



## Let No One Alarm You About Dangers Matthew 24:4-14

**The** story of the Great Disappointment of October 1844 is a story of a failed prediction of Christ's return. Can you think of other predictions about Jesus' return that have also proven false? Why do you think this continues to take place even with all the failed predictions?

**Today** we'll look at ten events Jesus spoke of that would take place prior to his return and how to best understand them. Are they for a time yet

future to our own? A time future to that of the disciples? Both?

**This** morning, we'll look at:

1) Two big reasons for believing that Jesus is speaking of the temple's destruction in AD 70 and not something yet future.

2) Ask an important question about our future.

**First, there is evidence that all ten of these events occurred within the generation preceding the temple's destruction.**

*Yes, but what about:*

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

If we look at this from our perspective, this has not happened. If we look at it from the perspective of first-century biblical authors writing to first-century believers in Christ, it has! First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. Romans 1:8

... the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing...

Colossians 1:5b-6

(See also Romans 16:26 and Colossians 1:23).

**Second, that these events took place prior to the temple's destruction in AD 70 is the clearest reading of the text.**

And Jesus answered **them**, "See that no one leads **you** astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And **you** will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that **you** are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver **you** up to tribulation and put **you** to death, and **you** will be hated by all nations for my name's sake." Matthew 24:4-9, emphasis mine

The big question: *Did Jesus know who He was speaking to?*

**An important question: *Could this apply to both the disciples in their time, and us in our time?***

- The Bible does include “double references” (example: Isaiah 7:14).
- There is a difference between inspired biblical authors making such references and us as interpreters of the Bible!
- In other words, the thing we can say most is that this is a possibility, not a certainty (as is most often taught)!

***To be continued...***

*Hear Jesus’ words today: “See that you are not alarmed” (Verse 6). This week, explore what alarms you and hear Jesus’ words to you. And remember, Jesus is coming again!*