



October 24, 2010

It All Depends

People worry about the end of the world and how it will occur. The Bible tells us how but doesn't say when and that stumps us. If I read the scriptures correctly it seems that humanity will basically determine when the end will be. How is that? Well, let's take a look at the scriptures and see if we can identify how God has worked in the past. We know God created Adam and Eve, placed them in a literal paradise and provided for their every need. They were given simple instructions but they failed, which led to things being what they are now. (**Gen 3**). Had the couple not sinned against God, by violating the only prohibition they were given, Eden might very well be the place where we live and the worries that plague us would not be a reality. Who made the determination things were going to change? Adam and Eve. God did not arbitrarily decide to make their lives miserable and cast them out of the garden. The decision was made when the couple sinned against God. God warned them about what would happen so the time and decision was theirs. Afterward the world digressed into sin and violence which caused God to make changes, first to lifespan, and then to destroy the world. "***And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.***" (**Gen 6.3**). This still was not effective and evil grew until God decided enough was enough. "***And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.***" (**Gen 6.5-7**). Who made the decision to end all things? The actions of mankind made the decision. God was more than willing to be patient with mankind but human nature is such that we give in to our weaker nature. How about the nation of Israel? God brought them out of Egypt, blessed them with the land he promised to Abraham (**Gen 12**) and continued to bless them and all that they did. Once more we see there is a condition that must be met in order for these blessings to continue. Moses warned the people, "***As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.***" (**Deut 8.30**). As the nation was established they slowly fell away and neglected to serve God. Eventually God destroyed them, but not before trying to get them to change their ways. "***But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.***" (**2 Chron 36.16**). Who made the decision when the end would come? The Children of Israel did. God tried to warn them but they wouldn't listen. We find that God does not arbitrarily punish as he states to the people through Ezekiel. "***...and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD***" (**Ezek 14.23**). Who, or what, brought about the end of their kingdom as they knew it? They did. They were warned not to depart from God's law or forget all the good that God had done for them and yet that's what happened. What about us today? When will the world end? Christ stated that only God knows when that will be (**Matt 24.36**). Will there be a sign of the end? No. We find that in the scriptures as well (**Matt 24.39**). What will things be like at the end? Christ stated that it would be as it was in the days of Noah (**Matt 24.37-38**). Reviewing the scriptural record, it appears the end will come when mankind tries God's patience to the point that he won't put up with us any longer. When will that be? Well, you decide.

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