

POBox 8741-WP  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221  
*The Christian Statesman*

# **Review of Last Days Madness: The Folly of Trying to Predict When Christ Will Return by Gary DeMar**

by **Gerald Wisz**

*Last Days Madness: The Folly of Trying to Predict When Christ Will Return*, Gary DeMar. Available from American Vision, P.O. Box 720515, Atlanta, GA 30328.

Anyone who has ever wondered how the New Testament can speak of the end being "at hand" nearly 2000 years ago should read this book. Gary DeMar, a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary, explains--with copious scriptural references--that "the end" Christ refers to in Matthew 24, and that the apostles mention several times in the epistles, is not the end of the world, but God's final statement of judgment about the end of the Jewish sacrificial system as a means to legitimately approach God.

According to DeMar, much of the "last days madness" that plagues the Church can be summarily dismissed if Bible students only saw clearly that Matthew 24 is a prophecy that refers not to our time, but to an event that would occur in the generation of the apostles. Jesus' words "this generation," cannot mean "race of people," but the generation of people living in the days of the apostles.

This event is the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., which decimated the Jewish population at the time. Even more importantly, insists DeMar, this destruction was God's act of renunciation of the Messiah-rejecting nation of Israel, once the sole object of His favor. Now salvation would come to both Jew and Gentile, who would comprise the Church.

It's easy to prejudge a book like this. Yet DeMar makes a good case for his position, exegeting Matthew 24 verse by verse. DeMar's theological training is apparent in his insistence that the Bible is its best interpreter. If authors have sold millions of copies of books by finding helicopters and flying saucers in the book of Revelation, surely, says DeMar, a fair hearing should be given to a method of interpretation that compares Scripture with Scripture, and pays attention to biblical history.

DeMar has some choice criticisms for dispensationalism; he questions the pre-tribulation rapture, the idea that Armageddon will be a future war to end all wars, and the assertion that a future Jewish temple will be established in Jerusalem. Again, with Scripture as his guide, he attempts to demonstrate that these ideas are constructs imposed on the Bible rather than truth explicated from it.

The book deserves a wide reading among open-minded Bible students, not only because of DeMar's criticisms of dispensationalism, but because of his biblical orientation in discrediting it.

--Gerald Wisz