

Is the end near?

Prayer

Good Morning,

Let me start with a question this morning... How will we know the coming of the Lord is at hand?

The bible tells us in Matthew 24 what the signs will be of the end of the age and return of our Lord.

Let's take a look at this chapter because every few years we hear of some person claiming to be a pastor and a prophet stand up and declare the end is nigh. Every time this happens, there is pandemonium, panic and many people take their lives in fear. In other instances such as the Jonestown massacre, Jim Jones poisoned to death 909 temple members with cyanide.

These tragedies occur because people will hand off the ownership of their eternal life into the care of another. Think about it... Many Christians go to church in North America in various denominations and they don't even have a bible. Some denominations even discourage bible ownership, as they believe that only their priests should interpret what the scriptures mean for their parishioners.

Why would we take something as important as our eternal life and unquestioningly hand it over to another?

Now granted we have pastors who are called to study God's word. These men and woman are called to teach and explain Gods word. But it should not stop there... Even more important is that they teach a person how to find out and interpret the scriptures for themselves.

Why do some do give away ownership of such an important aspect of their lives? Is it apathy, laziness, indifference? Is it intimidation of having to learn all that material about God? Is it fear of making a mistake on something so important?

Why do men and women ministers do this? Is it the desire of men to control others to validate themselves? Is it to feed their own need for acceptance? Do they seek the love of others? Is it because of something missing in them?

I would conclude that in some cases the answer is "yes"

But I would point out that in many others, the priests genuinely love God and are trying to do well by their parishioners. They really do have a heart for the people and are trying to help.

The ideal is found when a person is taught and yet still owns what they are taught and reads to prove out the scripture for themselves.

For example; How many people would listen to these preachers stating exactly when the end of the world will come and Jesus will return, if they opened their bible and read Matthew 24:35,36 HCSB where Jesus says:

“I assure you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. Now concerning that day and hour no one knows — neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son — except the Father only.”

OR Mark 13:32-37 HCSB

“Now concerning that day or hour no one knows — neither the angels in heaven nor the Son — except the Father. Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming. It is like a man on a journey, who left his house, gave authority to his slaves, gave each one his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to be alert. Therefore be alert, since you don’t know when the master of the house is coming — whether in the evening or at midnight or at the crowing of the rooster or early in the morning. Otherwise, he might come suddenly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Be alert!”

So if the bible says that no one except God the Father knows when Jesus is returning, then why do these men and women presume to know this information in direct and flagrant opposition to the Word of God?

So... No one knows exactly when Jesus is returning. It is like the grooms return in the Jewish culture in Jesus day. The bride needed to be prepared and ready to go at the grooms return.

Okay... so we have been told and I have even said Jesus is coming soon! How can we say that and actually know that in confidence and assurance? Because, although we do not know the day or the hour, we can determine the season of his return based on what he tells us to watch for...

Back to Matthew 24:3-28

While He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached Him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what is the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?”

Then Jesus replied to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many.

Let’s stop here for a second...

- André Matsoua (1899–1942), Congolese founder of Amicale, proponents of which subsequently adopted him as Messiah.
- Samael Aun Weor (1917–1977), born Víctor Manuel Gómez Rodríguez, Colombian citizen and later Mexican, was an author, lecturer and founder of the 'Universal Christian Gnostic Movement', according to him, 'the most powerful movement ever founded'. By 1972, Samael Aun Weor referenced that his death and resurrection would be occurring before 1978.
- Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda (born 1946 - died 2013), a Puerto Rican preacher who had claimed to be both "the Man Jesus Christ" and the Antichrist at the same time. He claimed he was indwelled with the same spirit that dwelled in Jesus, however, Miranda also contradicted his claims of being Christ incarnate by also claiming he was the Antichrist, even going as far as tattooing the number of the beast (666) on his forearm, a behavior his followers also adopted. Founder of the "Growing in Grace" ministries, Miranda died on August 14, 2013 due to liver cancer.
- Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi (born 25 November 1941) is a spiritual leader and the founder of the spiritual movements Messiah Foundation International (MFI) and Anjuman Serfaroshan-e-Islam.[38][39] He is controversial for being declared the Mehdi, Messiah, and Kalki Avatar by the MFI.
- Raël, leader of the International Raëlian Movement (born 30 September 1946); Rael claimed he met an extraterrestrial being in 1973 and became the Messiah.
- World Teacher (unknown), a being claimed to be the Theosophical Maitreya and the Messiah (promised one) of all religions. He is said to have descended from the higher planes and manifested a physical body in early 1977 in the Himalayas, then on 19 July 1977 he is said to have taken a commercial airplane flight from Pakistan to England. He is currently said to be living in secret in London; promoted by New Age activist Benjamin Creme and his organization, Share International (See Maitreya (Benjamin Creme)).
- Apollo Quiboloy (1950–) is the founder and leader of a Philippines-based Restorationist church, the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, The Name Above Every Name, Inc. He has made claims that he is the "Appointed Son of God."
- Alan John Miller (1962–), more commonly known as A.J. Miller, a former Jehovah's Witness elder and current leader of the Australia-based Divine Truth movement.[43] Miller claims to be Jesus Christ reincarnated with others in the 20th century to spread messages that he calls the "Divine Truth." He delivers these messages in seminars and various forms of media along with his current partner Mary Suzanne Luck, who identifies herself as the returned Mary Magdalene.

