**BIRTH PAINS OF THE END OF THE AGE**

Matthew 24:3 Mark 13:4 Luke 21:7

**Three Questions**

When will the temple be destroyed? - Answered in Luke 21:20-24

What is the sign that the temple is about to be destroyed? - Answered in Luke 21:20-24.

What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? Answered in Matthew 24:4-53; Mark 13:5-37 and Luke 21:8-36

**The Fulfilled Part of the Prophecy**

Luke 21:20&21

The Roman army under Titus surrounded the city and then withdrew to deal with a problem with Egypt. The Jewish historian Josephus says that virtually all of the 100,000 followers of Jesus fled the city before the Romans came back and laid siege to the city again.

Luke 21:22-24

The Romans conquered Jerusalem in 70 AD. The temple was destroyed. The Jews rebelled again in 134 AD and the Romans came back, destroyed Jerusalem, took thousands of prisoners and made it a crime for Jews to live in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem remained under Gentile control until 1948 when Israel took control of west Jerusalem and shortly thereafter declared it the capital of the Jewish State. In 1967 Israel took control of the entire city.

Matthew 24:20

**Don’t Be Deceived**

Matthew 24:4-6

Mark 13:5-7

Luke 21:8

Matthew 24:36 & Mark 13:32

Beware of anyone who sets dates. Beware of any group that claims that they are the fulfillment of the prophecies made about Israel.

Daniel 8:13&14

This prophecy comes from a section in Daniel that unbelievers insist had to be written after the fact it is so accurate. It describes the conquest of the Medo-Persian Empire by the Greeks, the split of the Greek Empire into four parts and the desecration of the Temple under Antiochus Epiphanes. The desecration begins with the appointment of a High Priest, Menelaus, from the tribe of Benjamin, and ends with the cleansing of the Temple by the Maccabees 2300 days later. The cleansing of the Temple is celebrated every year by the Jews during Hanukkah.

**The Birth Pains**

Matthew 24:7&8

Mark 13:8

Luke 21:10&11

In the Second Congo War, 1998 to 2004, 3,000,000 were killed in battle and 2,700,000 died of starvation and disease.

Approximately 75,000,000 died in World War Two.

In World War I about 20,000,000 died with 50,000,000 dying of the “Spanish Flu” in the years after the war.

As of Wednesday 2,000,000 were infected with the coronavirus worldwide with 132,884 deaths.

None of the natural disasters, “Acts of God,” since the “Spanish Flu” come close to the number of deaths caused by war. Famine and devastating pestilence in our day usually comes about in nations experiencing or suffering the consequences of war.

**Things to Think About**

Jesus told us what to expect as we got close to His return.

What He said about Israel has been and is being fulfilled, the “times of the Gentiles” appear to be up.

Don’t let anyone or any group deceive you by claiming to be Israel or by setting dates for Christ’s return.

So far the greatest horrific events, events that could be called the “birth pains,” have been caused by human sinfulness, not “Acts of God,” like earthquakes, fearful events and great signs from heaven.