

# 10 Reasons Why the End Times Could Come Tomorrow

By Mark E. Fisher

[Note that this article replaces a previous one with the same title. Here, I present signs of the end more clearly related to biblical prophecy.]

We don't know the day or the hour, but the signs are being fulfilled almost daily, and Jesus could return at any moment. This article examines ten reasons in support of that view.

## Christians Will Be Spared

Before we go further, I want to remind the reader that though we may be living at the end of days, Christians have a great hope and promise: We will be spared the wrath to come. (The following section is taken from the Author's Notes section of *Days of Trial and Tribulation*, book #4 of Days of the Apocalypse):

We live in the shadow of the Tribulation, and with each passing week, the world spirals ever downward. And yet, have a hope and a certainty that non-believers do not. Before the terrible events of the Tribulation, we will be spared. That is our great hope. Paul tells us from 1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NLT):

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

And from 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NLT):

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.

Those who have put their trust in God's Son and the promises of God are *not* destined for wrath. It is God's desire that before his destruction and judgment descends upon the world, the people who are his, who have put their trust and faith in his Son, will be spared the time. They will not endure the testing in the seven years of Tribulation. From Revelation 3:10 (NLT):

“Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.”

And from 1 Thessalonians 9:10 (NLT):

And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

So look not to this life or to the flawed, sinful leaders of this world for salvation, but to Jesus, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, to the God who came to earth as a man, whose love for us knows no bounds. For those who believe in Jesus, look upward to the blessed eternity he has promised us. Our time on this earth is like a single grain of sand on the seashore, compared to all the sands on all the shores of all the oceans in all the world. Though our lives may be filled with strife, difficulty, and trial, if our faith is in Jesus, we can be assured we will be blessed for all eternity.

With that promise and hope, let us now examine the reasons why this author believes the end times may soon be upon us.

## Jesus Said to Look For the Signs of the Times

Today, more books have been written about the end times than ever before. Daniel 12:4 describes this increase in end-times knowledge. And have you noticed how, in today's culture, movies about some kind of worldwide apocalypse—via zombies, earthquakes, asteroids, pandemics, or some climate catastrophe—seem to be everywhere? It's as if God has broadcast a warning of what's to come onto some collective, subconscious antenna he's placed in each of us.

No period in history compares with this one—not the Dark Ages, not World War I, not World War II. In no previous historical period have so many signs of the end converged, worldwide, as they have today.

Jesus said we won't know the day or the hour. But we should look for the signs of the times. And from everything this author sees, the unprecedented accumulation of portents, signposts, and warnings points to the approaching Rapture of the Church and the second coming of Christ.

What follows are ten signs of the times, ten birth pains of the end, ten reasons why the end times—and Jesus's return—could come at any moment:

# 1. The Jewish People Will Return to Their Homeland

Before we get to Jesus's predictions, we must start with what some call the super-sign, the sign that must happen before anything else.

There are many prophecies about Israel and the land, but let us focus only on two important covenants that God made with the Jewish people. We will look only at what refers to the land.

Before diving into it, we should understand the history of the Jewish Diaspora. In A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. Afterward, for the next 2,000 years, the Jews were driven from Palestine and were scattered throughout the world.

The two covenants that address Israel's return to the land are as follows: 1. The Abrahamic Covenant where Israel is given all the land that God promised, and 2. The Palestinian Covenant where Israel is regathered into the land.

## The Abrahamic Covenant

In the Abrahamic Covenant, recorded in Genesis 13, God promised Abram that one day his descendants would receive all the land from the Negev desert, north into what is now Lebanon, and east all the way to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Genesis 13:15 (HCSB):

After Lot had separated from him, the Lord said to Abram, "Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you and your offspring forever all the land that you see.

This is echoed in Gen 17:7–8 where God reiterates his promise to give all the land of Canaan to Abram. But the entire Abrahamic covenant will not be fulfilled until the Millennium, when Jesus returns to earth and reigns for a thousand years. We see this in Ezekiel 36:24–28 (HCSB):

"For I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land that I gave your fathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God."

