

70 AD, Notes

There are perhaps millions, of people who, after reading the Bible, have come to the same conclusion to which one of the most famous atheists, Bertrand Russell, came . . . He felt Jesus couldn't be Who He said He was because the things He and His apostles said would happen in their time, didn't happen.

Below are listed a few of the many passages they would point to and say these things were not fulfilled according to the plain reading of the English text.

- Matt. 10:23--Jesus said He would return in the lifetime of His disciples.
- Matt. 16:27-28--Jesus said He would return with His angels to judge all men, before every one standing there died.
- Matt. 24:29-34--Jesus said He would return in the clouds with His angels--in that generation.
- Acts 3:19--Peter said Jesus would return when all the Old Covenant prophecies were fulfilled. [If the Old Prophecies have not been fulfilled, the Old Covenant is still in effect. (Matthew 5:17-18)]
- Romans 13:12--Paul said "the day is at hand." [That was said 1900 years ago!]
- 1 Cor. 7:28-31--Paul said "the fashion of this world is passing away," and "the time is short." [Again, this was stated 1900 years ago to that generation.]
- Hebrews 9:28, 10:37--The writer said Christ would appear a second time for salvation and then asserted "in a very, very little while He that will come, and will not tarry." [Is 1900 years a "very, very little while?"]
- James 5:7-9--James urged his readers to be faithful "until the coming of the Lord," he says "The coming of the Lord is at hand," and "The judge is standing right at the door."
- 1 John 2:15-18--John said the world was passing away and "it is the last hour." [Again, the last hour was 1900 years ago]
- Revelation--this book says no less than ten times that its predictions "must shortly come to pass," were "at hand," were to happen "quickly," there would be "no more delay," etc., etc.

By the way, CS Lewis mildly agrees with Bertrand Russell, that surely the verse of things happening within one generation is the "most embarrassing verse in the Bible". He seemed sure it could be explained, but admits he was as perplexed as others.

Millions of people have read the Bible and go on to note it says, "no more delay," "shortly," "quickly," "soon", "day is at hand," and "it is the last hour". So, therefore, it cannot refer to thousands of years.

They then conclude since the church teaches that Christ did not come back in His second coming, then Jesus and His apostles were false prophets. Therefore, they cannot put their faith and hope in Christianity.

I can appreciate their doubts.

But here's the thing... as usual with Scripture, there's always multiple ways of interpreting these various verses.

What if, in fact, they were fulfilled exactly as stated in the very generation to which Jesus was speaking to.

What if Jesus did return to that generation and fulfilled everything He and His apostles said was "right at the door."

What if, there IS an answer that fits Jesus' warnings?

What if he truly WAS speaking (not to us 2000 years later), but to his audience on the Mount of Olives, about something that would happen to his listeners, and what if within one generation it all happened exactly as he predicted?

What if history has cheated us by distraction or our own ignorance to know the many little-known facts of 70AD?

Many have abandoned hope in Christianity, not because Jesus Christ mis-spoke a prophecy, but because many Bible teachers and preachers of our era have missed it . . . big time!

The Rapture concept only started in 1830 with Darby and Scofield, so for 1800 years it was NOT assumed to apply to some future generation 2000 years in the future... to more modern and "enlightened" Christians. [What a waste of preaching and warnings to those thousands listening to Him].

I believe that around 1830 an incorrect Rapture theory caught on too quickly at a few seminaries, and abracadabra, for a hundred years, thousands of "trained" pastors and teachers go out into the world teaching it as gospel.

I think we are in a new era of revelation, where you are going to more accurately see the Bible come together like it has never been seen before. The blinders will come off. That which has been hidden will be revealed. That which has been twisted a bit will be straightened. For a vast number of Christians, the veil will drop.

I think this is a super exciting topic. Much more hopeful than the world ending with the pathetic battle of Armageddon, with blood to the horses' bridles, and God stepping in just before everyone is wiped out. [I always thought that was so unlike how God would end the world] **

*** Mt 24:22: And if those days were not shortened, no flesh would have been saved; but because of the chosen, shall those days be shortened.*

Hmmm, secondary question I just thought of... If the Battle of Armageddon is shortened, how could this benefit "the Chosen" as in this verse? How would that have "saved" the Chosen? Titus was recalled to Rome quickly and thus, once Jerusalem was burned to the ground, he never went after the Christian remnant that had fled to Pella. By the way, it is recorded that not one Christian was murdered in 70 AD. They all fled to the mountains.

But theres too much to cover in detail in this little dissertation.

For more detailed info those who want to study this out completely could do the following:

1. Get a copy of Flavius Josephus. Many Christian publishers have produced this work. He was a Jewish Priest and military commander and historian who was captured by the Romans just prior to the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 A.D. He viewed and described the atrocity that Titus wielded on the city during the siege of 70AD. *[Why have no Christians I know ever read about it?]*
2. Read the section entitled War of the Jews. You will be amazed!
3. Most importantly... Get one or more of these books (all on Amazon):
 - "Raptureless" by Jonathan Weldon
 - "How the End Times Ended in AD 70" by Micah Stephens
 - "AD70 and the End of the World" by Paul Ellis(I have read all 3)

Challenge: I would love some doubter to grab one of these books with a red pen and note anything that doesn't line up with the Bible. Then send to me. I am open to any reasonable anomalies you may see in these books. But I think instead you will be blown away by this new way of looking at the "rapture".

