

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Matthew 24: 1-14

1. And it came to pass that Jesus went out, for He had been within let the reader understand, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to shew him the buildings of the temple, not realising that He would have seen them already since He had been within, and would also have espied them as He came without. And they marvelled saying, Look ye at these buildings. Are they not magnificent? But Thomas did espy some crumbling stone and did doubt.
2. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? And the disciples were confused at this, for they had pointed out all these things to Him. And Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down, for there shall be much rebuilding and expansion which shall of truth involve some demolition and the labour of many bricklayers. I tell you, you shall see greater things than Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete, for that shall be found lacking.
3. And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, suddenly the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And should we take out insurance? And, to fulfil the prophecy, clean undergarments?
4. And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. Nor any woman entice thee into her chambers and entertain thee with soft words and dancing and large bowls of fruit. (Let the reader understand.)
5. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
6. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars and strange music played on drum and cymbals and stringed instruments and voices raised in repetitive, unharmonious song: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass and be recorded in more ways than one, but the end is not yet. Unfortunately.
7. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and people shall be disquieted with their governments: and there shall be boils and lumbago, rheumatism and loss of sight, baldness and foul waters, famines and pestilences and earthquakes, in divers places. Oh yes. And winds, also.
8. And it gets verily worse. All these are the beginning of sorrows. And the disciples did begin to wonder where this was all leading. And Jesus, warming to His theme, continued:
9. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you even unto death: and ye shall be hated of all nations and numerous synods for my name's sake. And Nathanael and Thomas did exchange worried glances.
10. But Jesus continued, And then shall many be exceedingly miffed – even offended, and shall betray one another – eh, Judas? (Yes, that one) - and shall hate one another in most nasty ways indeed.
11. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And they shall go round the streets and knock on doors even if there be a sign on the gate saying No Religious Callers, and they shall try to persuade the householder to follow them. And give lucre unto them. And some shall bear tracts, and even leather-bound scrolls. And they shall smile with perfect teeth.
12. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Even with large candles.
13. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
14. And this gospel – that's the gist of what we're in, by the way - of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, even those undiscovered ones with

names that will keep changing. And the disciples did breathe a collective sigh of relief and the right sort of wind. But Jesus, looking at them, delivered His punchline, saying, And then shall the end come. Without music.