

Bible Studies

Long-suffering. 1 Timothy 1:16. Benevolent. Acts 10:38.
Loving. John 13:1; 15:12, 13.
Self-denying. Matthew 8:20; 2 Corinthians 8:9.
All his people to be like- him. Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:3.

Behold He Comes

- WHAT promise did Jesus make in reference to returning again to this earth? John 14:1-3.
2. In what manner will he come? Acts 1:9-11.
 3. What great events take place on the earth at his coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.
 4. What happens to the wicked? 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jeremiah 25:33.
 5. Will the Lord come upon any one unawares, or as a thief in the night? 1 Thessalonians 5:1 -3.
 6. Will he come upon all as a thief? 1 Thessalonians 5:4.
 7. Will there be signs given of this event? Luke 21:25,26.
 8. Where were the first signs to be seen? Verse 25.
 9. What were the signs in the sun, moon, and stars to be? Matthew 24:29; Joel 2:30, 31; Ezekiel 32:7.
 10. When was the sun to be darkened? Matthew 24:29, first clause. Mark 13:24.

The days here referred to are the 1260 days mentioned in Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:6,14; 13:5. They began in AD 538, and ended in 1798. Jesus locates the darkening of the sun and moon "in those days" (Mark 13:24), which would be before 1798, and immediately after the tribulation (Matthew 24:29), which ended in 1773. The tribulation, or persecutions, of those days refers to the terrible persecutions and martyrdom of Rome, which ended about 1773, when the order of the Jesuits was abolished. Immediately, or soon after, the tribulation the sun was to be darkened. It was darkened just at the time predicted, May 19, 1780.

The sun was to be darkened in the morning (Isaiah 13: to), by noon on a clear day. Amos 8:9. Note how all these specifications are met in the following records of the darkening of the sun and moon:- J Litch says: "I refer to the dark day of AD 1780, May 19. That was a day of supernatural darkness It was not an eclipse of the sun; for the moon was nearly at the full. It was not owing to a thickness of the atmosphere for the stars were seen. The darkness began about 9 AM, and continued through the day.

Such was the darkness that work was suspended in the field and shop; beasts and fowls retired to their rest; and the houses were illuminated at dinner time. The sun was supernaturally darkened.

Milo Bostwick says: "The 19th of May, in the year 1780, I well remember; I was then in my sixteenth year. The morning was clear and pleasant, but somewhere about eight o'clock my father came into the house and said there was an uncommon appearance in the sun. There were not any clouds, but the air was thick, having a smoky appearance, and the sun shone with a pale and yellowish hue, but kept growing darker and darker, until it was hid from sight. At noon we lit a candle, but it did not give light as in the night, and my father could not see to read with two candles. My father and mother, who were pious, thought the day of judgment was near. They sat, tip that night, during the latter part of which they said the darkness disappeared, and then the sky seemed as usual, but the moon, which was at its full, had the appearance of blood. The alarm that it caused, and the frequent talk about it, impressed it deeply on my mind."

The poet Whittier writes:-

"THE DARKNESS OVER NEW ENGLAND IN 1780."

"It was on a May day of the fair old year
Seventeen hundred eighty, that there fell
Over the bloom and sweet life of the spring,
Over the fresh earth and the heaven of noon,
A horror, of great darkness, like the night
In day of which the Norland sages tell
The twilight of the gods,

Birds-ceased to sing, and all the barn-yard fowls
Roosted; the cattle at the pasture bars
Lowed, and looked homeward; bats on leather wings

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Flitted abroad; the sounds of labor died;
Men prayed, and women wept; all ears grew sharp
To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet shatter The black sky.”
“Facts for the Times,” pp. 158-164 (new edition)

Webster’s Dictionary, article Dark Day, says: May 19, 1780;- so-called on account of a remarkable darkness on that day extending over all New England In some places persons could not see to read common print In the open air for several hours together. Birds sang their evening song, disappeared, and became silent; fowls went to roost; cattle sought the barn-yard; and candles Were lighted in the houses. The obscuration began about ten o’clock in the morning, and continued till the middle of the next night, but with differences of degree and duration in different places For several days previous the wind had been variable, but chiefly from the south-west and the north-east. The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known.

THE STARS FELL NOVEMBER 13, 1833

Professor Olmstead, of Yale College, says: “Those who were so fortunate as to witness the exhibition of shooting stars on the morning of Nov. 13, 1833, probably saw the greatest display of celestial fireworks that has ever been since the creation of the world, or at least within the annals covered by the pages of history.

“In nearly all places the meteors began to attract notice by their unusual frequency as early as eleven o’clock, and increased in numbers and splendor until about four o’clock, from which time they gradually declined, but were visible until lost in the light of day. The meteors did not fly at random over all parts of the sky, but appeared to emanate from a point in the constellation Leo, near a star called Gamma Leonid’s, in the bend of the sickle “

The extent of the shower Of 1833 was such as to cover no inconsiderable part of the earth’s surface, from the middle of the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west. And from the northern coast of South America to undefined regions among the British possessions on the north, the exhibition was visible, and everywhere presented nearly the same appearance. This is no longer to be regarded as a terrestrial, but as a celestial, phenomenon. And shooting stars are now to be no more viewed as casual productions of the upper regions of the atmosphere, but as visitants from other worlds, or from the planetary voids.

Henry Dana Ward writes: “No philosopher or scholar has told or recorded an event, I suppose, like that of yesterday morning. A prophet 1800 years ago foretold it exactly, if we will be at the trouble of understanding stars a ling to mean falling stars; or ‘hoi asteres ton ouranou epesan teen goon,’ in the only sense in which it is possible to be literally true.” “Facts For The Times,” pp. 165, 167.

