

Revelation 20:1-6, Matthew 24
End Times Confusion and Red-Letter Clarification
(pt. 6)

INTRO: How do unbelievers and believers view and/or approach the future differently?

In order to help us flourish and cope _____.

In order to understand why Jesus’ disciples are dazed and confused and in effort to sympathize with their fears we need to first understand their frame of reference.

First Century Jewish Eschatology:

I) _____
(Dan. 9:24-27; 12:1-13; Zeph. 1:15; Jer. 30:7)

II) _____
(Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1)

III) _____
(Joel 2:30-32; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:1, 5; Zeph. 1:14-15; Isa. 2:17)

IV) _____
(Zech. 14)

V) _____
(Jer. 30:19-31:40; Zech. 12-14)

How does “prophetic telescoping” help us make sense of why Jesus’ original disciples initially struggled to understand the Messiah’s message related to “the age to come” and the postponed “Kingdom of God?” (note also Luke 19:11f)

Isaiah 61:1-2 (note carefully Luke 4:16-30)

Illustration- Viewing a “mountain ridge” from a basin in Los Angeles- (explain)

At the end of the day, does it truly matter whether or not a believer understands the details of biblical eschatology? Shouldn’t we just move on to more important things?

What does Jesus “red-letter clarification” in Matthew 24:4-26:1 suggest?

What specific applications does Jesus drive home as he delivered His “Olivet Discourse?” (note Matthew 24:4; 6; 42; etc)

For Further Reflection:

How does a proper understanding of “prophetic telescoping” help Christians be more precise in their personal bible study? How might this knowledge help equip you in a context where you are sharing the gospel with an unbelieving Jew who is fluent in the O.T.? (What barriers often keep orthodox Jews from embracing biblical Christianity and the Messiah, Jesus? How might this principle of biblical interpretation be employed when defending the integrity of the Bible or the truth claims of Jesus Christ in a apologetics context?)