



Truth For These Times



5. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

Jesus aroused the disciples' curiosity when He spoke of future events. The temple had taken over forty years to build, yet Jesus predicted, "Not one stone shall be left upon another". When they came to the Mount of Olives to rest, the disciples saw the opportunity to ask Jesus when this event would take place. But they looked even further into the future when they asked about the end of the world and the signs of Christ's Second Coming.

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? **AND WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR COMING, AND OF THE END OF THE AGE?"**

Jesus proceeded to tell them of deceptions that would take place, and also not one sign, but many signs that would indicate the nearness of Christ's coming. Some of His predictions had their fulfillment primarily in Jerusalem itself, but served as minor fulfillments to illustrate the ultimate events, showing that Christ would soon appear.

Matthew 24:36

But of THAT DAY AND HOUR NO ONE KNOWS, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Many in the past have made the mistake of setting a date for Christ's return. Jesus was definite; nobody knows the exact time when He will come.

Matthew 24:32,33

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, WHEN YOU SEE ALL THESE THINGS, KNOW THAT IT IS NEAR—at the doors!

Even though the exact time is unknown. Christ made it clear that His followers would be able to tell the nearness of His coming. When the Bible signs come to pass, it is the signal to the Christian to look up because redemption draws near. Just as the new shoots on the trees show that springtime is here and summer is near so the signs tell us that Christ's coming is at the doors.

Luke 21:28

Now WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN, look up and lift up your heads, BECAUSE YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWS NEAR.

What are the signs we are to look for? How can we know whether we are living in the time when we can expect Christ to come?

Matthew 24:29

Immediately AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS the SUN WILL BE DARKENED, and the MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT; the STARS WILL FALL FROM HEAVEN, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.



During the dark ages Christians were oppressed, and, but for the grace of God, would have been extinguished. Millions died as martyrs for the Christian faith.

This tribulation was to come to an end however, and was marked by the darkening of the sun. On May 19, 1780 the sun was mysteriously darkened. It was not an eclipse. In fact, no scientific explanation for the event has been given to this day. Neither did the moon shine that night. Many thought the day of judgement had come.

On November 13, 1833 the greatest meteoric shower ever seen occurred. More than 200,000 “shooting stars” fell each hour for six hours. Many had read that the stars would fall, and they were convinced the end of the world had come, and prayed in the streets. These events did not mark the end of time, but were signs that the world had entered into the period of time known as the “time of the end”. These happenings marked the “beginning of the end”.



The gospel preached in all the world.

Matthew 24:14

And THIS GOSPEL of the kingdom WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE WORLD as a witness to all the nations, and THEN THE END WILL COME.

The commission given to the Christian church was to take the message of Christ to the whole world. Most of the world has been reached in some way or another: Bibles, preaching, literature, radio, and T.V. etc. When this is accomplished, Christ will come.

Matthew 24:12

And because LAWLESSNESS WILL ABOUND, the love of many will grow cold.

Our world is in a state of moral collapse. The crime rate grows at more than ten times the population growth. Immorality of the worst kind is seen in the world today, and is becoming more widespread. Purity in life is becoming a rare commodity, and is ridiculed by those controlled by their lusts. As we see iniquity abound, it is a sure sign that Jesus is coming soon.

Luke 21:11

And there will be great EARTHQUAKES in various places, and FAMINES and PESTILENCES; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

At one time earthquake centres were pinpointed, now they occur at anywhere at anytime. Destructive earthquakes are multiplying year by year, suggesting that our world is stumbling towards its fall like a drunken man.



The world population is multiplying at a fantastic rate. More than 190,000 people everyday, and it is increasing. Already our planet is overcrowded. How can these extra mouths be fed? Even now, most of the world goes to bed hungry each night. The fact is, they cannot be fed – we must face mass starvation. When famines occur, which they do frequently, just as Jesus said, then the tragedy is even greater. Pestilence has increased in the plant and animal world, and among mankind. Insect pests are a constant concern for the man on the land. New strains of virus are developing year by year, many are resistant

to some antibiotics. It is a constant battle to keep ahead.

Luke 21:25,26

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and **ON THE EARTH DISTRESS OF NATIONS**, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

The nations are perplexed today. Peace agreements, and every effort to bring nations into harmony nearly always fall short of the mark. Because of the world's troubles, the nations are distressed. Men are anxious for the future because they see no solution to man's predicament.