The Jewish people have not yet, today, been given "a new heart". Much of Israel is still secular. They have not yet followed Christ. That will only occur in the Millennium. (Romans 11:25).

Thus, though part of the Abrahamic Covenant is fulfilled today, more is yet to come.

## The Palestinian Covenant

In what some theologians refer to as the Palestinian Covenant, God promises to bring Israel into the land of their fathers and make them a nation.

In 1948 after the end of World War II, Jews who were scattered across the world began returning to the land. Then the nation of Israel was born. For 2,000 years such an event seemed impossible, and yet it happened. This is the fulfilment of the Palestinian covenant. From Deuteronomy 20:34–38 (HCSB):

<sup>34</sup> I will bring you from the peoples and gather you from the countries where you were scattered, with a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath. <sup>35</sup> I will lead you into the wilderness of the peoples and enter into judgment with you there face to face. <sup>36</sup> Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. <sup>37</sup> “I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of the covenant. <sup>38</sup> And I will also purge you of those who rebel and transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they live as foreign residents, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.

During the holocaust of World War II, the Nazis killed six million Jews. The survivors fled to the land of Palestine where they formed the nation of Israel. This purging of the Jewish people could well have been part of verses 37–38.

The main point here is that the Jewish people were regathered into the land, fulfilling the Palestinian Covenant.

To understand the next passage, we need some background. In Deuteronomy 27:12, Joshua was to lead half the tribes of Israel to stand on Mt. Gerizim and pronounce the blessings that would come on the Jewish people if they followed God. The other half were to stand on Mt. Ebal (Deut. 11:29) and pronounce the curses that would befall them if they didn't.

But the Israelites disobeyed. The prophets warned them, again and again, but they worshiped idols and turned away from God. So the curses fell upon them, the tribe of Israel was eliminated, but the tribe of Judah survived, though they occupied a much smaller area of land than before. Finally, they were scattered to distant lands.

The next passage promises that God will eventually have mercy on the Jewish people and bring

them back to the land. It does not promise to give them *all* the land promised by Genesis 17, but only to regather them. From Deuteronomy 30: 1–5, 7–8 HCSB):

“When all these things happen to you—the blessings and curses I have set before you—and you come to your senses while you are in all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, <sup>2</sup> and you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and all your soul by doing everything I am giving you today, <sup>3</sup> then He will restore your fortunes, have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. <sup>4</sup> Even if your exiles are at the ends of the earth, He will gather you and bring you back from there. <sup>5</sup> The Lord your God will bring you into the land your fathers possessed, and you will take possession of it. He will cause you to prosper and multiply you more than He did your fathers. . . . <sup>7</sup> The Lord your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. <sup>8</sup> Then you will again obey Him and follow all His commands I am giving you today.

The Jews today do occupy the “land your fathers possessed.” They did not have to occupy all the land of the Abrahamic Covenant for the Palestinian Covenant to be fulfilled. Also note that, today, while the nation of Israel has prospered, its enemies in the Arab world live mostly in poverty and are riven by strife. They have become the birthplace of terrorists.

Israel plays an important role in the end times. Jeremiah 31:35–37 even says that the sun, moon, and stars would have to disappear before God abandoned them and Israel’s descendants ceased to be a nation. So the creation of Israel as a nation in 1948 is a major milestone in the end-times calendar.

## 2. A Great Turning Away: False Prophets and Mass Deception

Some people hope and pray that a great revival will occur before the end. But that is the opposite of what the Bible teaches.

From Matthew 24:3–5 (NLT):

Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?” Jesus told them, “**Don’t let anyone mislead you, <sup>5</sup> for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many.**”

And here we can add verse 11, where Jesus said:

**“And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people.”**

The Apostle Paul also wrote a letter to Timothy, one of his followers, which echoes this prediction. From 1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT):

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

All these verses tell us that in the end times a great deception will cloud the minds of believers and turn them away from the faith. That deception may come in many forms, both from within and without the church.

