

What is meant by Revelation?

- Greek – Unveiling
- To understand Revelation, we need to know how to read and interpret the Bible

Start by reading Matthew 24 and understand what the Church says this passage should be interpreted.

Matthew 24 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple.[a] 2 But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another, that will not be thrown down.”

Signs of the End of the Age

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of **your coming** and **of the close of the age?**” 4 And Jesus answered them, “Take heed that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: 8 all this is but the beginning of the sufferings.

Persecutions Foretold

9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. 10 And then many will fall away,[b] and betray one another, and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because wickedness is multiplied, most men’s love will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.

The Desolating Sacrilege

15 “So when you see the desolating sacrilege spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; 17 let him who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house; 18 and let him who is in the field not turn back to take his mantle. 19 And alas for those who are with child and for those who give suck in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23 Then if any one says to you, ‘Lo, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 Lo, I have told you beforehand. 26 So, if they say to you, ‘Lo, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out; if they say, ‘Lo, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as

the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of man. 28 Wherever the body is, there the eagles[c] will be gathered together.

The Coming of the Son of Man

29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; 30 then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; 31 and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

32 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Was Jesus wrong about the End of the World?

- “Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place” (Mt. 24:29-30)
- Generation = 40 years
- Jesus died about 30 A.D. then all these things He predicted that “all these things [would] take place” should have happen by 70 A.D.
- The sun, moon, stars are still in the sky
- To understand Jesus sermon we need to understand a few things.

Understanding how the Bible is written:

- 115 According to an ancient tradition, one can distinguish between two *senses* of Scripture: the **literal** and the spiritual, the latter being subdivided into the **allegorical**, **moral** and **anagogical** senses. The profound concordance of the four senses guarantees all its richness to the living reading of Scripture in the Church.
- **Allegorical** – has an hidden meaning
- **Moral** – having to do with right and wrong
- **Anagogical** – having to do with matters of this world so that they relate to the life to come.

Was Jesus wrong about the End of the World?

Why the Temple Meant the World to Israel.

Exodus 25:9 [Make it] According to all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Coming Soon?

- Sun, moon, stars tell time: Mt 24:29 “Your time is up!”
- Coming: Is 19:1, Is 26:21, Jer 4:11-13
- Jewish leaders and those you followed them rejected Jesus (the true temple) John 2:19 Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again."
- Matthew 23: 38 "Behold, your **house** is forsaken and desolate." House = temple
- 70 A.D. marked the end of the world as Jesus' hearers knew it.
- Please note that Revelation was written in the late 60's during the time of Nero, and before 70 A.D.

All have sinned

- Please note that the comments in the New Testament, including Revelation, are not anti-Semitism but anti-sin. God removed the temple and destroyed Jerusalem not because they were Jews, but they failed to accept Jesus as God (the new temple).
- Israel is God's "first born son" (Ex 4:22)
- Dr. Barber: Jerusalem's destruction is a warning to any city or nation that rejects God and persecutes His people. The lesson God wants to teach us is that all are subject to His Judgement. I even the Chosen People can be judged, nobody is safe.

Come Again?

- If these events occurred 70 A.D., does that mean no end of the world?
- 70 A.D. was a dress rehearsal for the real thing
- Jerusalem symbolizes the end the world – we have a need to prepare