THE SIGNS OF MATTHEW 24 AND HISTORY.

By Morrison Lee

2000

“Verily I say unto you, THIS GENERATION shall not pass away until ALL THESE THINGS [signs] be fulfilled.”

Jesus. Matthew 24:34

It is certain that Jesus said all prophetic signs would be fulfilled in that generation. The main issue is whether He meant all prophetic signs would be fulfilled in that generation. The following chart shows a co-incidence between Jesus’ thirty signs (Matthew 24) and Josephus’ history, ‘Wars.’ First century Prophecy and first century History combine at the destruction of the covenantal temple and the end of Mosaic civilization in 70 AD.

This fulfilment is apiece with other biblical authors:

- Mtt 23:36 ALL THINGS come on THIS GENERATION
- Mk 13:30 THIS GENERATION will not pass till ALL FULFILLED
- Lk 18:31 Going to Jerusalem that...ALL THINGS ACCOMPLISHED
- Lk 21:22 THESE are the Days of Vengeance when ALL THINGS WRITTEN MAY BE FULFILLED
- Lk 21:32 THIS GENERATION will not pass till ALL THINGS occur
- Acts 3:24 ALL PROPHETS from Samuel foretold THESE DAYS
- 1 Cor 10:11 US upon whom the ENDS OF THE AGES have come
- 1 Pet 1:12 Spirit of Christ NOW ANNOUNCED TO YOU
- Rev 19:7,10 Let US be glad, the marriage has COME, wife READY
- Rev 19:10 The TESTIMONY of Jesus is the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
- Rev 22:6 Things which must SHORTLY TAKE PLACE
- 7 I am coming QUICKLY
- 10 Do not seal up PROPHECY [Revelation] – the TIME IS NEAR
- 12 I am coming QUICKLY
- 20 Surely I am coming QUICKLY.

1 Josephus’ Wars of the Jews was published by an eye-witness (Flavius Josephus) in the same generation in 75AD, five years after the destruction of the temple. It draws heavily from both Jewish and Roman sources and is held to be an authentic source by most scholars.
History tells us forty years after Jesus’ Olivet Discourse the Holy City, covenantal Jerusalem was besieged, demolished, and burned. The divine sacrifice failed completely, the holy temple was dismantled stone-by-stone by four Roman Legions, ($V^{th}$, $X^{th}$, $XII^{th}$, $XV^{th}$) and the city dug up to its foundations. Wars 7:1:1

Prior to this the commanding General Titus (son of Caesar Vespasian and later eleventh Caesar) took his ensigns and eagles into the temple, set them against the eastern gate, offered sacrifice. There he was made Imperator by his soldiers. Wars 6:6:1 For their devotion he put on their heads crowns of gold, placed golden ornaments around their necks, and gave them long spears of gold and ensigns made of silver. Wars 7:1:3

The War left the Jewish army annihilated, the theocracy without a capital or officers, the entire population decimated, and the land uninhabited. It was then sold. Wars 6:8:2

An estimated 1,100,000 died from the sword, over 500,000 died of starvation and disease, 97,000 were taken captive, and 40,000 fled to the four winds under Titus’ amnesty, heeding Jesus’ warning in Mtt 24:16. Wars 6:8:2

The Jewish people ceased to be a landed people for the next 2000 years.

We conclude that Jesus meant what He said.
# THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE OLIVET DISCOURSE AND FIRST CENTURY HISTORY.

