



The Signs of Christ's Second Coming

We are living in an incredible time of earth's history! Since the time of Adam and Eve, God's people have yearned to have Jesus return during their lifetime to end sin and its destruction. Today, however, events are happening that the Bible predicted would take place just before Jesus' return. It's thrilling to see that the second coming of Jesus could very well take place in our lifetime!

The Bible teaches that we don't know the day or hour when Jesus will come again (Matthew 24:42, 44).

But Jesus tells us how we can know when it is soon to take place. He tells about certain signs and remarkable events we will see taking place in the world just before Jesus comes—signs we cannot miss recognizing.

Jesus tells us that these signs are like buds appearing on the branches of barren trees after winter, bursting into bloom in the spring. Jesus says, when we see the new buds popping out, we know that summer is near (Matthew 24:32–33). So when we see these events happening in the world, we know that Jesus' coming is near.

Today we see so much heartache and disaster all about us. The rate of suicide is at an all-time high because people are having such a difficult time coping with the pressures of life.

Like the signs of springtime that tell us relief from the cold of winter is near, so these signs of Christ's coming tell us the happy news that soon all this heartache and tragedy on the earth will be over. So these warning signs of the nearness of Christ's return are happy signs to the Christian.



The signs of the second coming are like new buds appearing on barren tree branches after winter.

Key Thought. There are certain signs the Bible outlines which we will see just before Jesus comes. We are seeing many of these signs taking place today. The Bible points

out that these signs will be changes in our physical world, our social world, and our religious world.

The Bible predicts many signs will happen before Jesus returns. The stunning news is that we clearly see that all but a few of these signs have already happened or are now happening! We are living in the last days of earth's history!



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BIBLE ANSWERS

1. When Jesus was on earth, what was one of the questions His disciples asked Him? Matthew 24:3.

“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, . . . ‘what will be the _____ of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’” *(All quotations from the Bible in these lessons are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.)*

Note. Jesus doesn't tell us about these events that will take place just before He returns in order to scare people into preparing for His coming. But He wants us to know what to look for, so that we may have hope that there soon will be an end to sin, sinfulness, and its heartache.

Jesus also wants us to understand the urgency of the times in which we live, so that we can help others to know why these events are happening and that they, too, should be preparing to meet the Lord.

Does the thought of Jesus' second coming frighten you, or does it bring you a joyful hope, as it did to the disciples?

2. What two signs are revealed in Daniel 12:4? “But you, Daniel, . . . seal the book until the time of the end; many shall _____, and _____ shall increase.”



Knowledge is increasing today by leaps and bounds. The last 20 years have brought incredible changes in our world.



Note. Daniel here indicates that knowledge of his prophecies would increase as we come to “the time of the end.”

This prediction also seems to point straight to today's computerized information age. Knowledge is increasing today by leaps and bounds. Medical textbooks are being revised yearly to keep up with ever-increasing medical knowledge. Computers can do in seconds more work than it took many people to do in days or weeks just a few years ago.

The last 20 years have brought incredible changes in a world in which many “run to and fro.” With today's air travel we can eat breakfast in California, lunch in Denver, and supper in Washington, D.C. We can travel to almost anywhere in the world within 24 hours.

Today people are flying in outer space at speeds greater than 20,000 miles per hour. Surely people are running to and fro today, just as Daniel predicted.

Think of the changes you have seen in the world in your lifetime.

3. What changes did Jesus say we would see in the physical world just before His coming? Matthew 24:7, 29. (*Circle one*) (1) Famines. (2) Pestilence. (3) Earthquakes. (4) All of these.

Note. It is a fact that the world is often experiencing destructive earthquakes. It is also noteworthy that, at a time when many possess so much wealth, large numbers of people in the world suffer from chronic, persistent hunger. Famine takes the lives of thousands of people each day, many of them children under age five.

We are experiencing marked changes in our weather—unusual tornadoes, storms, and floods which our elders rarely experienced in their lifetimes. These predictions are all being fulfilled in our day.

4. What signs did Jesus say we would see in the social world just before His return? Matthew 24:10, 12, 37-39. (*Circle one.*) (1) Hatred. (2) Lawlessness. (3) Love growing cold. (4) All of these.

Note. Changes in society before Jesus returns are similar to what the Bible states took place just before the great flood of Noah's day. Just like in Noah's day, people will be deeply involved in wickedness and only interested in satisfying themselves.

Jesus is soon to come. Living for Him and helping others to prepare for His coming keeps our love for God from growing cold.

5. Before Christ comes, what kind of religious leaders and prophets will arise to spiritually deceive many? Matthew 24:24. “For _____ christis and _____ prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (See also verse 11.)

In these confusing times, we need to study the Bible.

Note. Have you wondered how you can be sure that you aren't being deceived in spiritual matters? The Bible points out that there will be an effort in the last days to deceive even the “elect,” or God's sincere, chosen people (see Matthew 24:24). We can only be safe by staying alert and standing firm on the clear teachings of Christ (Matthew 24:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15). This is why it is so important that we diligently study the Bible so that we can understand God's plan for our lives.

6. What is one of the very last things that will happen just before Christ returns? Matthew 24:14. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in _____ the world . . . , and then the end will come.”

Note. The rapid spread of the gospel is one of the most exciting things we will see take place just before Jesus

returns. Today we are beginning to see this prediction fulfilled in dramatic ways! Great numbers of people are coming to know the Lord and follow Him as never before in such places as Russia, South America, Africa, and China.

What is especially exciting is what is happening among our own Native American/Canadian people. In recent years there has been a thrilling increase in the number of Native Americans who have chosen to give their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ and prepare for His coming. This is exciting! It is indeed a Native “New Day!” We believe this increase will become even more dramatic in the near future.

The Holy Spirit is working more intensely than ever before. People are beginning to see that we are living in unusual times. They are studying the Bible to learn what these world events all about us mean. Sadly, however,

In the parable of the five wise and five foolish bridesmaids, those who were ill-prepared and short of oil for their lamps missed the bridegroom's coming (Matthew 25:1-3).



just as in Noah's time, many will refuse to accept God's plan for their lives.

7. What does God say are some of the characteristics of those who are preparing for Christ's second coming? Micah 6:8. "What does the Lord require of you But to do _____, To love _____, And to _____ humbly with your God?"

Note. This verse points out how we should be walking with the Lord. If we will walk humbly with Him, He can strengthen us to live justly and keep His commandments. He will put love and mercy in our hearts toward our spouses, our families, and those around us. In contrast, without the Lord's power in our lives we will never be ready to meet our Lord. Only by our faith in Jesus as our Savior and by letting Him live in us can we be prepared to live as citizens of that new heavenly land.

Are you preparing for Jesus to come? You can be. You can look forward to the second coming of Jesus with great joy to your heart. Jesus describes His coming as a wedding in Revelation 19:7-9. His coming is like a groom coming for his bride. God sees this as a very joyous experience. He desires His coming to be the happiest event of your life.

Next Lesson. The Great Judgment Day. When will it take place? How will we be judged? Who will the judge be?



Native New Day

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