- David Shayler (1965–) was a former MI5 agent and whistleblower who, in the summer of 2007, proclaimed himself to be the Messiah. He has released a series of videos on YouTube claiming to be Jesus, although he has not built up any noticeable following since his claims.
- Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez (1990–). In November 2011, he fired nine shots with an Romanian Cugir SA semi-automatic rifle at the White House in Washington D.C., believing himself to be Jesus Christ sent to kill U.S. President Barack Obama, whom he believed to be the antichrist.

Lightning Deng (2014), a woman whom the Chinese Eastern Lightning cult believe to be the reincarnation of Christ.

This is just small sample of those who have come claiming to be Jesus the messiah...

You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Current Battles

*This is not a complete list, just those battles where over 1000 casualties have been reported in the last year

1948 – Israeli-Palestinian conflict - Asia
 1978 – War in Afghanistan - Afghanistan
 1988 – War in Somalia – Africa
 2003 – War in Dafur – Africa
 2004 – War in North-West Pakistan – Asia
 2006 – Mexican Drug war – North America
 2009 – Boko Haram Insurgency – Africa
 2011 – Syrian Civil War – Asia
 2011 – Iraqi Civil War – Asia
 2011 – Libyan Crisis – Africa
 2011 – Yemen Crisis – Asia
 2012 – Central African Republic Conflict – Africa
 2013 – South Sudanese Civil war – Africa
 2014 – War in Donbass - Europe

There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these events are the beginning of birth pains.

There are so many famines in the world that I have only given a tiny list from 2012 - 2015

2012 - North Korea
2012 - Southern Sudan
2012 - West Africa
2012 - India
2012 - Sudan
2012 - East Africa
2012 - Somalia
2013 - Southern Philippines
2013 - Somalia
2014 - Car
2014 - Southern Sudan
2015 - Melanesia

"Then they will hand you over for persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of My name. Then many will take offense, betray one another and hate one another.

Starting at 92% suppression and ending on my list at 50% suppression, here are the countries persecuting Christians today!

North Korea
Somalia
Iraq
Syria
Afghanistan
Sudan
Iran
Pakistan
Eritrea
Nigeria
Maledives
Saudi Arabia
Libya
Yemen
Uzbekistan
Vietnam
Central African Republic
Qatar
Kenia
TurkMenistan
India
Ethiopia
Egypt
Bjibouti
Burma / Myanmar
Palestinian Territories

Brunei
Laos
China
Jordan
Bhutan
Comoros
Tanzania
Algeria
Columbia
Tunisia
Malaysia
Mexico
Oman
Mali
Turkey
Kazakhstan
Bangladesh
Sri Lanka

Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

So many cults and teachings that do not line up with the word of God, It would take too long to list.

Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered. This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come.

Do you now see why we know that Jesus is coming soon? He has given us criteria and they are well fulfilled today

“So when you see the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place” (let the reader understand), “then those in Judea must flee to the mountains! A man on the housetop must not come down to get things out of his house. And a man in the field must not go back to get his clothes. Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days! Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For at that time there will be great tribulation, the kind that hasn’t taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again! Unless those days were limited, no one would survive. But those days will be limited because of the elect.

Now really pay attention to this part...

Matthew 24:21-26

"If anyone tells you then, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'Over here!' do not believe it! False messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note: I have told you in advance. So if they tell you, 'Look, He's in the wilderness!' don't go out; 'Look, He's in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. "

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather.

Revelations 1:7,8 NKJV

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Revelations 22:12,13

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

My friends the time is short and we have much to do. We need to take ownership of the Word of God and become trained so that we will not be deceived but the plots of the evil one.

Jesus is coming back and soon...

Hear ye the word of the Lord this morning – Romans 13:11-14 NIV

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Okay, here is my summary... The time has come; indifference and apathy must be cast down. You must own your salvation; invest in your knowledge of the scripture

so that you will not be deceived. Trust in the Lord and prove out that which affects your eternal life.

Don't be deceived! Jeremiah 29:13 NIV says: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." This is the day and the hour for you to know which Jesus is yours. Don't fall for the pretenders or those false prophets that will lead you down the road to destruction. Prove out what is being said in scripture.

Today my friends I commission all of you in the name of Jesus to be Bereans of scripture. Paul says in Acts 17:11 NIV:

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

Be Bereans....

Prayer