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>REF.</th>
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<th>THEME</th>
<th>C.1ST HISTORICAL FULFILMENT. 66-70 AD</th>
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| #2   | Mtt 24:2 | “Do you see these things? Not one stone here shall be left on another that is not torn down.” | Jerusalem temple was destroyed stone by stone. Madness of that generation. Holy city demolishe d Jerusalem burnt. | ♦The end of Jerusalem temple & Mosaic civilization:- ‘Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple...but for the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.’ Wars 7:1:3 p.750-751 ‘This was the end to which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those who were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind.’ Wars 7:1:4 p.751 “Where is this city that was believed to have God Himself inhabiting it? It is now demolished to the very foundations...Who is yet able to bear the sight of the sun? I cannot but wish we had all died before we had seen the holy city demolished...or the foundations of our temple dug up…” Eleazar’s speech. Masada. AD 73 Wars 7:8:6 p.768 ‘all this burning came upon Jerusalem...a city
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<tr>
<th>#3</th>
<th>Mtt 24:3</th>
<th>“What is the sign of your presence [παρουσία] and the end of age?”</th>
<th>God’s covenantal Presence in Clouds in Jerusalem temple since C.10th</th>
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<td>&quot;God’s presence in the Jerusalem temple in a Cloud. Jesus’ presence (παρουσία) in a Cloud.</td>
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<td>9. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10. It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>&quot;And now the army of Titus had a ready passage to come up. On the seventeenth day of Panemus (Tamuz) the sacrifice called ‘the Daily sacrifice’ failed for want of men to offer it, and that the people were grievously troubled by this.” Wars 6:2:1 p.731</td>
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<td>The covenantal temple fell on exactly the same day, month and season as the first temple fell in 586 BC - 10th Ab, a Summer month:-</td>
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<td>‘God long ago had doomed it to the fire..the fatal day was the tenth of Ab, the same day the first temple was burnt by the king of Babylon.” Wars 6:4:5 p. 739 (cf. Mtt 24:32)</td>
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| #4 | Mtt 24:5 | “For many will come in |
|----|---------|False Christ’s |
|    |         | False Christ’s, false prophets present:- |
|    |         | ‘A false prophet was the occasion of these
| #5  | **Mtt 24:6** | "You will be hearing of wars and rumours of wars" | Wars & rumours of war | Rumours of war circulating from before the time of Pilate:–

'Now as for the Jews, some of them could not believe the stories that spoke of war; but those that did believe them were in the utmost distress how to defend themselves, and the terror diffused itself presently through them, for the army was already come to Ptolemais.' Wars 2:10:1 p.609 |
| #6  | **Mtt 24:7** | "For nation will rise against nation..“ | Nations fighting. | List of nations warring at the time of the end. In addition the Jewish Wars, Rome was embroiled in a civil war after the death of Nero in 68AD as well as wars in; Germany, Gaul, Scythia and Samaitia:-

'.while Vespasian was about Alexandria, and Titus was lying at the siege of Jerusalem, a great multitude of the Germans were in commotion, and tended to rebellion, and as the Gauls in the neighborhood joined with them.hoping to free themselves of Roman dominion.. At the very same time with the formentioned revolt of the Germans did the bold attempt of the Scythians against the Romans occur, for those Scythians, who are called Samaitans, being a very numerous people, transported themselves over the Danube into Mysia without being perceived..and slew a great many Romans that guarded the frontiers.' Wars 7:4:2ff p.754 |
| #7  | **Mtt 24:7** | "..there will be famines..“ | Famines. | The extent of the famine in Judea and Jerusalem was widespread:–

'Now of those that perished by famine in the city, the number was prodigious, and the miseries they underwent were unspeakable; for if so much
shoes, shield, wisps of hay.

**Searched human sewage and cattle dung. Bellies exploded.**

Cannibalism

as the shadow of any kind of food did any where appear, a war was commenced presently, and the dearest friends fell a fighting one with another about it, snatching from each other the most miserable supports of life. Nor would men believe that those who were dying had no food, but the robbers would search them when they were expiring, lest any one should have concealed food in their bosoms, and counterfeited dying; nay, these robbers gaped for want, and ran about stumbling and staggering along like mad dogs, and reeling against the doors of the houses like drunken men; they would also, in the great distress they were in, rush into the very same houses two or three times in one and the same day. **Moreover, their hunger was so intolerable, that it obliged them to chew everything,** while they gathered such things as the most sordid animals would not touch, and **enforced to eat them; nor did they at length abstain from girdles and shoes; and the very leather which belonged to their shields they pulled off and gnawed:** the very wisps of old hay became food to some; and some gathered up fibres, and sold a very small weight of them for four Attic [drachmae].’ Wars 6:3:3 p.737

‘[When the city was walled] it was not possible to gather herbs, ..and some persons searched the common sewers and old dung hills of cattle...for food.’ Wars 5:13:7ff p.726

‘Those who gave up to the Romans met a worse fate than they could have done from the famine among the Jews; for when they came first to the Romans, their bellies were puffed up by the famine, and swelled like men in a dropsy; after which they ate too much too quickly, filled those bodies that were empty, and so burst apart, unless they were skilful enough to control their intake, and eat small portions until their bodies grew used to it.’ Wars 5:13:4 p. 725

