

The Sun, Moon, and Stars

Wallace Bradberry

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lea was hospitalized most of last week having suffered some more mini-strokes. She is back home now but is very badly incapacitated. My concern has been for her so that little attention has been to this outreach. If I fail to fill your order for books properly, please call it to my attention. I am pleased to use another short piece about "apocalyptic language" by Wallace.

If you are interested in the ESCHATOLOGY CAMP MEETING near Billings, Montana which was mentioned last week, it is of utmost importance that you make your contact this week. Plans must be finalized this week. Call Wallace Bradberry at 406-259-0701 (home), or cell: 406-661-3309.

"THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

In keeping with the subject of apocalyptic language of the Bible, understanding the use of symbols helps us understand the passage. In Matthew 24:29 Jesus says: "*Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'*" This is obviously another example of apocalyptic language. Some references to look up in conjunction with this are: Isa. 13:30; 34:4; Eze. 32:7; Joel 2:10-31; Zep. 1:15.

The futurists believe, of course, that this passage is to be fulfilled in the future at some cosmic catastrophe. Close examination of all the passages cited, plus one in Gen. 37:8-11, indicate that the "sun, moon and stars" do not refer to the physical sun, moon and stars, but to the people of Israel. As mentioned in the beginning of Matt. 24, Jesus is describing the "end of the age" which was the end of the age of the first covenant, and not the "end of the world" as the KJV has it. Too bad that an entire dogma is built on a mistranslation. At the destruction of Jerusalem, which Jesus is talking about in that chapter, the nation of Israel ceased to exist as a holy nation unto God. I Peter 2:5-9 mentions that believers are now God's holy nation.

To show that Jesus was referring to the people of Israel when He mentioned the "sun, moon and stars", we look at the aforementioned passage in Genesis. "*His brothers said to him (Joseph), 'do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us? And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. 'Listen,' he said, 'I had another dream, and this time the sun*

and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.' When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, ' What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you? ''

As you can see, the "sun, moon and stars" of Joseph's dream were understood by his father, Jacob, as being the family, with the sun representing Jacob (Israel), the moon his mother and the eleven stars as his brothers. This family was the BEGINNING of the nation of Israel with the twelve brothers being the start of the Twelve Tribes. The stars represented the tribes of Israel. When Jesus mentioned that these would be "shaken" it indicated judgment on the people of Israel, not upon the orbs in the heavens.

Blessings & kindness, Wallace

(Cecil Hook; May 2003) []