

# Is This the End?

## Edward Fergusson

August 19, 2017

### 1. Introduction

- a. **Fuzzy Thinking:** Neil deGrasse Tyson (Astrophysicist)
  - i. Spelling Bee
    1. Cat, Kat, WQM
    2. Two are wrong
    3. One is more Wrong
  - ii. Job hunters: How tall is this building?
    1. "I took a class in architecture and we memorized facts about every building in this town. This building is 155 feet tall."
    2. "I don't know." Goes outside and measures the shadow of the building and her shadow. Calculates. "The building is approximately 150 feet tall."
    3. Who is the better candidate? One had a precise and correct answer derived from memorization. One has an imprecise answer derived by calculation and thought.
- b. **Stop taking answers from others.**
- c. **Pick up the Bible and learn for yourself.**
- d. **Will We Ever Learn?**
  - i. The disappointment of 1844
  - ii. World Wars I and II
  - iii. The Great Prophetic Charts
  - iv. Setting Times
  - v. One disappointment after another

### e. **Would the Disciples Ever Learn?**

- i. All throughout Christ's Ministry they asked. When are you going to set up your kingdom? Is now the Time? Can I be on your right or even your left when your kingdom is set up? How will we know when the time is right?
- ii. Even after His Death and Resurrection they asked. "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" *Acts 1:6.*
- iii. Jesus answered, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." *Acts 1:7.*

### 2. Matthew 24

#### a. **The Disciples' Questions**

- a. When will it take place?
- b. What will be the sign?

#### b. **Jesus' Answers.**

- i. First the "When". (Not a direct answer.)
  1. "Watch out that no one deceives you." *Verse 4*
  2. Deception will come in various forms.
    - a. False Christs. *verse 5*
    - b. False Prophets. *verse 11*
    - c. Persecutions. *verse 9*
  3. The only security is in endurance.
    - a. "...but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." *verse 13*
    - b. Note: *Revelation 14:12*  
"This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."

4. Jesus ends by saying, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." *verse 36*
  5. Jesus did not answer the "when" question
- ii. What about Wars and Calamities.
1. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." *verses 6&7.*
  2. The missing Phrase. "But the end is not yet. All these are the beginning of sorrows."
  3. These signs are identified as non-signs.
    - a. They are beginning events.
    - b. The End is "NOT YET!"
  4. Jesus concern is that His people should not be deceived.
    - a. There will be delay.
    - b. Things will not get better they will get worse.
    - c. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." *verse 14.*
5. Let us return to *Acts 1:7&8* for a moment. "It is not for you to know the times or the dates the Father has set by his own authority. BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- iii. The Reason for Delay.
1. "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." *2 Peter 3:8&9*
  2. The Delay is:
    - a. Not because things aren't bad enough yet.
    - b. but rather there are people who have not yet made a decision.
    - c. "Satan delights in war.... It is his object to incite the nations to war against on another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God." *The Great Controversy, p. 589*

iv. Now the "What" Question.

1. Did Jesus give a sign? Notice the disciples question was for a sign, singular. *Matthew 24:3*.
2. Jesus said beware of signs; "For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-if that were possible." *verse 24*.
3. But Jesus did give a sign. "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." *verse 30*.
4. When we see The Sign it will be too late. The sign is not given to prepare us. We must be prepared.

c. **Being Prepared.**

i. We Must Be Prepared.

1. Seeing the sign will not prepare us.
2. We must be prepared to see the sign.
3. "Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour, and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. *The Great Controversy, p. 640*

ii. How.

1. Set your priorities. *verses 37-41*.
  - a. The people in Noah's day: eating, drinking, marrying.
  - b. Nothing wrong with what they did but, "...they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away." *verse 39*.
  - c. Jesus said, "That is how it will be at the coming to the Son of Man." *verse 39 last part*.
2. Watch. *Verses 42-44*.
  - a. You don't know when Jesus is coming.
  - b. You must be prepared because He will come when you don't expect.
3. Work. *Verses 45-51*.
  - a. The good servant does what his master asked while he was away.
  - b. The bad servant took liberty at his masters delay.
4. Endure as it says in *verse 13*.

**3. Conclusion**

**a. Jesus is coming again!**

**b. It is only good news to those who know and love Him.**

- i. "In that day they will say, 'Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted

in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." (*Isaiah 25:9, NIV*).

- ii. Ramona and her children. The children thought that Jesus second coming was a stranger abduction because they did not know who Jesus was.

c. **We can trust Him to save us.**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (*John 14:1-3, NIV*).

d. **"The Long Way Home"**

- i. December 1, 1941: left SF bay for Auckland, NZ
- ii. December 7 (8<sup>th</sup> in Noumea) arrived Auckland, tuning to commercial radio for bearing. Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor
- iii. The long way home
- iv. January 5, 1942, 5:54 a.m.: "LaGuardia Tower, LaGuardia Tower — Pan American Clipper NC18602, inbound from Auckland, New Zealand. Captain Ford reporting. Due to arrive Pan American Marine Air Terminal LaGuardia in seven minutes. Over!"
- v. "Clipper 18602, this is LaGuardia. The seaplane channel is closed. You will have to hold for about an hour before we can clear you for landing. Advise intentions please."