‘Mary fled to Jerusalem when it was besieged. Her food was stolen daily by guards..she provoked them to anger but they would not kill her. In desperation she took her son, killed, roasted and ate him. When Titus heard he excused himself before God in the matter having previously proposed peace terms. Wars 6:3:4
| #8  | Mtt 24:7 | “…and earthquakes” | Earthquakes | ◊Earthquakes:-
‘Moreover at the feast called Pentecost..the priest of the inner court felt a quaking.’ Wars 6:5:3ff p.743
‘There broke out a prodigious storm, with the utmost violence, very strong winds with the largest showers of rain, continual lightning and terrible thunders with amazing concussions and bellowing of the earth that was in earthquake. These things were manifest indication some destruction was coming upon men when the system of the world was put in this disorder. Wars 4:4:5 p.678 |
| #9  | Mtt 24:8 | “These are the beginning of birth pangs” | Childbirth motif – present in the ‘now’ | ◊Childbirth motif present in Paul’s day:-
For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.
Paul, Romans 8:22 |
| #10 | Mtt 24:9 | “They will deliver you to tribulation..” | Trials and tribulation present: Romans, Paul, Corinth, Thessalon ia, Smyrna, John on Patmos | ◊Christians were already suffering tribulation before scripture closed:-
Romans in tribulation Rom 2:9; 5:3; 12:12,
Paul in tribulation Rom 5:3; Eph 3:13
Corinthians in tribulation 2 Cor 1:4; 7:4
Thessalonians in tribulation 1 Thess 3:4; 2 Thess 1:4, 6
John in tribulation Rev 1:9;
Symrna in tribulation Rev 2:9-10
See also unprecedented tribulation. Mtt 24:21 |
| #11 | Mtt 24:9 | “You will be hated by nations for my name..” | Persecution | ◊Eg. Christian persecution under Nero.
The first documented case of imperially supervised persecution of the Christians in the Roman Empire begins with Nero (37–68). In 64 AD, a great fire broke out in Rome, destroying portions of the city |
and economically devastating the Roman population. Some people suspected Nero himself as the arsonist, as Suetonius reported,[12] claiming he played the lyre and sang the ‘Sack of Ilium’ during the fires. In his Annals, Tacitus (who wrote that Nero was in Antium at the time of the fire’s outbreak), stated that "to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians (or Christians. sic)[13] by the populace" (Tacit. Annals XV, see Tacitus on Jesus). Suetonius, later to the period, does not mention any persecution after the fire, but in a previous paragraph unrelated to the fire, mentions punishments inflicted on Christians, defined as men following a new and malefic superstition.


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<th>#12</th>
<th>Mtt 24:10</th>
<th>“Many will betray one another..”</th>
<th>Betrayal by family members.</th>
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<td>Father slays seven children, kills his wife, commits suicide.</td>
<td>Fathers slaughter children: examples of the madness of that generation:-</td>
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<td>Masada, 960 persons suicide.</td>
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<td>And here, a certain old man - the father of seven children, whose children, together with their mother decided to give them leave to go out [to Herod] – slew them after the following manner: he ordered them to go out while he himself stood at the cave’s mouth, and slew that son of his perpetually who went out. Herod was near enough to see this sight, and his bowels of compassion were moved at it... yet did he not relent at all - but reproached Herod for his lowness of descent- and then slew his wife as well as his children, and when he had thrown their dead bodies down the precipice, he at last threw himself down after them. Wars 1:16:4ff p.568</td>
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<td>Miserable men indeed were they, whose distress forced them to slay their own wives and children with their own hands. [Masada. AD 73] Wars 7:9:1 p.769</td>
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| #13 | Mtt 24:11 | “False prophets will arise..” | False miracles | ◊False prophet and false deliverer:- ‘But there was an Egyptian false prophet that did the Jews a great deal of mischief...and pretended to be a prophet also, and got together 30,000 men and led them into the wilderness...’ Wars 2:13:4 p. 614
‘A false prophet was the occasion of these peoples destruction, which had made a proclamation in the city that very day that God commanded them to get up on the temple, and they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance.’ Wars 6:5:2 p.741 |
| #14 | Mtt 24:12 | “Lawlessness will increase” | Bandits motivated by greed & viciousness, and politics | ◊Sicarii [lit. ‘dagger’, assassins] bandits arise:- ‘When Felix was procurator of Judea, he took an arch robber Eleazar alive, and many who were with him, (after they had robbed the country for twenty years) alive to Rome and crucified them. [after this] another sort of robber sprang up in Jerusalem which were called Sicarii, who slew men in the daytime and in the midst of the city...chiefly at festivals.’ ‘But there was another body of wicked men...pretending divine inspiration...more wicked in their actions...who were for making changes in the government...and persuaded others to act like madmen...and went into the wilderness as if God would show them there His sign of liberty.’ Wars 2:13:2-4 p. 614 |
| #15 | Mtt 24:14 | “Gospel preached to all the world...” | Gospel preached to all world | ◊Gospel preached to all the world. Proclamation accomplished to all under heaven.
Rom 10:18 Have they all heard? THEY HAVE.
Rom 15:19 FULLY PREACHED the gospel
Rom 16:26 Gospel been made known to ALL NATIONS
Col 1:5-6 Come to you as in ALL THE WORLD
Col 1:23 Gospel proclaimed UNDER HEAVEN |
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<th>Inhabited earth</th>
<th>NORTHERN LIMIT: Germany (Danube)</th>
<th>WEST: Britain/Cadiz Beyond Euphrates</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CENTER: ROME</td>
<td>EAST: Euphrates River</td>
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<td>SOUTHERN BOUNDARY: Libya, Ethiopia</td>
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Inhabited earth unstable and tottering:-

