

QA: Evil Abounds; Is This "The End"? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Evil seems to be abounding, is this 'the end'?

ANSWER: If these are "the end times," then there is no prediction of it in the entire Bible!

(1) Seeing the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus predicted its destruction when He said,

"Do you see these great buildings? Not *one* stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Mark 13:2)

The Apostles asked,

"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?" (Mark 13:4)

Jesus listed many "signs:" "wars and rumors of wars," "earthquakes in various places," "famines and troubles" (Mark 13:7-8). Jesus linked "tribulation" connected to "the abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet" connected to Jerusalem's destruction, which occurred in A.D.70. All of these "signs" were for "this generation" which would "by no means pass away till all these things take place" (Mark 13:30). None of these signs had anything whatsoever to do with predicting the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ!

(2) After Jesus gave "signs" preceding the destruction of Jerusalem in Mark 13:1-31, which were fulfilled in A. D. 70, He mentioned another occurrence, for which there are no preceding signs.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is." (Mark 13:32-33)

- a. The "signs" pointing to the destruction of Jerusalem cannot be pointing to "that day and hour" which not even "angels in Heaven, nor the Son" can predict!
- b. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ has absolutely no preceding signs to warn of its approaching presence.
- c. Jesus told His disciples that they "do not know when the time is." There are no indications in the Bible, Old or New Testaments, that precede His Second Coming
- (4) Christians should expect to be "persecuted," because Jesus said,

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:20)

Though the Apostle Paul was persecuted, he said,

I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:11-13)

What Paul wrote about "evil men and imposters" growing "worse and worse," he spoke of the natural conflict that always manifests itself between Christians who are trying to get better and better, and sinners who are going in the other direction! Sinners don't improve without Jesus Christ.

Nothing he said was a "sign" to indicate Jesus' 2nd Coming!

—— jtpll, July 9, 2023