



Week 1: *The Beginning of the End*

Before we can understand what the Bible says about the end of the world, we first need to correct some misunderstandings and misuses of Jesus' teaching on the topic. That is the focus of today's message.

For Jesus, the end of the world was about the end of religion, the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, and the end of sacrifice as a way to have peace with God. It was the end of the world *as they knew it*.

-- Robert Bilmont, *The Olivet Discourse*

It's the end of the world as we know it.

-- REM

Jesus wasn't predicting the 'end of the world'. No; he was predicting the end of *their* world, the close of the way of life that had failed.

-- N.T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone*

The events prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24 primarily occurred throughout the period of A.D. 30-70.

-- Craig S. Keener, *The Gospel of Matthew: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*

Jesus saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world as being almost contemporaneous.

-- F. Dale Bruner, *Matthew*

In Jesus' prophecies about "the end" it is clear he is predicting the destruction of the temple complex that occurred in A.D. 70.

-- Robert H. Gundry, *Commentary on the New Testament*

But what does this mean for us? Christians increasingly need to realize that unless we understand the first century we will not understand our own times.

-- N. T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone*

Since the decisive event of history has already taken place in the ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, all subsequent history is a kind of epilogue.

-- C.E.B. Cranfield, *The Eschatology of Luke-Acts*

Jesus clearly says we are not to guess the time but be ready at all times. To tell people you know the time is against this passage and gives people a false security bound to lead them down the wrong path spiritually.

-- Grant R. Osborne, *Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Matthew)*

Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

-- Jesus