

Signs You Can't Ignore

In episode 2 of the New Beginnings series, we examined the signs Jesus pointed to as waymarks for His followers to watch for to prepare for His Second Coming. This study guide expands on this theme as it relates to current events through the lens of the prophecy.

Read Matthew, chapter 24 and then answer the following questions:

The disciples had pointed out the buildings of the temple complex (Matthew 24:1) but Jesus made a startling statement. He plainly stated in vs. 2 that the temple complex would be completely destroyed.

1. What two questions did the disciples immediately ask in response to Jesus?

Matthew 24:3

The disciples were deeply troubled at the thought of the Temple being destroyed and combined the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world. Jesus then lays out the events that would take place.

2. What is the first warning Jesus gives?

Matthew 24:4

Jesus begins his answer to His disciples by giving them the warning that they avoid being deceived. Thankfully, the events leading up to and surrounding the end of Earth's history and Second Coming have been plainly laid out in the Bible. Everyone can know what to expect and not fall into the trap of deception.

3. Did Jesus give an exact time/date for His return?

Matthew 24:36

No one knows the exact date of Jesus' return. Full stop. Thanks to the details in Matthew 24, we can watch the signs that indicate that grand event is near.

Anyone claiming to know the exact date is contradicting the plain teaching of Jesus himself.

4. How does the Bible instruct us to be ready for something if we don't know when it will happen?

Matthew 24:36

Military personnel engage in specific training in preparedness, anticipating the call to put those honed skills to use in a sudden emergency. When the Bible instruct the followers of Jesus to “watch and pray,” it is the mental, emotional, and especially spiritual preparedness for what we have been promised will happen.

Dwight L. Moody, in his book, *The Second Coming of Christ* (p. 9) said, “The proper attitude of the Christian is to be always looking for the Lord’s return.” We are to not only live in expectation and confidence in what the Bible *actually* teaches but be aware of what’s taking place in the world around us.

5. What signs in the religious world indicate that the Second Coming is drawing closer?

Matthew 24: 5, 11, 24

Remembering the first warning of Jesus was to avoid being deceived, is it any wonder that the devil would maximize his efforts to do exactly that? The devil inspires false theories, misrepresentations of the Bible, deceptive religious “leaders,” as well as occultic practices that sway people away from the plain teachings of Scripture.

6. What did Jesus say would be taking place on the geo-political stage?

Matthew 24: 6, 7

War is nothing new in world history, but when Jesus says, “wars and rumors of wars and kingdom against kingdom and nation against nation” He is speaking on a global scale and also among people groups.

7. What remarkable contrast is described in the Bible in relation to world conditions?

1 Thessalonians 5:3

8. What are the conditions of the natural world at the close of Earth’s history?

Matthew 24:7

9. What will be the world’s economic condition at the time of the end?

James 5:1-7

The Scriptures foretell of a complete economic collapse. The United States’ debt has reached a staggering \$40 TRILLION with individual debt at an all-time high.

10. How does the bible describe the moral conditions of society just prior to the Second Coming of Jesus?

2 Timothy 3:1-4

11. What comparison does Jesus make concerning the time of His return?

Luke 17: 26,27

12. What is another indicator that the Second Coming of Jesus is near?

Matthew 24:14

The speed at which the gospel is being shared across the world would have left the disciples in complete amazement. We enjoy the technologies that enable us to communicate with people all around the world with the click of a mouse, or tap of the screen.

13. What are we admonished to do when we see these signs in our world today?

Luke 21:28

14. Do you believe that the signs of which Jesus foretold in Matthew 24 are coming to fulfillment?

For further study:

Mark 13:3-10; Luke 21:26-28; 2 Timothy 3:1-7; Revelation 14: 14-20; Joel 3:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; Luke 21:7-11; 2 Peter 3: 10-13; Genesis 6: 5,11-13; Mark 13: 28-31