

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

November 17, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

There Will Be No Signs!

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

It is not uncommon to hear people discussing the end of time and delineating the “signs” that, they say, are proof that Christ’s return is imminent. These signs include “wars and rumors of wars,” “earthquakes,” and various political/military events that one observes on the evening news. These loud proponents of gloom claim to be representing the Bible in their calculations and forecasts. Of course, to date, every attempt to pinpoint the date of Christ’s return has failed.

The fact is that earthquakes could not have been intended by God to be a sign of the end of the world. Since 1900 alone, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that several million earthquakes occur in the world **each year**. Many go undetected because they hit remote areas or have very small magnitudes. The National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) now locates about 50 earthquakes each day, or about 20,000 a year (NEIC Web Team, 2003). Since earthquakes have been fairly constant for the last 2,000 years, and occur on a daily basis, they would be completely useless in attempting to recognize the end of the world. However, if Jesus intended them to be **immediate** signs, contemporaneous with the first century, they would have served a useful purpose.

Consider for a moment what the Bible actually teaches on this matter. In Matthew 24, Jesus pinpointed numerous **signs** by which His disciples and Jewish Christians could recognize the occasion of the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The signs that Jesus mentioned included “wars and rumors of wars” (vs. 6), “famines and earthquakes” (vs. 7), the Gospel preached to the whole world (vs. 14), and the approach of the Roman armies (vs. 15; cf. Luke 21:20). These events functioned as signals by which the faithful could identify the “end” (vss. 6,14) of the Jewish commonwealth. Jesus provided descriptive detail in response to the disciples’ question concerning the destruction of the temple (vss. 2-3). (cntd. on pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 11/10/19

Contribution – \$2735

Attendance:

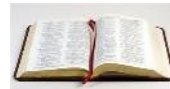
Sunday Bible Classes – 31

Sunday Worship – 54*

Wednesday Night – 36

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: A ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:6).

Q: Paul desired for men to pray everywhere without what?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — By Nature the Children of Wrath

1. Does man have a sinful nature?
2. What does Paul mean by the phrase “by nature?”

PM — The Parable of the Fig Tree

1. Does this parable predict the end of the world?
2. If not, what was it predicting?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33). Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Jerry Tippen, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Wendy Traweek, Dewey Young, Kevin Green, Marcia Green

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted.
- Food Pantry: Please help us restock our pantry with the following items: Canned vegetables (beans, carrots, corn, peas, etc.), canned meals (chili, tamales, Chef-Boyardee, etc.), & canned soups.

(Continued from page 1)

Just as tender branches and fresh leaves **signal** the approach of summer (vs. 32), so the multiple signs that Jesus pinpointed would **signal** the coming of Christ in judgment on the Jewish nation (vs. 33) in A.D. 70.

Then, beginning in verse 36, Jesus turned His attention to the question of the end of time and His Second Coming. Notice the difference! Jesus went out of His way to stress **the total absence of signs** signaling the end of the world and the Second Coming. He declared that His final coming would be comparable to the Deluge of Noah's day (vs. 37), in that it will be **totally unexpected**. Right up to the very day that Noah and his family entered the ark, life was going on **as usual**. No signs! Jesus said farmers will be in the field **as usual** (vs. 40); women will be involved in their activities **as usual** (vs. 41). Jesus even likened the unexpected nature of His final coming to the exploits of a thief (vs. 43). Both Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:2) and Peter (2 Peter 3:10) repeat this analogy. As the coming of a thief in the night is **preceded by absolutely no signs**, so the final coming of Jesus will be preceded by absolutely no signals.

Contrary to the prevailing notions of today concerning "the signs of the times," the Bible asserts that there will be a total absence of signs to prepare the world for the end of time. The only hope of the entire world is to render obedience to the written revelation of the Bible (Matthew 24:46). Noah preached, apparently for many years, in hopes of alerting the world's population to the coming judgment upon them. They refused to listen. Likewise, the only "tip off" available today is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that instructs every accountable individual what to do to be right with God. When one brings one's life into compliance with those directives, "signs" by which to anticipate the return of Christ are completely superfluous.

REFERENCES

NEIC Web Team (2003), "Earthquake Facts and Statistics," [On-line], URL: <http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/eqlists/eqstats.html>.

Note: The above article was taken from the Apologetics Press website, and can be located at the following link: <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=11&article=937&topic=83>.

Top 10 Reasons to Reject Premillennialism (PM)

Chase Green

	Reason:	Scriptures to Reference:
1	PM teaches that animal sacrifices will be reinstated, which flies in the face of the sacrifice of Christ!	Heb. 9:11-15, 27-28; 10:4
2	PM teaches that the Levitical priesthood will be reinstated, which flies in the face of Christ's High Priesthood!	Zech. 6:13; Heb. 7:26-28; 8:1; 10:12
3	PM denies that the Kingdom of God has already come!	Dan. 2:44; Mat. 16:18-19; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1-2; Col. 1:13
4	PM denies that Christ is ruling on His throne today!	Heb. 8:1; 10:12; 12:2
5	PM denies that the New Covenant has come!	Jer. 31:31ff; Heb. 8:6; 12:24
6	PM ignores the fact that Jesus rejected the idea of an earthly kingdom, even when the people tried to make Him a king!	Luke 17:20-21; John 6:15; 18:36-37
7	PM makes the Church out to be an afterthought, rather than the eternal plan of God!	Eph. 3:10-11
8	PM says that God still owes Israel something, which He does not!	Jos. 21:43-45; 23:14-16
9	PM ignores the fact that Jesus was not qualified for an earthly reign because He was of the seed of Coniah!	Jer. 22:24-30; Mat. 1:11
10	PM literalizes verses that are obviously meant to be taken figuratively!	Eze. 38; Rev. 12:4

Note: The above chart is also from my Premillennialism binder, which I mentioned last week. — TCG

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."
 John 15:8

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
 FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
 Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com