Today, we are witnessing numerous false prophets proclaiming a different message than the one Jesus preached. Many of them belong to what is called the “health, wealth, and prosperity” gospel. Joel Osteen is a prime example of this kind of teaching. Some of them are nothing but self-help preachers, telling us that we can get to heaven on our own accord, through our own will, and not by following Jesus.

But trying to find God by following one’s heart is a fool’s errand. This is how cults are created.

Charles Manson led a group of people in Southern California to murder several famous celebrities. He certainly followed his heart, and he wasn’t led by God. We could say the same about every mass murderer—they all followed what their hearts were telling them. And it led only to evil.

Only when we have given our hearts to God and are led by the Holy Spirit can we be righteous.

According to the Health, Wealth, and Prosperity Gospel, all we need is what they call “faith”. If only we have enough faith, they say, we can get any earthly thing our hearts desire. But think about what that means:

- If we follow their teaching, we are focused on earthly, not heavenly, goals.
- It puts greed and worldly wealth above focusing on God and an eternal future.
- And if faith alone is the way to get us anything we desire, even if our desire opposes the will of God, then we have created a power greater than God himself. We have, in essence, created another god.

The New Age “religion” is another false teaching. Its followers redefine Christian terms and twist them to mean something entirely false. New Age has roots in paganism, witchcraft,

animism (natural objects have souls), and occult practices.

We could go on and on, but there are now many false ideologies and religions preaching a message in opposition to what Christ and the apostles taught. It all agrees with what Paul told Timothy in his second letter. From 2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NLT):

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

And this from Colossians 2:8 (HCSB):

Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ.

This only confirms Jesus's and Paul's predictions that in the end times there will be a great falling away from the true church and that people will seek out whatever their "itching ears" want to hear. That is exactly what's happening today.

According to the Barna Research group:

- 36% fewer Americans attend church every week than they did thirty years ago.
- In the last 30 years there has been a slow decline in the number of Americans saying they pray weekly—from 83% to 69%.

One of the main reasons people give for declining church engagement is how they view the institutional church. An amazing 63% of Americans do say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus.

But another study by Arizona Christian University questions this finding. That research concluded that while 69% of U.S. adults self-identify as "Christian", only 9% possess a biblical worldview. This means there are a lot of "nominal Christians"—Christians in name only, who do not really understand what Christianity is and may not be saved at all.

All of this is confirmation of a great falling away from the true Church—exactly what Jesus and the apostles predicted.

### 3. Wars and Rumors of Wars

Matthew 24:6–7a (NLT):

“And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. <sup>7</sup> Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

How many wars are going on today?

- Russia against Ukraine.
- The Hamas terrorists and the Arab world against Israel.
- Israel fighting the Hamas terrorists in Gaza, the West Bank, and even in Lebanon and Syria.

Did there are also civil wars going on right now in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Haiti, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Libya, Armenia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Colombia, and Mali.

We never hear about these, but armed conflicts are happening everywhere today across the world.

What about the threat of war? The biggest worry is China’s continued threat to invade Taiwan. Some military strategists believe it will happen in 2024 before Biden, the weakest president in U.S. history, leaves office. China’s stated goal is to destroy the United States. But with the current U.S. regime’s policy of open borders, hundreds of Chinese of military age are crossing into this country each day, unvetted and with a possible goal of bringing cyber warfare and sabotage against critical infrastructure. What if they are positioned here to act when China finally invades Taiwan?

By some estimates, both Russia and China now have nuclear capabilities exceeding our own. And the 2024 increase in the U.S. administration’s military budget was a mere 1%. When one subtracts the amount spent on the Department of Energy’s climate initiatives, some estimates say that this is an actual decrease in inflation-adjusted terms.