'The Roman government was in great internal disorder by continual changes of rulers, and understood that every part of the inhabited earth under them was in an unstable and tottering condition.' Wars 7:4:2 p.754.

Titus 'Lord of all the inhabitable earth':-

'Now these others were ashamed to leave their general in war...and lord of the inhabitable earth...' Wars 5:2:5 p.701
| #16 | Mtt 24:14 | "Then the end will come" | Daniel's prophecy of end of holy city and failure of sacrifice. End. | Daniel chapters 9. Main ideas:-

‘Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and the holy city...even to the end there will be war...sacrifice will fail...on the wing of abominations...a complete destruction is decreed.’ Daniel 9:24-27. |


‘The calamities that overwhelmed the whole nation...the facts of the tenor of the war and its progress, in particular the abomination of desolation according to the prophetic declaration in very holy temple of God.’ Eusebius 5:3

‘Son of man to come with the clouds of heaven.’ Dan 7:13

‘Son of man come on clouds of heaven’. Mt 26:64

‘To the end war...desolations determined . Dan 9:26

‘Jerusalem your house is left to you desolate. Mt 23:38

Daniel’s prophecy of the holy city's temple system:-

[Daily] Sacrifice to fail. Dan 9:27

'Daily sacrifice failed in Jerusalem. AD 70

‘Now Titus gave orders the foundations of the tower of Antonia be dug up...and on that very day the seventeenth of Panemus [Tamuz] the sacrifice called the ‘Daily Sacrifice’ failed for want of men to offer it...and the people were grievously troubled.. Wars 6:2:1 p.731

Daniel 9:27 Abomination of desolation in the holy place:-

‘Why do you trample upon dead bodies in this temple? And why do you pollute this holy house with the blood of both foreigners and Jews themselves?’ ‘I do not force you to pollute your sanctuary...’ Titus. Wars 6:2:4 p.733

Roman idol-eagles set up in holy place and worshipped:-
| #18 | Mtt 24:16 | "Flee to mountains.”  
"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies desolation near – flee. Lk 21:20-21 | Jerusalem surrounded by armies – surrounded by wall in three days - silence.  
Escape from Jerusalem – 40,000 fled  
Christians fled to Pella  
600,000 + dead bodies thrown out gates. | ◊ Titus surrounded Jerusalem with a wall.  
“To encompass the city round with his army was not very easy...so they built a wall round about the whole city...from the Camp of Assyrians along Mount of Olives through Siloam...back to the north side of the city. The whole was completed in three days...Titus had therefore encompassed the city with this wall. So all hope of escape was now cut off for the Jews... A deep silence, a kind of deadly night had seized upon the city.” Wars 5:12:1-3 p.723  
◊Titus allowed non-zealot Jerusalemites to flee with their families.  
‘Titus himself relaxed the order to kill, and made an announcement that deserter could leave if they brought their families out with them...and the number that were sold [as slaves] were about 40,000.’ Wars 6:8:2 p.747  
“Whole body of church at Jerusalem commanded by divine revelation removed from the royal city and dwelt beyond Jordan at a city called Pella. Eusebius 3:5  
‘...the dead bodies of 600,000 poor were thrown out of the gates, yet still the number of the rest could not be found out.’ Wars 5:13:7 p.726 |
| #19 | Mtt 24:21 | “Unprecedented tribulation since beginning of world” | No known comparison for tribulation  
Unparalleled | ◊Great tribulation not seen before in the world:-  
‘Jerusalem, a city that had been liable to so many miseries during the siege, that had it always enjoyed as much happiness from its foundation, would have been the envy of the world.’ Wars 6:8:5 p.748  
‘...but the entire nation was now shut up by fate as in
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|      | **led loss of life** From beginning of world. | a prison, and the Roman army compassed the city when it was crowded with inhabitant. Accordingly the multitude of those that therein perished exceeded all the destructions that either men or God ever brought upon the world...’ Wars 6:9:4 p.749

