

The "Pearl Harbor Prophecy"*

(A Practical Prophecy)



"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' 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."

Matthew 24:15-16

To most persons, I suspect, our opening quote seems anything *but* practical! Yet, as you may soon witness (if you keep reading) the above warning is not only practical, but quite interesting to anyone intrigued by Christ's ability to make things that would normally seem complex and very difficult to prepare for—seem so very practical and useful, when seeking to avoid a dangerous outcome. It is like a jig saw puzzle, that at first (to the uninitiated) seems nearly impossible to make sense of, but after being "put together" forms a beautiful picture suitable for framing.

So let us start putting this one together shall we?

First of all, let us de-mystify this very intriguing Bible prophecy by paying attention to Who it is that is speaking: it is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who came to earth to save humankind by *giving His life* to save us from eternal damnation! Jesus knew that the Cross was ahead of Him, and knew exactly why He came. The reason He came, Jesus said, was not to be served, but to serve and to give His life in exchange (as a ransom) for our salvation (Matt. 20:28). In other words, Jesus was all business when dealing with those following Him. He wasn't playing games, in fact, when telling disciples about things to come, this explanation came *immediately preceding* His march to the Cross, where He would be crucified. (In other words, this explanation of things future is in the chapters just before the description of His trial and crucifixion.)

You might say that Jesus was dead serious, when describing things to come. His face is set like flint, with a rock solid determination, as He looks to the immediate future as it relates to himself, along with a determination to see us be faithful as we face the future, ourselves. This fact is reflected in this answer given to an appar-

ently innocent question thrown out by the disciples, after they were informed that one of the wonders of the ancient world (Herod's Temple, which had taken over 40 years to build)—with massive stones that weighed over 40 tons apiece, would one day be thrown down so that "not one stone would be left upon another" (Matt. 24:2).

Of course, such a statement about the temple being thrown down was like forecasting the collapse of the twin towers decades in advance (which we will also consider, in our own discussion today). The very thought was, to say the least, mind boggling. Why, the very thought. How dare anyone even consider such a thing! To them, it seemed like the end of the world and so, as they left Jerusalem and approached the Mount of Olives, with the shining temple looking at them from within the city, Jerusalem, they approached 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 age?"

Matthew 24:3

It is here that we must remember the very practical nature and perspective of Jesus, the Messiah. If you presented Him with someone who was sick, He was not one to pontificate on why their sickness kept them from experiencing a full and healthy life. In fact, if you dared present Jesus with a dead person, He was likely to raise that person from the dead (Jn. 11:23-26)! No, Jesus was not one to resort to mere theology. Jesus presented solutions and gave answers. I can well imagine Jesus, with His loving eyes, looking through the very souls of the disciples as He said simply: "Take heed that no one deceive you . . ."

⁴ *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."*

Matthew 24:4-5

In His classic, but mysterious, way of saying things, Jesus opens the discourse on the end of the world with this double edged answer (paraphrasing): "Many will come in My name (as Christian followers?) saying 'I am Christ' – and will deceive many people"!! We will not unpack this comment here, but say only that this is not an isolated revelation concerning the future, and the apostle Paul also does some serious "unpacking" in his second letter to the church in Thessalonica which is disturbing, to say the least (take a look at 2 Thes. 2:11, 12, for example). But, this is only an opening salvo, and no one even thinks to question Jesus at this point because of what was continuing to flow from this most comprehensive, and far reaching, discussion that would be recorded in three of the four gospels (Matthew through Luke). John is excepted—only because this "beloved disciple" is given an *entire book* (the Revelation) at the end of the Holy Bible.

Again, let us remind ourselves of Who is speaking: it is not simply "a prophet" it is The Prophet, the Messiah Himself. The One Who came to give His life to save us. Is it any wonder that the first words spoken in this discourse are voiced on the very mountain that He will one day return to from the skies (see Acts 1:11 & Zech. 14:1-3)? No matter what anyone says to you, know this: this is serious business that Jesus is speaking about. His intent is not to tickle our ears, but to warn us. We are not witnessing a bed time story, here, but a counsel of war: warning the troops of what to expect on Battlefield Earth, just before He returns in flaming glory to set up His physical kingdom (read the entire fourteenth chapter of Zechariah for a fuller description)!

