

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Is the End Near?

1. As Jesus approached Jerusalem from the mount of Olives on the occasion of His triumphal entry, to what sorrowful thoughts did He give expression?

“And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou had known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from your eyes.” Luke 19: 41, 42.

2. What fate did He pronounce upon it?

“For the days shall come upon thee, that your enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee. And they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knew not the time of thy visitation.” Luke 19:43, 44.

3. With what did the disciples associate the predicted fall of Jerusalem?

“And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matthew 24: 3.

4. How did Jesus correct this wrong impression and dissociate the two events?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” “All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:4-6, 8.

5. What vicissitudes would the church have to face and endure?

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24:9-12.

See study, “Through Tribulation to Triumph.”

6. What reward would endurance bring?

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:13.

7. Returning to their first question, how did Jesus forewarn the disciples of the destruction of Jerusalem?

“And when you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.” Luke 21: 20.

8. To what prophecy was He here drawing attention?

“When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (who so reads, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.” Matthew 24: 15, 16.

9. Taking the fall of Jerusalem as the starting-point again, what further details did He supply of the interim period between this catastrophe and the end of the world?

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24: 21. (Compare verses 9-12.)

10. How perilously near to extinction would the church come?

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” Matthew 24: 22.

11. Upon what internal perils of the church through the ages, did Jesus next enlarge?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.” Matthew 24:23-25.

12. With the close of the persecution, what period in earth’s history would be reached?

“And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the little of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” Daniel 11:35.

13. What spectacular signs in the natural world would be associated with this momentous period?

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” Matthew 24:29. See study, “Dissolving Empires.”

14. What signs in the earth would further proclaim the imminence of the advent?

a. International upheavals. “Amid upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

roaring.” Luke 21:25.

b. Universal fear. “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke 21:26.

c. Widespread moral depravity. “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:37-39.

d. World-wide evangelism. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14.

See study, “What Do These Things Mean?”

15. By what event will the end be ushered in?

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30.

16. Why did Jesus give His disciples this outline of history?

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:32, 33.

17. Is the precise time of Christ’s return revealed?

“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Matthew 24:36.

18. In what state of preparedness, therefore, must the church of the last days be?

“Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes.” Matthew 24: 44.

19. What feelings will possess the believers as they see, by the fulfillment of prophecy, the advent drawing near?

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh.” Luke 21:28.

20. On the other hand, what tragic fate will befall those who have failed to prepare to meet God?

“But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayed his coming; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looked not for him, and appoint him his Portion with the hypocrites.” Matthew 24: 48-51.

21. How assured may we be of the certainty of the prophetic word?

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not Pass away.” Matthew 24:35.

What Do These Things Mean?

1. Has God revealed the exact time when Christ will return in triumph?

“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Matthew 24:36.

2. Though God has not stated precisely the time of His Son’s return, what guidance has He given us whereby we may know that His coming is near?

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:32, 33.

While He has specified neither “the day nor the hour” of Christ’s return, He has provided certain prophetic landmarks along the highway of history, whereby succeeding generations might recognize God’s overruling hand in the kingdoms of men and see the day of the Lord draw on.

3. What remarkable progress in culture and civilization did Daniel declare would characterize the latter days of earth’s history?

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.

In an article entitled, “Contrasts,” in a recent year book, Lord Askwith with delineates some of the remarkable changes which have come over the world during the past century. “If one might select two as most important,” he says, “I would suggest restlessness and a wider knowledge. Restlessness is obvious to