‘Accordingly, it appears to me, that the misfortunes of all men from the beginning of the world, if they be compared to these of the Jews, are not so considerable as they were.’ Wars Preface:4 p.544

|      | **Counterfeit prophets. On the temple.** | 24. False Christ’s, false prophets:-

‘A false prophet was the occasion of these people’s destruction, which made a public proclamation in the city that very day, that God commanded them to get up on the temple, and that they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance.’ Wars 6:5:2 p.741

Behold he is in the desert. Go not forth:-

So Festus sent [Roman forces] ..to fall upon those that had been seduced by a certain imposter, who promised them deliverance and freedom..if they would but follow him as far as the wilderness. Accordingly those forces .. destroyed both him that had deluded them, and those that were his followers also. Antiquities 20:8:10 p.537

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<th>#21</th>
<th>Mtt 24:27</th>
<th>“Coming as lightning” Four living creatures; face of a man, lion, bull, eagle</th>
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|      | **Agents of God, war. Symbols;**

5th Eagle
10th Boar
12th Thunder-bolt
15th Man

4th Eagle
5th Boar
7th Thunder-bolt
9th Man

|      | | 27. Lightning as divine agents, ministers of God. The symbols of the four legions surrounding Jerusalem;

|      | | the 5th Roman legion symbol an Eagle
|      | | the 10th Roman legion symbol a Boar
|      | | the 12th Roman legion Thunderbolt
|      | | the 15th Roman legion symbol Apollo (Face of a man)
## Lightning sent by God


**He sent lightning** and discomfited them. 2 Sam 22:15

And the [four] **living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning**. Ezek 1:14

Behold a certain man...had the appearance of lightning..**eyes like torches**. Dan 10:5-6

Chariots are covered in **flashing steel**..and rush madly through the streets..Nahum 2:4

Who makes His ministers **flames of fire**. Heb 1:7

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<th>&quot;Vultures gather&quot;</th>
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<td><strong>Armies as vultures and eagles.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Herod’s eagle.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Army led by eagle.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Titus’ four legions brought ensigns into temple.</strong></td>
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<td>Wherever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered:-</td>
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<td>Now the <strong>King [Herod] had put up a large golden eagle over the great gate of the temple, of very great value, and had dedicated it to the temple.</strong> Wars 1:33:3 p.595</td>
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<tr>
<td>The <strong>leaders of the cohorts were followed by the ensigns, with the eagle,</strong> [at the head of every Roman legion, the king and strongest of all birds, a signal of dominion*]and before them came the trumpeters belonging to them, and next came the main body of the army in their ranks, every rank being six deep.. Wars 5:2:1 p.699 *Wars 3:6:2 p.645</td>
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<td>‘...the Romans after the flight of the Jews from the holy house **brought their [four] ensigns into the temple and set them up at the eastern gate..and did make sacrifice to them...’ Wars 6:6:1 p.743</td>
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<th>Mtt 24:29</th>
<th>“Sun, moon darkened, stars Fall, powers of heaven shaken”</th>
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<td><strong>Signs in the heavens indicating doom.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fires blotted</strong></td>
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<td>◊Signs in the heavens:-</td>
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<td>During the day the Sun was darkened by the smoke of the burning capital and at night the moon reddened.</td>
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<td>While the holy house was on fire everything was</td>
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Fires across the whole country blotted out the moon at night and tinted the sun red by day. Moon did not give its light:

But Herod deprived this Matthias of the priesthood, and burnt the other Matthias who had raised the sedition, with his companions, alive. And that very night there was an eclipse of the moon. Antiq 17:6:4 p.462

Stars fall from heaven:

There was a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued for a whole year. Wars 6:5:3 p.742

Powers of heaven shaken. A change of the existing kingdom:

The expression; ‘yet once more’ will I shake not only the earth but also the heaven, denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things. so things which cannot be shaken remain-a kingdom. Heb 12:26-27

Jewish and Roman kingdoms shaking:

...the Roman government was in great internal disorder by the continual changes of its rulers, and understood that every part of the habitable earth under them was in an unsettled and tottering condition. Wars 7:4:2 p.754

See also #28 Heavens and Earth: an existing order.