The traditional modern-day Rapture, as taught by many churches, and made popular by Tim LaHaye, attracts those who believe in the "any day now rapture." But here below is just one tantalizing tidbit of history... (see complete detail in the writings of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus)

Anyway, Josephus' writings say that in 70 A.D. when the Jews were trapped in Jerusalem by the Roman Army, a prophet prophesied that God was going to deliver them. He told them to come to the Temple, the House of God and their God was going to "catch them away." There they waited to be "raptured away" by the God of Israel.

Read and see their fate as narrated by Josephus:

"A false prophet was the occasion of these people's destruction, who had made a public proclamation in the city that very day, that God commanded them to get up upon the temple, and that there they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance. Now, there was then a great number of false prophets suborned by the tyrants to impose upon the people, who denounced this to them, that they should wait for deliverance from God; and this was in order to keep them from deserting, and that they might be buoyed up above fear and care by such hopes. Now, a man that is in adversity does easily comply with such promises; for when such a seducer makes him believe that he shall be delivered from those miseries which oppress him, then it is that the patient is full of hopes of such deliverance.

Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers, and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend, nor give credit, to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation; but like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them."

Josephus then gave a list of many supernatural signs that God gave Israel, which they twisted to their own destruction. It is interesting to note those who were deceived into thinking God was going to rapture them were burned in their "House of God" which was full of their riches.

Josephus writes:

"They also burnt down the treasury-chambers, in which was immense quantities of money, and an immense number of garments, and other precious goods, there repositied; and, to all in a few words, there it was that the entire riches of the Jews were heaped up together, while the rich people had there built themselves chambers, (to contain such furniture). Their riches and their bodies were burned to ashes and blown away by the wind."

Who knows, perhaps the escapist mentality of today will meet the same fate. The church is certainly the richest institution materially in the entire world and there are certainly many prophets predicting a "rapture" from the tribulations that are to come upon the world. It has used many trickeries to get people to put their money into the church. There are great similarities between the spiritual state of Israel at the end of its age, and the present time which many people seem to feel is the end of the "church age."

The key question seems to be the ability to read the signs. The majority of the Jews read the signs wrong, which produced their destruction. There was a small group who read them right. These heeded Jesus words to escape to the mountains when they see the city surrounded. This small group of believers escaped the destruction and were allowed to enter into a new period of time. The Old had indeed, passed away. They were allowed to

make that transition from law to grace. They were the ones who God would use to begin the process of setting up His True kingdom. They left Israel behind and went to the Gentiles.

They escaped to a place named Pella in Syria. They were all believers in the Messiah. The remaining 2 million or so Jews were all slaughtered in 70 AD. The atrocities recorded were brutal even by Roman standards.

Finally, here is another fascinating historical tidbit that should surprise you. . . It is about Matthew 24:40–41, the premier passage for the “rapture”

*“Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.
Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left”*

Here’s the interesting thing. Most of us likely heard about the “rapture” first, then were taken by a well-meaning pastor or fellow Christian to this verse. But there is no indication this is anything supernatural. The first time you read this, would you have immediately conjured up the image of a person simply disappearing into thin air? Maybe. But how about this much simpler and alternative possibility below. . . follow me:

Josephus discusses the Jerusalem siege. I will paraphrase from what I remember here:

In around 60-70 AD, the sect of Jews called the Zealots (obsessed Rome haters), had become incredibly strong. They were well led and organized. They had acquired swords and shields and trained themselves in stealthy combat techniques.

A group of say 30 would brutally ambush a Roman party (usually 10), and hack them to pieces. A group of 150 would slaughter 50. After a few years animosity between the Roman soldiers and the Jews was at a fever pitch. Outrage and hatred of Jews was swelling out of control among soldiers. Romans were the worldwide conquerors. They were arrogant and were used to being the aggressors and dominators. The zealots and their supporters slowly took control of the city. Hatred was ablaze.

When Titus arrived from Rome outside Jerusalem with his troops and nearby cities troops to lay siege, the soldiers had by now developed a bloodlust for the lowly Jews that was beyond hatred. It was a frenzy to kill any Jew in the Palestine area.

Josephus mentions horrendous random killings perpetrated by the Romans at their siege of Jerusalem in AD 70. The Romans would come upon a few men in their village. They would hack one farmer in half and leave the farmer standing next to him shaking with fear; they would come upon two women and kill one and rape the other. The one that lived was to warn other Jews not to mess with Rome; this was the terrifying fulfillment of Matthew 24:40–41. “One will be taken; one will be left”.

Josephus reported that when the Roman army finally broke through the city, Titus was weary and more subdued than his men and wanted to get to the Temple to negotiate with the rebels in control. But he was unable to stop his own men, who would not heed his command to stay. For days they swept through the city. They created a tidal wave blood bath, slaughtering man, women and child with no mercy, and burning the city to the ground.

That is, all except the believers who fled to the mountains days before when they saw the Roman army approaching. They did not forget Jesus' warning 40 years before to flee.

All this can be read in much greater detail in the books, especially Raptureless mentioned above.

Don't forget --- I am not hard and fast on this. I'm giving it a 90-95% odds that what I have discovered from these readings is the best answer.

But hey, I wont jump off a cliff if I am proved wrong.

Bottom line for me . . .

There is no Rapture coming, there is no Tribulation coming. But Jesus IS coming back for his spotless Bride, and she wont be wearing a dress stained by the blood of Armageddon.

Let me know your thoughts.