

Introduction and Overview

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. ⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:3-14 (NKJV)

³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two *women* *will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:36-44 (NKJV)

Failed Prophecy about Jesus' Return

As far back as the days of the New Testament, people were making false claims about the time of Jesus' return, and events linked to it.

Paul warned: ¹ Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 (NKJV)

1. The Birth of the Antichrist - Before the end of the fourth century, Martin of Tours confidently stated that the Antichrist had already been born.

2. The Destruction of the Roman Papacy - Some Christians identify certain prophecies in the Book of Revelation with Rome, the center of Roman Catholicism. Joachim prophesied, way back in the thirteenth century, that the papacy in Rome would be utterly destroyed in 1260.

3. The Date of the Battle of Armageddon - The spiritual leader of the Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation, Maupin, predicted that:

- *The rapture would take place before July, 1981
- *Satan would appear before December 1984
- *Satan would rule the world until May 14, 1988
- *The Battle of Armageddon would take place on May 14, 1988

4. The Date of the Rapture - The word "rapture" refers to the act of being caught up from earth to heaven. It specifically refers to Christians being united with Jesus at His second coming: ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV)

*A writer, using the pen name "Ted" in Deadline 1981, Mockers Beware, Vol. 1, declared that the rapture was about to arrive in August 1980, or at the latest by June 20, 1981.

*According to Dr. Charles Taylor, the rapture was to take place on September 25, 1975.

*October 28, 1992 was the predicted date for the rapture, according to an undated tract entitled Mission for the Coming Days, Orange County Division, Orange County, California.

5. The Mormon Prediction - The founder of the Mormons, Joseph Smith, predicted that the second coming of Jesus would take place before the end of 1891.

6. The Seventh Day Adventist Prediction - While Miller never personally set an exact date for the return, he claimed:

"My principles in brief, are, that Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, cleanse, purify, and take possession of the same, with all the saints, sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844."

Miller managed to garner a small following and his disciples called him by the affectionate terms "Prophet Miller" and "Father Miller." After March 21, 1844 passed, Prophet Miller admitted his mistake to his followers.

7. Pat Robertson - In late 1976, he predicted that the end of the world was coming in November or October 1982. In a May 1980 broadcast of The 700 Club he stated, "I guarantee you by the end of 1982 there is going to be a judgment on the world."

Jesus said, "If anyone says to you, 'Look here is the Christ!' or 'There is he!', do not believe it" (Matthew 24:23). It is easy to be taken in by the enthusiasm of false prophets. Paul once described the misplaced enthusiasm of the News: "They are zealous ... but their zeal is not based on knowledge" (Romans 10:2).

An over view of Understanding Biblical Prophecy

1. Principles of understanding and interpreting Biblical Prophecy
2. Understanding End-Time events as a fulfillment of Covenant
 - a. God's covenant with Abraham
 - b. God's covenant with David
 - c. God's New Covenant
3. Overview of various views of Jesus' Return
 - a. Pre, Post and A-millennialism
 - b. Rapture Theories
4. Panorama of End-Time Events
5. Daniel's End-Time Vision
6. Ezekiel's End-Time Prophecy
7. Isaiah's End-Time Prophecy
8. What did Jesus Say about the End-Times?
9. What did other New Testament writers say about the End-Times?
10. What about the Anti-Christ?
11. And other topics

Woven throughout this study will be news articles from various sources that point to modern day fulfillment of Biblical Prophecy.