#24 Mtt 24:30 Son of man Coming in Clouds, tribes mourn. Seen face to face in clouds. The Christ was to come in Clouds at the time of the end.

◊30. Sign of Son of Man in Clouds. Everywhere: Mt 24:30; Mt 26:64; Mk 13:26; Mk 14:62; Lk 21:27; Rev 10:1; 11:12; 14:14; 14:14; 14:15;14:16.

Coming in Clouds.”One of the most familiar biblical images for God’s presence (παρουσία) – a judgement.” Ex 19:9; I Chron 16:33; Job 22:13; Ps 18:7- 12; Is 19:1; 26:21; Jer 4:12-13. His coming in the clouds thus brings judgement and deliverance into history.” Alexander Cruden.
<p>| #25 | Mtt 24:31 | “Great trumpet” | Trumpets of the Roman army. &lt;br&gt; Eagles followed by Trumpets. &lt;br&gt; Trumpets at attack. | ◊Romans carried trumpeters in their ranks:-  &quot;When they are to go out of camp, the trumpet sounds. Trumpet sound again when ready to march. Trumpet sounds a final time before going to march.&quot; Wars 3:5:4  &quot;The leaders of the cohorts were followed by the ensigns, with the eagle, and before them came the trumpeters belonging to them, and next came the main body of the army in their ranks, every rank being six deep.. Wars 5:2:1 p.699  At night the standard bearer of the fifth legion went with a troop of horsemen and a trumpeter..and gained possession of the wall...and as the Jews were asleep, the trumpeter sounded his trumpet, which they imagined a great number |
| OT. God’s presence in judgment always in clouds | Seen face to face in clouds Ex33:11 &lt;br&gt; Descends in clouds Ex 34:5 &lt;br&gt; Appears in clouds Lev 16:2 &lt;br&gt; Dwells in clouds 1 Kgs 8:10-12 &lt;br&gt; Judgment in clouds Job 22:13 | His rides on clouds to Egypt Is 19:1 &lt;br&gt; Clouds are the dust of his feet Nah 1:3  &quot;So these publicly declared that this signal foreshadowed the desolation that was coming upon them...for, before sun setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds and surrounding the cities...Moreover at the feast called Pentecost..the priest of the inner court felt a quaking and heard a great noise..and the sound of a multitude saying: “Let us remove hence...” Wars 6:5:3ff p.742  “The end of all things at hand.” 1 Pet 4:7  “It is the last hour...antichrists present” 1 Jn 2:18  “Antichrist now in the world.” 1 Jn 4:3 |
| Signs seen in clouds. | End of all things at hand. It was the last hour -Antichrists present. | Wars 3:5:4 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#26</th>
<th>Mtt 24:32</th>
<th>“Now learn the parable of the fig tree: summer is near. recognize He is near; right at the door.”</th>
<th>Summer as a sign the end is near.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>First temple fell in summer 9 Av</td>
<td>Herod’s temple fell in summer 9 Av</td>
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<td>Parousia at hand and relevant to a first century state of affairs</td>
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The first and second temples were destroyed on the same day. 9th of Av. Av (August) is a summer month of thirty days.

9 Av - (586 BCE) - First temple destroyed:

After a month of fighting in Jerusalem, King Nebuchadnezzar’s armies of Babylonia broke through, into the Holy Temple, where they feasted and vandalized until the afternoon of Av 9, which at that point they set the Temple on fire.

9 Av - (67 CE) - Civil War in Jerusalem:

Fighting broke out inside the besieged city of Jerusalem between different Jewish factions divided on the question of whether or not to fight the Roman armies who had encircled the city. One group set fire to the city’s food stores, which is said to have quickened starvation. Jerusalem would fall three years later.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Av#Av_in_Jewish_history (Retr’d 23/8/15)

9-10 Av - (AD 70) - Second temple destroyed:

’So Titus retired into the tower of Antonia, and resolved to storm the temple the next day, early in the morning, with his whole army, and to encamp round about the holy house. But as for that house, God had, for certain, long ago doomed it to the fire; and now that fatal day was come, according to the revolution of ages; it was the tenth day of the month Lous, [Ab], upon which it was formerly burnt by the king of Babylon; although these flames took their rise from the Jews themselves.