With all of this in mind, we are ready to do a quick intro and give a very quick explanation of the "Pearl Harbor" prophecy that Jesus zeroes in on, that the Christian world has not yet adequately grabbed hold of. Briefly, Christ's description of the future of the world focuses primarily upon the future of the church, as He gives increasingly detailed information regarding earth's future. Remember, this information was given just before Christ was to be unjustly tried and crucified for the sins of humankind. The Church age had not yet even begun, and the disciples' entire focus regarding the purpose of Messiah and His message had not yet included (within their minds) the salvation of Gentiles partaking in the good news of Messiah. As the prophet Isaiah wrote, of the Messiah:

⁶ *Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That*

You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"
Isaiah 49:6

Such insights into the future were utterly beyond the comprehension of the disciples at that moment in time. Jesus had to find a way to expand their thinking while leaving a message that would, one day, give insights to the fuller rank-and-file of the Kingdom of God that would then also include Gentile believers.

At the same time, He also had to give a warning that really would form a Pearl Harbor prophecy (of sorts) that would be useable to believers a few decades hence, as well as to us, at the very end of the age. How could He accomplish these, and other, goals with disciples unaware of the world that would one day exist in which (as the prophet Daniel explained it) "men would run to and fro and knowledge will increase" (Daniel 12:4)?? They hadn't the faintest inkling of a world that would one day connect continents via aircraft, or communicate via cell phones and digital imaging (and marking)! Why, they had not yet been introduced to what would one day be common knowledge among believers: the rapture. He must begin carefully, with concepts then easily understood, before . . . pushing the envelope.

Jesus began by telling of wars and rumors of wars, of famines and plagues, and . . . of persecution, very heavy persecution, that would rattle and unravel the allegiance of some, so that "many will be offended and betray one another, and will hate one another" (vss. 6-10). Such is only the beginning of sorrows and of a time when basic morality and the rule of law begins to fail and collapse (Matt. 24:12). However, He gives us good news as

This is my reason for calling the fifteenth verse . . . a "Pearl Harbor Prophecy."

well, for He begins to finalize and summarize this first series of warnings by adding, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

In other words, within a world falling apart, the good news (the "Gospel") WILL BLANKET THE GLOBE, so that after this old world has turned to ashes, the ranks of the saints (i.e. all true believers – Rom. 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:2) will have swollen to include persons from every nook and cranny of this present world. And it is then, that Christ gave, what I call, His "Pearl Harbor prophecy."

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand-

ing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Matthew 24:15-16

To Jews, listening to this declaration, this was *very practical* advice. For it brought to mind a "Pearl Harbor" event in the past that every Jew listening to Him was familiar with: the desecration of the Jerusalem temple by Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) during the Maccabean era, wherein a Syrian conqueror offered swine's blood upon the altar within the Holy of Holies in 167 BC. When this ultimate insult was accomplished in the past, the Jews rose up in a bloody revolt. Some day, in a future "9-11" event, they are to then head for the hills. So is this why He adds this cryptic commentary "(let the reader understand)"??

Indeed it is to answer this question (and others) that my latest book has been written. There is a warning here that does not quite "tickle our fancy," or set well with us, today. Yet in another sense, it was indeed very practical advice, for when the Lord's projection of the temple's physical destruction actually took place in 70 AD, Christians in Israel who had paid attention to Christ's warning, were able to leave Jerusalem before Roman hoards entered the city after yet another Jewish revolt—and were spared the carnage that ensued. However . . .

Although it appears that Paul actually echoes Christ's warning about a desecration of a physical temple within his writings (2 Thes. 2:1-8) —no such warning, or graphic display, at first appears present within the most detailed and graphic picture of the church's future within the writings of John's *The Revelation*. (Perhaps you may have never noticed this, since most have not taken the time to carefully examine its symbols which contain amazing secrets, requiring the rest of the Bible to unravel.)

