many who lost their lives in the siege of Jerusalem in AD 70 because they did not believe Christ or watch as He told them to do. Their example should ring forward to us today of the necessity to have all things right in our lives, for we do not know when He will come back. There will not be an hour’s warning for everyone to rush to church and be baptized. There will not be a chance to pray for forgiveness of sins. How sad it will be when He appears and so many “good” people lose their souls because they were not ready and waiting. If He were to come back today, would we be numbered among the lost? If the answer is yes, let’s see to it that we correct that today.