

30 DAYS IN THE BIBLE

[Click here to read Matthew 24](#)

Key Verse – Matthew 24:36

Have you ever been able to tell when something was about to happen? I can tell when my kids are about to ask me for something because they'll start complimenting me. "Daddy you're so nice." "Daddy I like your shirt." One of my kids literally asked me a couple weeks ago, "Daddy have you lost weight?" I was almost offended hahaha. ARE YOU SAYING I NEED TO? But it's often followed up by some kind of request. "Daddy, can I have two pieces of candy?" "Daddy, can we turn the TV on?" I can see it coming a mile away. To be clear, I don't mind. I know they'll only be kids once.

Jesus has this discourse in Matthew 23 and 24 on the signs of the end of the age. It starts with the disciples talking about the temple. In Mark's account the disciples are blown away by the architecture and beauty of the temple, and Jesus is like "There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." Woah, buzzkill. Imagine how disappointing that would have been to the Jewish hearers, or readers. Such an important religious, historic symbol, and He's predicting it's going to get destroyed. He goes on to talk about all these signs that will help us know when He'll come again. Wars, rumours of wars, earthquakes, all kinds of things. Now, we live in this strange paradox where there are things described that have happened, like the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. There are things that are happening, like earthquakes. And there are things that will happen, like the final judgement. There are also things that have happened, are happening, and will happen, like wars, and rumours of wars, famines, disease etc. We can get so caught up in trying to predict when Jesus is going to come back (which He clearly says in verse 36 that we don't know), that we actually miss the point of what we're supposed to be doing right now on earth.



Martin Luther was asked what he would do if he knew Jesus was going to return tonight, and his answer was, "Plant a tree and pay my taxes." Crazy, right? But what he's getting at is faithfulness. All Jesus has asked us to do is be faithful. The greatness that He has called us to is faithfulness where we are. Are you a doctor? Be faithful. Are you a tradesman? Be faithful. Are you a pastor? Be faithful. Are you a stay-at-home mom? Be faithful. Are you a teacher? Be faithful. Are you retired? Be faithful. Whatever it is that your hand has currently found to do, be faithful.

The calling for Christians today is not to nail down the exact date of Christ's return. It's to endure and occupy, just like the first century Christians were exhorted to do in so many of Paul's writings, and in Revelation. What can I do right now to be of use to God's kingdom? Who can I show kindness to today? Who can I demonstrate love to today? Where can I serve today? Where can I use my gifts today?

It's easy for us to see the things that are happening in our world right now (and admittedly some of it is shocking), and think, "This must be it." But I think that we have to ask ourselves if all of that is a distraction from what I could be doing. Does it sow seeds in me that don't need to be there?

Rather than focusing on how one day we will "escape" this world, let's focus today on how we can influence it.

What Scripture can I meditate on today?

What did God speak to me today?

How can I respond in obedience?

How can I pray?