This is my reason for calling the fifteenth verse of Matthew twenty-four a true "Pearl Harbor Prophecy." What, pray tell, is a "Pearl Harbor Prophecy"? It is a prophecy that makes use of a past, historic disaster, to describe another devastating event, yet to take place in the future. In other words, it is a "repeat performance" of a national horror: such as a repeat of Pearl Harbor . . . on September 11, 2001. In such a case a person *might have* projected 9-11, ten years before by stating: "**Some day America will have another Pearl Harbor!**" —That would have been a "Pearl Harbor prophecy," and technically correct, in many ways. Consider, for example, their similarities:

- Both were executed by enemy pilots when we least expected it
- Both awakened the US citizenry to a danger that was (relatively) unknown
- Both spurred a sleeping giant (the US) to go to war

And yet, there would be no way to have adequately prepared for the next attack, for the next attack took place in NYC, not Hawaii, and was aimed at financial towers, not naval vessels! In terms of actual prevention, therefore, "further intelligence" (or another prophecy) would be needed to effectively prevent the *future disaster* projected by the prophecy.

*[it is] a "repeat performance"
of a national horror:*

For us, this "further intelligence" is found within John's Revelation, where Antichrist is indeed described as seeking to defile, not a physical temple, but one spiritual—as believers are warned in no uncertain terms not to "sign up" with the Antichrist by taking his mark in their hands, or foreheads (—which may be a "digital event" utilizing computers, etc. in the near future (Rev. 14:9-11)).

Selah (pause and calmly think of that)!

As we begin to gain an appreciation of the depth of this mystery, we also begin to better understand the rest of Matthew's twenty-fourth chapter (vss. 36-44 for example). For since Christ's the primary warning is to flee from an unholy abomination (vs. 15) at the end of the Great Tribulation (vs. 29) why are the faithful described as being "taken" from this world (by introducing us to the rapture) while they are standing alongside non-believers in open sight, within an open field, or (effectively) within a factory (vss. 40-41)? ?

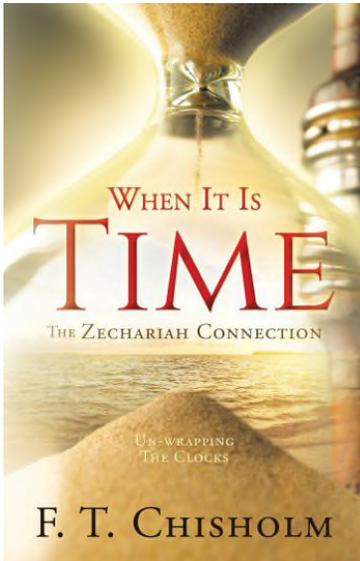
Understanding the nature of the "Pearl Harbor Prophecy" also helps us to understand the parable of the ten virgins, within Matthew's very next (twenty-fifth) chapter, as well, where foolish virgins are running off to get "extra oil" —only to find out, too late, that they can no longer gain access to Heaven (Matt. 25:10-12). Yes indeed, as Jesus says, "let the reader understand"!![§]

Thus there remained a very real danger, not only to disciples then prone to ignore all things "nasty" and distasteful in the first century (as, for example, when Christ told them of His pending crucifixion—Lk. 9:44-45) —but for ourselves as well, within this 21st century; having grown lax and accustomed to the benefits of freedom, so that we too, dare not consider such possibilities confronting ourselves.

To us, as it was to them, the "Pearl Harbor Prophecy" remains a reminder of how devastating it can be to feel safe and secure on one day, and on the very next, experience true desolation and almost despair. To us all, Jesus says: "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matthew 24:44).

Maranatha Ministries
p/o Frank Chisholm ministries
© 2018 Frank Chisholm
P.O. Box 447
Middletown, N.Y. 10940

TheUplook.com



A Comprehensive Approach

—to end time events

. . . available online . . .

Send your email address to info@TheUplook.com
To be included on the UPLOOK mailing list

& Read this UPLOOK online!



What Must I Do?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”
Acts 16:31

How? . . . *If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Acknowledge: your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you.

Live for Him: with your new life.

For the scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed.”

Romans 10:11

All Bible quotes in NKJV unless otherwise so noted.

§ A fuller explanation of the “Pearl Harbor Prophecy” begins in the second half of the second chapter of *When It Is Time* (in the section entitled “Prophecy 101”), while its climax is described in the book’s closing chapter, “Awakening.”