Wars 6:4:5 p.739

‘Be patient to the coming (parousia) of the Lord. The coming (parousia) of the Lord draweth nigh. The judge standeth at the door. James 5:7-9

‘And hasting unto the coming (parousia) of the Lord.’ 2 Pet 3:12

‘Little children abide in Him so we may not be ashamed at His coming (parousia)” 1 Jn 2:28
| #27 | Mtt 24:33 | “In summer, recognize He is near, right at the door” | His nearness at Jerusalem’s judgment | ◊Christ’s coming near, right at the door:—
You too be patient...for the coming (parousia) of the Lord is near. Do not complain...behold the judge is standing right at the door:— James 4:8-9 c. AD 70; that generation. |

| #28 | Mtt 24:34 | “Truly I say this generation will not pass away.”
“Generation of vipers ... wicked and perverse generation.” | All signs occur in this generation.
Wickedness of that generation.
Madness of that generation.
Romans had more pity than they. | ◊Madness of that generation – their blindness:—
For God had blinded their minds for the transgressions they had been guilty of, nor could they see how much greater forces the Romans had than those that were now expelled, no more than they could discern how a famine was creeping upon them; for hitherto they had fed themselves out of the public miseries, and drank the blood of the city. Wars 5:8:2 p.714
Wickedness greatest since beginning of world:—
That neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries, nor did any age ever breed a generation more fruitful in wickedness that this was, from the beginning of the world... Wars 5:10:5 p.720
The earth could not endure their madness:—
If the Romans delayed their coming...the city would have been swallowed up by the ground...or been flooded by water...or thunder...as Sodom...for it brought forth a generation of men more atheistical...for by their madness it was the people came to be destroyed. Wars 5:13:6 p.726
Their enemy had more pity for their city than they:—
As he (General Titus] departed for Egypt [after the destruction] he passed Jerusalem, and could not but pity the destruction of the city - so far from boasting...he frequently cursed those that had been the authors of their revolt, and brought such a punishment upon the city. Wars 7:5:2 p.756 |

<p>| #29 | Mtt 24:35 | “Heavens and earth” | EARTH, not the | ◊Ancient Jews had no idea of EARTH as a planet and perhaps dubious if it was spherical, though |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#30</th>
<th>Mtt 24:37</th>
<th>&quot;Coming as a flood.&quot;</th>
<th>Flood as a type of war in Daniel’s prophecy.</th>
<th>◊Daniels’ Prophecy of the end time.</th>
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<td>&quot;Judgment / War&quot;</td>
<td>Flood as judgment.</td>
<td>The term ‘flood’ in scripture equates to judgment of God. (&quot;Thy judgments are a great deep...a flood overwhelms me.&quot; Ps 36:6; 69:1-2; 14-15)</td>
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<td>Likened to a judgment as Noah.</td>
<td>Jesus here quotes Daniel’s ‘flood’ prophecy of War. “And its end will come as with a flood; even to the end there will be war – desolations are determined.” Dan 9:26</td>
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<td>Jesus’ prophecy of the same in AD 30:- “Verily I say to you, this generation may not pass away till all these may come to pass. The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. ‘And concerning that day and the hour no one hath known--not even the messengers of the heavens--except my Father only;</td>
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</table>
Summary of the Destructi
on of Covenantal Jerusalem.

Desolatio
n
Prodigiou
s loss of life

End of Mosaic civilizatio
n
End foretold by Solomon – Land occupatio
n dependen
t on obedience, their disobedie
nce rejection.

and as the days of Noah, so shall be also the presence of the Son of Man; for as they were, in the days before the flood, eating, and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, till the day Noah entered into the ark, and they did not know till the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the presence [παρουσία] of the Son of Man be.”
Mtt 24:34-39


The Holy City, covenantal Jerusalem was besieged, demolished and burned. The divine sacrifice failed, the holy temple dismantled stone-for-stone, and the city dug up to its foundations and salted so nothing would grow.

The War left the army defeated, the entire population decimated, and the land uninhabited. It was then sold. cf. WARS 6:8:2)

An estimated 1,100,000 died from the sword, over 500,000 died of starvation and disease, 97,000 were taken captive, and 40,000 fled to the four winds under Titus’ amnesty, as Jesus foretold in Mtt 24:16. (cf. Wars 6:8:2)

The Jewish people ceased to be a landed people for the next 2000 years.