11. How were the stars to fall? Revelation 6:13.

“We Pronounce the raining of fire which we saw on Wednesday morning last an awful type, a sure forerunner a merciful sign of that great and dreadful day which the inhabitants of the earth will witness when the sixth seal shall be opened. The time is just at hand, described not only in the New Testament, but in the Old. A more correct picture of a fig-tree casting its leaves when blown by a mighty wind it is not possible to behold.” - Connecticut Observer, in “Facts for the Times.” Page 166.

12. When the people should see these things begin to come to, pass, what were they to do? Luke 21:28.

13. When they had seen them all come to pass, what were they to know? Verse 31.

14. Were the people to know the day and hour of Christ’s coming? Matthew 24: 36.

15. What parable did Jesus give to show the position they should hold at this time? Matthew 24:32,33.

16. What assurance did he give to the generation that should see these signs and learn this parable? Verses 34,35. For proof that the generation living at the time of Christ is not meant, see Luke 11:29, They were not to see these signs. No sign but the sign of Jonas the prophet was to be given them.

17. Will any one be looking for the Lord’s coming? Hebrews 9:28; Isaiah 25:9.

18. Does the Lord promise a blessing upon those who look for him? Luke 12:37.

19. What does Jesus exhort us to do at this time? Luke 21:34-36.

20. How should we who look for this event five? Titus 2:11-13.

Bible Studies

The Worlds History in Prophecy

1. THE prophecies can be understood. 2 Peter 1:19.
2. Christ's instruction in reference to the book of Daniel. Matthew 24:15. Prophecy is "history In advance." Daniel 2:1.
3. The remarkable dream of Nebuchadnezzar.
4. What did Daniel tell the king that God had made known to him? Verse 28.
5. What was the dream? Verses 31-35.
6. After relating the dream, what did Daniel immediately proceed to do? Verse 36. What does the Lord command those who explain these visions of Daniel and Revelation to do? Habakkuk 2:2.
7. What did he say was represented by the head of gold? Verses 37, 38.
8. Did he refer to Nebuchadnezzar as an individual, or to his kingdom? Verse 39.
9. What was the name of the kingdom over which Nebuchadnezzar ruled? Daniel 1:11.

This kingdom, In prophecy, dates from BC 606, because it then became connected with the people of God y the capture of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and his people. It reached the height of its glory under Nebuchadnezzar, to whom this dream was given. The metal used to represent this kingdom is the finest of all metals, and fitly represents the kingdom of Babylon, as it was the grandest of all earthly kingdoms. The city of Babylon, its capital and metropolis, well represents the entire kingdom. This city was laid out in a perfect square, surrounded by a wall 350 feet high, and 87 feet thick, with a moat or ditch, outside, of the same cubic capacity. It had fifty streets, twenty-five running each way, each 150 feet in width and fifteen miles long, raved with polished stones. It contained 225 miles of enclosed surface, laid out n luxuriant pleasure-grounds and gardens interspersed with magnificent dwellings. The River Euphrates running through the center with a wall on either side. Taking thirty miles of river wall. 150 gates of solid brass: and hanging gardens rising terrace above terrace until they equaled in height the walls themselves.

Among the large buildings was the temple of Belus three miles in circumference at the base; also two royal palaces-one three and one-half miles, the other eight miles in circumference-connected with each other by a subterranean tunnel under the River Euphrates. Never before had the earth seen such a city and never since has it seen its equal. See Rollin's Ancient History. Book 3, chapter 1, section 1.

10. Was this kingdom of Babylon to stand forever? Daniel 2:39; Isaiah 13:19-22.

Alexander the Great employed 10,000 workmen in an unsuccessful attempt to rebuild Babylon, himself dying in the midst of the work, the project consequently falling through.

11. How many kingdoms were there to be? Four. Daniel 2:39, 40.

The kingdom of Medo-Persia, represented by the breast and arms of silver, succeeded Babylon. Daniel 5:28. The third kingdom was Greece. Daniel 8: 21.

12. What are the legs of iron said to represent? Daniel 2:40. The fourth universal kingdom was Rome Luke 2:1, also Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," chap. 3, par. 37.

13. What was indicated by the fact that the feet and toes of the image were part of clay and part of iron? Daniel 2:41. "The kingdom shall be divided."

The Roman Empire was at last divided into ten parts, between the years AD 356 and 483. These divisions were the Alernaul, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, vandals, Suevi, Burgundians. Herull, Anglo-Saxon, and Lombards. These are now known as England, Germany, France. Austria, Prussia, etc. See "Newton on the Prophecies," Machiavelli, Gibbon, etc.

14. In the first part of verse 43, what is it said that these kingdoms should do? Mingle themselves with the seed of men. This probably indicates that they should seek to strengthen their powers by the marriage alliance, which history records has been done. Witness the existing relationship between all the crowned heads and princes and princesses of Europe and England.

15. Were they to succeed in this attempt? Verse 43, last clause.

16. The division of the Roman Empire was completed in AD 483.

17. What kingdom was to be set up in the days of these kings? Verse 44.

This cannot refer to the introduction of the gospel, for in the days of Christ's earthly ministry, Rome was in its undivided form. Luke 2:1.

18. Then since the God of heaven was to set up his kingdom "in the days of these kings," it could not have been set up in the days when Christ was on earth. These kings had not then appeared.

19. What part of the prayer which the Lord has given for us shows that the kingdom has not yet been set up? Thy kingdom come." Matthew 6:9, 10.

20. What did the prophet say would be done to the other kingdoms when the kingdom of God should be set