**SERVICE SCHEDULE for June 26, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Buck Phillips **Prayer-** Buck Phillips

**Song Leader-** Roger German **Song Leader**- Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments** – Eli Hickey **Comments** – Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting –** Ben Wofford **Communion** – Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting** – Mark Tally

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Cliff Davis **Scripture** – Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** John MacQuilliam **Closing Prayer**- Cliff Davis

**Wednesday Night – June 29, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader** – Roger German

**Invitation –** Ben Wofford

**Closing Prayer –** Bill McIlvain

**June 26 Evening Mid-Year Song & Prayer Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **June** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **26** | German | Please Be Considerate |
| **July 3** | MacQuilliam | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts**

***RICHES: BLESSING OR HINDRANCE?* Wealth and prosperity are not a factor in obtaining salvation. They may even deter it. One blessed with wealth must be careful not to let it become a stumbling block. Salvation is based on one’s faith in Jesus, God’s anointed Son. The rich and poor are saved by putting their trust in Jesus and obeying Him**

**We must be those who build on the rock-solid foundation of mind-engaging process, rather than on the shifting sands of 'what this verse means to me' subjectivity. ― Jen Wilkin, Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds**

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***Schedule of Services***

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**

**This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.**

**Send any articles for the bulletin to** **Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com**

**Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com**



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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

**Deacons: Cliff Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**June 26, 2****022**

***Lies & More Lies***

1. What two men [father & son] claimed at different times that their wives were actually their sisters?

2. Who is the father of lies?

3. What godly prophet lied to Ahab about the outcome of a battle?

4. Who died after lying to Peter about the value of the possessions they had sold?

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***When Will These Things Be?***

**By Andy Diestelkamp [Edited]**

The earliest disciples had difficulty in grasping the nature of the coming kingdom. They failed to understand and accept that Jesus would die (Matthew 16:21-23). They were even arguing amongst themselves about who would be the greatest (Matthew 20:20-28; Luke 22:24). Even those closest to Jesus had a very materialistic concept of the Messiah and His reign. We may excuse the first disciples for these misconceptions on the basis of incomplete understanding; but nearly 2000 years after Jesus announced that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36), some insist that it will be of this world.

***When Will These Things Be?***

**By Andy Diestelkamp [Continued]**

A few days before Jesus' crucifixion the Jewish leadership had attempted to entrap Jesus in His words and had utterly failed. As they left Jerusalem with Jesus, they pointed out to Him the temple complex (Matthew 24:1) and observed its magnificence (Mark 13:1) and its beauty (Luke 21:5). This certainly was not the first time any of these men had seen these things, but they were looking at them with a new perspective. Their Master, their King, was a rising star who had demonstrated His mastery over the wicked and hypocritical powers that controlled the temple. No doubt they believed Jesus would soon rise to power and all of that beauty would be His, and they would reign with Him.

I wonder if we can imagine their shock when Jesus proclaimed that not one of those glorious buildings they found so remarkable would be left standing. Indeed, not one stone would be left upon another. I imagine gaping mouths as Jesus turned His back to those buildings and led His disciples out the city gates.

Later Peter, James, John, and Andrew approached Him privately (Mark 13:3). This was the inner circle of Jesus' disciples; they wanted to understand. ***"When will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?" (Mark 13:4).*** The answer that Jesus gave them has been the source of much controversy because of a failure to understand the question. Notice that I said, "question" singular. Yes, it is a two-part question, as Luke also records (Luke 21:7); but the question is *when* will this destruction take place.

It should be apparent that these relatively ignorant men who were struggling to grasp even the idea of Jesus' death and the destruction of Jerusalem did not have enough acumen among the twelve of them to ask anything about a "second coming."

It is more reasonable to understand their question about the sign of His coming (Matthew 24:3) to be identical to the question about the sign of when "these things" (Mark 13:4; Luke 21:7) were about to take place. Similarly, the question about the end of the world was not about the end of the planet, but the end of their Jewish world as they knew it. Thus "the end" corresponds to "when all these things are going to be fulfilled" (Mark 13:4).

Jesus first answers the second part of their question by giving them many signs which would precede "these things." Conflicts would increase and persecutions would intensify (Mark 13:5-13). Eventually Jerusalem would be surrounded by armies (Luke 21:20). The description of turmoil in the heavens (Matthew 24:29) is like the figures used by the prophets of old to describe the fall of the human powers that were coming under divine judgment (Isaiah 13:1,6-10,13,17-19; Joel 2:28-32).

The beginning of these signs were like the contractions of a pregnant woman (Matthew 24:8). The event was not imminent, but would come in a relatively short time. However, when people saw Jerusalem surrounded, they were to flee from Judea to the mountains (Luke 21:21). It is then that many would comprehend that the One who had chastised the daughters of Jerusalem to not weep for Him but for themselves and their children (Luke 23:28-31) was coming in judgment (Luke 21:27). The desolation of Jerusalem was at hand. No remnant of God would be found in that forsaken city; instead the chosen people of God would be gathered from all over the world (Matthew 24:31).

The parable of the fig tree illustrated what Jesus meant by all these signs. Just as men observe a tree putting forth its leaves and understand that summer time is near, so they --when they saw these signs --would know Jerusalem's desolation was near.

To the first part of the disciples' question about specifically when these things would take place, Jesus gave a partial answer because it was all He knew. All three gospel accounts have the identical answer, ***"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."*** Jesus was not speaking about two different events any more than the disciples were asking about two different events.

There is no reason to assume that the passing away of "heaven and earth" in Matthew 24:35 is any different than that which is described in Matthew 24:29,30. His point is that "heaven and earth" would pass away before that generation passed away and that His words would never pass away. Jesus knew that the destruction of Jerusalem would take place within the lifetime of at least some of those to whom He was speaking, but He did not know the day or the hour of that event (Matthew 24:36).

Unfortunately, many today (like the first century Jews) believe that the Messiah's kingdom is physical and misunderstand His words in their context. They entirely miss Jesus' answer to His disciples. God is finished with physical Jerusalem. It is no longer part of His plan. Jerusalem has passed away, as has the generation that crucified Jesus. Yet, His words will never pass away, demonstrating that He rules now as King of kings.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Abraham [Genesis 12:11-13] and Isaac [Genesis 26:6-7]

2. The devil [John 8:44]

3. Micaiah [1 Kings 22]

4. Ananias and Sapphira [Acts 5:1-9]

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