

Unresolved Statements by Jesus & John

Here are some statements made by John the Baptist and by Jesus that remain unresolved in our understanding of the scheme of the things of the Kingdom. These statements raise a number of questions which are listed at then of the references.

Luke 3:7-9 (NKJV) – *Then [John] said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

Matthew 12:33-35 (NKJV) – *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart¹ brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”*

Matthew 23:27 (NKJV) – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”*

Matthew 23:29-36 (NKJV) – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”*

Matthew 23:37-39 (NKJV) – *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’²”*

Matthew 24:1-2 (NKJV) – *Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”*

Matthew 24:3-22 (NKJV) – *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to [Jesus] privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age³?” And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ’, and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all⁴ these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences,⁵ and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And*

1 – NU-Text and M-Text omit of his heart.

2 – Psalm 118:26

3 – *Aei*: 'Age' not 'world'. From a Greek root word meaning, 'according to circumstances something is or ought to be done again'.

4 – NU-Text omits all.

5 – NU-Text omits pestilences.

then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world⁶ as a witness to all the nations⁷, and then the end will come. “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation’,⁸ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

Matthew 24:32-34 (NKJV) – *“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that ~~it~~ (He)⁹ is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.**”*

These statements raise these questions:

1. Are they just prophetic statements, or is there more to them?
2. Was the Roman destruction of Jerusalem just an event in history or something of great significance?
3. What was that purpose?

REMEMBER: Nothing untoward happens to God's people (in this case, Israel) unless he allows it, and then, only for a purpose.

Laurence
3-5-2017
(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

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6 – i.e. the inhabited world: expression for the Roman empire

7 – Ethnic groups

8 – Daniel 11:31; 12:11

9 – or 'He' (www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+24%3A33&version=NKJV)