1000 years prior to its destruction Solomon foretold;

6 “But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My ... 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 8 "And this house will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by will be astonished and hiss and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' 9 And they will say, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them, therefore the LORD has brought all this adversity on them.'” 1 Kings 6-9

All this was fulfilled on the Holy City in 42 months, 1260 days, three and a half years, or time, times, and half a time AD 66-70. Rev 11-12.

It was fulfilled as a Divine sign that Jesus was the promised Messiah, attested by not just miraculous deeds, but by a miraculous word as well.
It is certain Jesus and the apostles taught ALL things were to be fulfilled in their generation. History demonstrates all those things came upon that generation. Only three possible explanatory schemes exist; ALL, SOME, or NONE. SOME and NONE do not appear in the context of the end of the age. Only the universal term ALL is observed in scripture.

“Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away until ALL things be fulfilled.”

*Mtt 24:34. (Also:Mk 13:30; Lk 18:31; 21:22, 32; Acts 3:24; 1 Cor 10:11; Rev 22:6,7,10,12,20.)*

Objective truth is a correspondence between a statement and a fact in the same terms.

*Statement* - All things were fulfilled in Jesus’ first century generation.

*Observation* - Jesus. “Verily I say unto you, THIS GENERATION shall not pass away until ALL things be fulfilled.”

Therefore a fulfillment in this [first century] generation is an objective fact.

Findings of universal fact may be stated as a categorical syllogism.²

ALL THINGS were fulfilled in Jesus’ GENERATION.

Jesus’ GENERATION lived in the FIRST CENTURY.

Therefore all scripture was fulfilled in the first century generation.

Stated in another way as a biblical state of affairs,³ a first century model may tell us what is, and exclude what is not. This may be articulated after the fashion of Tractatus⁴.

2.04 The totality of existing *biblical* states of affairs is the *biblical* world.

2.05 The totality of existing *biblical* states of affairs also determines which states of affairs do not exist.

2.06 The existence and non-existence of *biblical* states of affairs is *biblical* reality. (We call the existence of states of affairs a positive fact, and their non-existence a negative fact.)

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² A categorical syllogism contains the universal term ‘ALL.’ Grammatically it is a sentence in which something (a ‘predicate’) is unconditionally asserted or denied about something else, the ‘subject’. (Eg. All men are mortal. All S =P unconditionally) The unconditional function of all excludes particulars, and implies the possibility of its logical opposite. No P are S. (Treusch, P.E. *The Syllogism*. In Hall, J.)

³ Adapted from Tractatus Logico Philosophicus. 2.04 - 2.062

2.061 States of affairs are independent of one another.

2.062 From the existence or non-existence of one state of affairs it is impossible to infer the existence or non-existence of another.

From the above thirty signs we may acknowledge a biblical/prophetic state of affairs existed in Jesus’ generation in the first century. (2.04) This prophetic state of affairs finds its fulfillment in first century history in a one-time circumstance. This is a positive fact testified by eye-witnesses. The failure of every end time prophecy since then is evidence of a negative fact. (2.06) Thus since states of affairs are independent, it is impossible to infer the existence or non-existence of another End time – all things were fulfilled in that generation. (2.062) No things remain to be fulfilled in any other generation. In more abstract terms; ALL S is P. No P is not S.

In view of Jesus’ superior knowledge, we must accept His words at face value. This saves the appearances, and begin from observation and the natural context of End time. This is a past, or Preterist model. Though unfamiliar and little understood at present, it is the only option that’s directly accountable to biblical fact by observation. It gives Jesus back His own words and fulfils the design of God by the convincing argument of the sign of the temple’s destruction, as Sir Isaac Newton observes.

*The design of God in giving the Prophecies of the Old Testament [was] not to gratify men’s curiosities by enabling men to foreknow things, but that after they were fulfilled they might be interpreted by the event, and His own Providence, not the interpreters, be then manifested to the world. For the event of things predicted many ages before, will then be a convincing argument that the world is governed by Providence.*

Praise be to God.

-ooOooo-

For further articles on a first century model please refer to https://independent.academia.edu/MorryLee or contact Preterist Lab on Facebook or Morry_lee@yahoo.com.au

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5 Observations on Daniel and the Apocalypse of St John. Pp 250-251
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