

Signs of the Times

Bible Prophecy, Part 2

☑ **Target: Watch for the signs of the times!**

Key Verses

Matthew 24:29–31—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. (30) Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Suggested Bible Reading

☐ The Endtime and Jesus' Return: Luke 21; John 14; 1 Thessalonians 4–5; 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 3.

Other Recommended Reading

☐ *Bible Basics*: “The Endtime”

Prayer and Praise: For Those in Authority

Your Word in the Bible tells us we should pray for the kings and the rulers and the magistrates and the judges and the police and those that have the rule over us and who are in authority (1 Timothy 2:1–2). You told us that they are there to keep the peace and to protect us so that we might live in peace (Romans 13). So we thank You for them and for the peace we have at this time. We pray that they will do the best they can to give us good government, peace, and prosperity. They have very great problems, and they have a very difficult job. We pray that goodness and right will triumph over evil. Please help them in each decision to choose the right and fair way. If they already know You, Lord, then we pray that You will please help them to acknowledge You in their decision-making so that You can direct them. If they do not know You, at least help them to be led by a right conscience and to do that which will benefit the poor and needy. You also said in your Word that “He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God” (2 Samuel 23:3).

We ask You to help those in authority in this land to be just and to have a fear of You. Please keep the peace within our borders and with our neighbors, that we may dwell in safety and have peace to spread Your Gospel of peace. Amen.

Meditation: “Now Learn the Parable of 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!” (Matthew 24:32–33).

In His Word, the Lord specified what the various Endtime events will be, so when we see them unfold, we can say, "There's another proof that He's about to return!" For us who love Jesus, every sign of His soon coming is like another blossom announcing spring. No matter how terrible the world situation may seem to be, every Endtime sign is another flower, and another beautiful fulfillment of His prophecies.

Throughout the winter it seems like everything is dead; the trees are leafless and it looks as though the ground is lifeless. But as that great sun begins to appear and it grows warmer day by day, the flowers just seem to jump out of the soil, the trees begin to blossom and that which seems to be dead comes to life again! It's like a resurrection!

Jesus is like the sun to us! And as He draws nearer, we too begin to blossom! As these Last Day events transpire, we'll blossom and bloom and cover the Earth with our witness as we point to the soon-coming Kingdom of God!

In a message from Jesus, He told us:

These are days of preparation for that which is ahead. For I bring you along hand in hand, leading you, guiding you, preparing you, strengthening you, giving you what you need as you enter into these Last Days.

Whether you are prepared or not, the time will come, shortly. I try to prepare you, but your preparedness depends upon you—upon your willingness, your openness, your yieldedness, your desire for the things of the Spirit. For as a soldier learns the art of warfare, so must you learn to use My weapons of the Spirit. So must you learn to be strengthened in My Spirit. I test you and probe you now that I may know what you are made of, so that in the time of those tests that are ahead, you will have the means to stand.

Use this time of peace to prepare for the war of the spirit that is ahead. For these are the days of preparation, the days of training, the days of testings. These are the days that come before the time of the end.

<To think about> Are you looking out for the "signs of the times"?

Putting the Word into Action: Look out for the Signs of the Times

Signs to watch out for (Matthew 24:1–2)

- Deceivers and false prophets: Matthew 24:4–5,11,24; 2 Thessalonians 2:10–11; 1 Timothy 4:11
- Wars and rumors of wars: Matthew 24:6
- Civil wars: Matthew 24:7
- Famines: Matthew 24:7
- Pestilences: Matthew 24:7
- Earthquakes and other natural disasters: Matthew 24:7
- Persecution of God's people: Matthew 24:9
- Love of many growing cold: Matthew 24:12; 2 Timothy 3:1–4; Jeremiah 2:34
- Gospel preached in all the world: Matthew 24:14
- Antichrist One World dictator and government: Matthew 24:15–21; Daniel 11:31; Revelation 13:14–15
- Mark of the Beast: Revelation 13:16–18
- Deceivers and false prophets: Matthew 24:23–28

Chronology of the future

- The Great Tribulation: Matthew 24:21–22
- The return of Jesus Christ: Matthew 24:29–31

- ☐ The dead in Christ raised; living Christians raptured: 1 Thessalonians 4:14,16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:52
- ☐ Celebration in Heaven: Revelation 19:6–8
- ☐ The wrath of God upon earth: Isaiah 26:21; 13:9–11; Revelation 14:9–10
- ☐ The Battle of Armageddon: Revelation 16:16; 19:19–20
- ☐ God’s Kingdom ruling on earth for 1,000 years, the Millennium: Revelation 20:4–6; 2:26–27; 5:10; Daniel 2:44; 7:27
- ☐ Battle of Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium; the Devil cast into the Lake of Fire: Revelation 20:7–10; Psalm 1:2–5; 2 Peter 3:10–13
- ☐ The Great White Throne Judgement: Revelation 20:11–12; Luke 12:47–48
- ☐ New Heaven and New Earth: Revelation chapters 21 and 22