



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – December 17, 2023**

## **Heart to Heart...**

It happens all the time. Things are stated so much over and over but when you look closely at what is said, we find that many are very poor in keeping things contextually in Scripture and lack reading what it says. They are not reading, much less paying attention to what is written.

We look at the wars on going: Russia, Ukraine, Israel and Hamas fill our news media. It brings out the religious in droves adding their flavors from God. With each new conflict around the world, there seems to be a new herd of prophecy mongers misapplying Scripture and using the words of Jesus in a misapplied way. Falsehood results.

Jesus said, *"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, but those things must take place, but that is not yet the end."* (Matthew 24:6) Right there, not yet the end. What end was Jesus speaking about?

Let's take a brief glance. Jesus and His disciples had come out of the temple and His disciples were pointing out the temple buildings (24:1). Jesus responds: *"And He said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.'"* (24:2) Looking at the temple and the buildings, that would be a horrid thought for the Jews. That leads into the next series of questions from His disciples: *"Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* (24:3) Some versions use the word 'world' instead of age. The word is not 'the world' but it is 'the age', a particular period on this earth. From here, Jesus describes the events coming upon JERUSALEM and the temple buildings, not signs of the end time. As one reads the chapter, they are told to flee to the mountains and not in winter or on a Sabbath. To those pregnant or nursing babies, this would be very difficult for them (24:19-20). If we are speaking of the return of Christ Jesus and the end, what use would it be to flee to the mountains? In the middle of all this context, we find these words: *"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."* (24:34) It was for their generation what would take place, not the end of time!

Read the whole chapter and pay attention to what Jesus is discussing. On the return of Christ, the end of time, Scriptures says He will come like a thief in the night (I Thessalonians 5:2/II Peter 3:10). A thief does not give a sign! These signs heralded Jerusalem's destruction, not the end of time! Let's be more diligent to what is being taught in Scripture. Think about it!!!

Brent