

# DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

## QUESTION: Will there be signs of the “end times”?

We live in a society that is enamored with eschatology (the study of end times). Every horrific natural disaster, every dreaded declaration of war, every threat of violence inevitably makes most think that the world must soon be coming to an end. From books and movies to bumper stickers and t-shirts, it seems none are immune from the end-times frenzy. The religious world has been convinced that wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes signify the imminent demise of this world. Do signs point to such?

Jesus said, “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come” (Matthew 24:42). In the same context he would say, “But of that day [the last day] and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matthew 24:36). But some will say that Jesus spoke of wars and rumors of wars, and famine, and such like as signs in answer to the disciples’ questions about the end of the world (Matthew 24:6). In order to fully understand what Jesus says concerning the end of the world, one needs to understand the mindset of the disciples as they question Jesus. They were so certain that Jerusalem was God’s city, that to speak of its destruction would have to coincide with the end of the world. When they hear Jesus speak of the stones of the temple being thrown down (vs.2), they assumed he was speaking of the end of time. They ask him three questions (the signs accompanying the destruction of the temple, the signs of his coming, and the signs of the end of the world, vs.3), but in the minds of the disciples it was only one question. Jesus then gives answer to their questions, stating that there would be signs accompanying the destruction of Jerusalem (which occurred in AD 70 at the hands of the Roman general Titus), but there would be no signs given concerning the end of the world. Those who see only the end times in Matthew 24 are in a dilemma as the latter half of the chapter seems to contradict the first, if indeed it is speaking of only one event (which it is not). Take note also of the transition from “these things” to “that day.” There will be no signs of the end of the world. That is why Jesus tells us to watch!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at [sixthavenue@bellsouth.net](mailto:sixthavenue@bellsouth.net), or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.