

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 24:35-44.**
- B. The second coming of X is mentioned over 300 times in the NT.
- C. With the year 2000 quickly approaching many are panicking that this might be the end of the world. Men have tried unsuccessfully for centuries to use the Scriptures and predict the Lord's return. All such efforts are doomed to failure.
- D. If the world does end in the year 2000 it will not be because of computer and electrical malfunctions. It will not be because of shortages, panic, or civil unrest. The world will come to an end when God decides for it to end.
- E. I am not sure what all of this business about Y2K is about anyway:
 - 1. Most all scholars agree that there was an error in the Roman calendar of 4-6 years. This means that Jesus was born, according to our Christian calendar about 4-6BC. That means the new millennium came into being in 1996 (1994?) and we missed it!
 - 2. Another angle on Y2K is that due to counting in base 10, 10 is considered to be part of the previous decade, and the new decade doesn't begin until 01. That is, 1990 is actually part of the decade of the '80's and the year 2000 is really a part of the decade of the '90's. That makes the beginning of the new decade, the new century, and the new millennium in 2001!
- F. As far as the computer problem goes, when I worked as a programmer there were always some problems when the New Year turned over. That is common. With the concerted effort made to correct the Y2K computer problems over the last year, I believe the same will be true--only minor problems.
- G. But because some of your friends, neighbors, schoolmates, etc., may be upset about Y2K I want to review again the teachings of the NT concerning the second coming of X and the end of the world.

I. MATTHEW 24:36-44.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. **37** For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. **38** For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. **40** Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. **41** Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. **43** But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **44** For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

- A. In Mt. 24, Jesus answers three questions that are found in 24:3:
 - 1. "When will these things be?" (That is, when is the destruction of the temple?).
 - 2. "What will be the sign of your coming?"
 - 3. "When is the end of age?"
- B. Jesus answers the first question in Mt. 24:4-28 and repeatedly says that of the things mentioned that they are not to be mistaken as signs of the end of time (24:6,8).
- C. Jesus answers the second question in Mt. 24:29-34 and equates the Roman general Titus and his army surrounding Jerusalem in 70AD as a sign of the His coming to destroy the temple.
- D. In Mt. 24:35-44 Jesus deals with the third question concerning the end of the Xian dispensation. His answer includes the following:
 - 1. No person or angel or Jesus Himself knows when the end will come (24:36).
 - 2. Only God the Father knows when the end will come (24:36).
 - 3. None of the apostles knew when the end will come (24:42).
 - 4. The end will come at a time that one does not expect (24:44).

- E. If Jesus doesn't know, then He did not reveal it to the Spirit (Jn. 16:13-14). So when the Spirit wrote the word (1Cor 14:37), there is no information in the NT on the time of the coming of X.
(Jn 16:13-14) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.
(1Cor 14:37) If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

II. JOHN 5:25-29.

Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

- A. Jesus tells us the following in this passage about the final day.
1. Death seals the eternal fate.
 2. The soul/body that will be raised is one that is judged by the Son.
 3. The eternal decision is made by X, He is the judge.
 4. All will be raised, the just and the unjust.
- B. None of this has anything to do with Y2K.

III. 1THESSALONIANS 4:13-17.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

- A. Paul tells us the following in this passage about the final day.
1. X will descend with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel.
 2. Those who are physically dead in X, will rise first to be with the Lord.
 3. Those who are alive and remain will be caught up together in the clouds with the Lord.
- B. None of this has anything to do with Y2K.

IV. 1CORINTHIANS 15:50-53.

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- A. Paul tells us the following in this passage about the final day.
1. Flesh and blood cannot enter heaven, so all will be changed.
 2. At the sound of the last trumpet the dead shall be raised imperishable.
 3. Mortality puts on immortality. Perishable puts on the imperishable.
 4. Death, the final enemy, is swallowed up in victory.
- B. None of this has anything to do with Y2K.

V. 1CORINTHIANS 15:23-26, 44, 46.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

- A. Paul tells us the following in this passage about the final day.

1. The church/kingdom is delivered up to God.
 2. The final enemy, death, is destroyed.
 3. We shall be given a heavenly, spiritual body.
- B. None of this has anything to do with Y2K.

VI. REVELATION 20:11-15.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. **14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- A. John tells us the following in this passage about the final day.
1. The eternal judgment follows X's return.
 2. The names of the faithful are recorded in heaven.
 3. Judgment is made according to God's word and our works.
 4. Judgment is awarded to the saints.
 5. Hades is destroyed, leaving only the eternal heaven and hell.
- B. None of this has anything to do with Y2K.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Y2K is coming even if the Lord tarries.
- B. But it has nothing to do with the end of the world. The world will end when God decides for it to end.
- C. Therefore, we need to be ready for the end, no matter when it comes (1Th. 5:1-6).
Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **2** For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
- D. There may be some minor social, computer, and logistical problems with the turn of the century, but we need not fear it to be the end of the world any more so than any other time.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.