

# SIGNS of the Times

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

## Signs of the Times

Life changed for all of us in 2020. Since that tragic year, we've had to learn to live in a world of fear and insecurity. Pandemics. Civil unrest. War. Economic uncertainty. Gun violence. Mental health. Troubling reports of threats to our safety and well-being. New international border-controlled policies. We're uncertain and fearful—not only for ourselves but for the future of our world.

What do these things mean? What kind of world will our children and grandchildren live in? Is there really any hope for the future? We desperately need hope, especially in this war-torn world. But hope seems hard to come by during these difficult days.

### YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID

1. There is a reason the world seems to be coming apart, and in spite of the way things look, that's actually *good news!*

When the disciples voiced their concerns about the future, what advice did Jesus give them? (**Matthew 24:4**)

Take heed that \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus also told them, "Take heed that no one deceives you." (vs. 4) That's good advice, especially amidst all the fear in our world today. There are many voices today telling us that we need to be afraid of this or that. But Jesus says, "Don't let anyone deceive you. Don't be afraid." We need to compare everything with the Word of God. And the Bible tells us that we can have hope in spite of world conditions. We don't have to be troubled; God is in control.

2. What does the Bible call these signs of the times happening before the second coming of Jesus? (**Matthew 24:8**)
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The second coming of Jesus is one of the most important truths of the Bible—and one of the most comforting. The New Testament alone mentions the return of Jesus some 250 times. The Bible is clear: Jesus is coming again! And when He does, He will gather His people to Himself. He said, “Let not your heart be troubled . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come

again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3) Yes, we live in difficult times, but Jesus is coming to take us to live with Him in heaven!

## WHEN WILL JESUS RETURN TO EARTH?

3. Can we know the day and hour of Jesus’ coming? (**Matthew 24:36**)
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4. Although we cannot know precisely when Jesus will return, can we have any idea of how near it might be? How? (**Matthew 24:32, 33**)
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## SIGNS TELL US THAT JESUS WILL COME SOON

5. What are some signs Jesus mentioned that will show us that His coming is near?

Signs in the religious world.

(**Matthew 24:5, 11, 24**)

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Jesus said that many false prophets would arise before His coming – performing miracles and wonders to deceive people. Even if you see a miracle, it doesn't always mean that it's from God. We need to know what the Bible says, because in the final days of earth's history, there will be a lot of spiritual deception taking place. That's why it's so important to know Bible truth. You don't want to be deceived.

What did the Apostle Paul write about the spiritual condition of the world in the days just before Jesus returns? (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**)

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The last days will be perilous because many individuals will claim to be religious, but their lives will deny God's power. Even among professed Christians, trust in God and belief in His Word is declining. Surveys continue to show an increasing number of individuals who no longer believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, that He physically rose from the dead, that Satan is real, that God created the universe, and that the Bible is His inspired Word. No wonder Paul said that in the days before Jesus' coming, many would claim to serve God, but deny His power.

Satan is doing everything he can to deceive people and cause them to lose sight of Jesus' promise to come again and deliver everyone who trusts Him. Our focus should be on being ready to meet Jesus by staying close to Him each day.

Signs in the political world. (**Matthew 24:6, 7**)

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Signs in the world of nature.  
(**Matthew 24:7, 29**)

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## READY TO MEET JESUS

6. What counsel does Jesus give us about being ready for His coming? (Luke 21:36)
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7. Although we live in perilous times, what should our attitude be as we see the signs of Jesus' coming taking place around us? (Luke 21:28)
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Those who love Jesus and eagerly look forward to His return can have joy in their hearts even in an uncertain and fearful world. Jesus says, "In the world, you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

We don't have to be afraid; Jesus is in control. And He is coming to save us! He promises, "I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me." (Revelation 22:12) He is coming to deliver us from sin and give us eternal life in heaven. When Jesus appears in the clouds of heaven with all the holy angels, we will joyfully welcome Him as King and Ruler of this world, because He already rules in our hearts as Savior and Lord.

God loves you. He wants you to live with Him forever in a world free from sin, pain, fear, and death. He has promised to come for you personally. You can say, along with the Apostle John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)

## MY DECISION

- Jesus, I want to be ready to meet You when You come. I invite You into my heart today.

## MY PRAYER

*Father, I believe that the signs of Jesus' coming are being fulfilled today. Help me to follow Your leading as I prepare for that glorious day. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.*

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