Matthew 24:6,7

And you will hear of **WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS**. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For **NATION WILL RISE AGAINST NATION, AND KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM**. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Our generation is the only one that has seen world wars. Wars are being fought somewhere on the earth all the time. There have always been wars, but not of the magnitude seen in our age.

James 5:3,4,8

Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have **HEAPED UP TREASURE IN THE LAST DAYS**. Indeed the **WAGES OF THE LABORERS** who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the **COMING OF THE LORD IS AT HAND**.

The hoarding of great riches, strife between employers and employees are signs that Jesus is coming. We have never seen such big business; we have never seen so many strikes and industrial unrest. The coming of the Lord draws nigh.

2 Peter 3:3,4

Knowing this first: that **SCOFFERS WILL COME IN THE LAST DAYS**, walking according to their own lusts, and **SAYING**, "WHERE IS THE **PROMISE OF HIS COMING?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."



Many today scoff at the thought of Jesus coming. They reason that because it has been spoken of so long, and has not happened, then it will never occur. They conclude that the world will continue on as always, without change. This is what the people before the flood thought, but they were wrong.

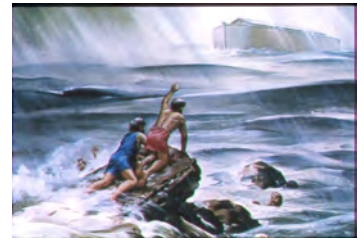
Matthew 24:37-39

BUT AS THE DAYS OF NOAH WERE, SO ALSO WILL THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN BE. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, **SO ALSO WILL THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN BE**.

Genesis 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

The people living before the flood were secular. They were more concerned with material things and the way of this life. They were so tied up with common interests that they had no interest in Noah's warning of coming destruction. These wicked people did not believe. They were too interested in themselves and their wicked pleasures. They are indeed a parallel to the majority of people living in our world today.



2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that IN THE LAST DAYS perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Here are listed 19 of the most outstanding sins of our generation. Do they apply? For example:

1. "Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God"
Many today worship the "god of pleasure" in our world's places of amusement.
2. "Having a form of godliness, but denying its power".
Nominal Christianity – one day a week Christians are common, others profess Christianity, but do not live by the code.

Daniel 12:4

But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book UNTIL THE TIME OF THE END; many shall run to and fro, and KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE.

The book of Daniel was a sealed book up to the last hundred years or so. Many eyes searched to and fro and in the "time of the end" this knowledge increased. Today – this book is unsealed; its great prophecies are understood.

Mark 13:29

So you also, WHEN YOU SEE THESE THINGS HAPPENING, know that it is near—AT THE DOORS!



We can see from the words of Jesus and other Bible writers that we are indeed living in a time when we can expect Jesus to come.

The signs are clear, the end is near, but we have no need to fear. It simply means that the Christian will soon be gathered with all the saved to receive the reward of everlasting life.

My friend, there is no doubt that Jesus is coming soon. Are you ready? Have you made the necessary preparation? Have you asked the Lord Jesus to be Ruler of your life? Jesus' words of admonition after speaking on this subject were:

Matthew 24:44

THEREFORE YOU ALSO BE READY, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Review Sheet – Signs of Christ’s Second Coming

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. What vital question did the disciples ask Jesus? Matthew 24:3
And what will be the _____, _____
_____?
 2. Do we know the exact time when Jesus shall come? Matthew 24:36
But of that day and hour _____.
 3. Even though the exact time is unknown, can we tell when His coming is near? Matthew 24:32,33
When you see all these things, _____.
 4. What sign has taken place, heralding the beginning of the time of the end? Matthew 24:29
After the tribulation of those days the _____, *and the* _____
_____;
 5. What will happen when the world has heard the gospel message? Matthew 24:14
This gospel ... will be preached in all the world ... and then _____.
 6. What will be the world’s spiritual condition at the end of time? Matthew 24:12
And because _____,
_____.
 7. Name three signs mentioned in Luke 21:11.
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____.
 8. How will nations view world conditions in the last days? Luke 21:25
And on the earth _____, _____,
 9. How does Matt 24:6,7 describe the magnitude of wars in the last days?
For nation _____, *and* _____.
 10. What is the attitude of many concerning Christ’s coming? 2 Peter 3:3,4
_____ will come in _____, saying, _____
_____?
 11. How close is Jesus’ Second Coming when we see these things come to pass? Mark 13:29
Know that it is near, _____!
 12. What are Jesus’ words of admonition concerning His coming? Matthew 24:44
Therefore _____.
- Is it your desire to prepare for Jesus’ coming? _____