History tells us again and again that when a tyrant sees weakness and appeasement, it only emboldens the bully and leads to war.

Putin is constantly threatening the West with World War III. Some military leaders are worried that if Ukraine falls, he will implement plans to invade Finland, Sweden, and the Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. His goal? A reunited Russian empire, ala the Czars. As such, Swedish leaders have told their people to prepare for war, and the prime minister of the UK recently warned that we are on the brink of WWIII. This was also echoed by a top official of



NATO.

Never in our lifetime have we seen so many different wars and rumors of war, and they are accelerating.

## 4. Signs from God: Famines, Earthquakes, Plague, and Signs in the Sky

Matthew 24:7b (NLT): “There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.”

### Famines

Though I don't trust much of what comes out of the UN, the UN World Food Program declares this: “Nearly 350 million people around the world are experiencing the most extreme forms of hunger right now. Of those, nearly 49 million people are on the brink of famine.”

The greatest famines are occurring in 10 countries: the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Pakistan, and Haiti.

Much of this is a secondary effect of the wars in those nations.

What the UN doesn't say is that some famine is a direct result of the very climate change agenda that the UN has pushed on those countries.

Sri Lanka was a former success story. But in 2021, following the advice of the World Economic Forum and the UN, the president banned the use of fertilizers in the production of rice because the climate alarmists claimed that the methane, a byproduct of rice production, created carbon dioxide. What followed was an economic disaster. There were massive food shortages, hunger, and famine. The people rioted, the nation went bankrupt, and the president fled the country.

## Earthquakes

What about earthquakes? In 2023, there were 9 earthquakes above 7.0 on the Richter scale in Turkey-Syria, New Caledonia, Mindanao, Maluku, Tonga, offshore Alaska, Indonesia, New Zealand, offshore Indonesia, Vanuatu, and East Java. Those quakes killed 64,100 people, the highest death toll the world has seen in fourteen years.

Besides earthquakes, there is now volcanic activity in Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Iceland, Tonga, Chile, and Columbia. The volcano in Iceland is of particular concern as its ash could impact air travel to Europe.

Recently the number of undersea quakes in the Cascadia subduction zone off the coast of Oregon have increased ten-fold. Geologists are reporting 200 quakes an hour, up to 2,000 a day. No one knows, but this may be an indication that some major cataclysmic event is about to occur that could cause a massive tsunami to hit the country's western coast.

Other than earthquakes and famines, one of Jesus's followers adds another prediction. It comes from Luke, a man who followed Jesus after his death and resurrection. He was a close associate of the Apostle Paul, and he wrote two important books of the New Testament.

## Plagues and Signs in the Heavens

Luke 21:11 (NLT): “**There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.**”

The first added sign here is “plague”. What we just witnessed from 2020 through 2023 was a worldwide pandemic from a virus created by China. That surely qualifies as a plague.

What about signs in the heavens?

In the month of April, unprecedented events will occur in the skies. During the month, there will be eight different alignments of planets in various configurations—alignment meaning one planet will be on top of another.

But on April 8, something will happen in the heavens that has not happened for 32 million years and never will again.

First, we'll see a total eclipse of the sun. It will cross the United States from Texas, through Missouri south of St. Louis, and continue through Maine.

But the second thing that will also occur on April 8<sup>th</sup> has not occurred for 32 million years and never will again. If you look east from Jerusalem, the sun, the moon, and the seven other planets in our solar system will appear to form a straight line in the sky! They will also line up with the constellations of Pisces, Aries, and Taurus.

From earth, we'll won't see them one on top of another, but all arranged in a straight line. This is a heavenly event like no other. The odds of both the eclipse and this planetary alignment occurring on the same day is, well—astronomical!

## 5. Increasing Christian Persecution

Matthew 24:9 (NLT): “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.”

The persecution of Christians today is worse than it has ever been. According to Open Doors US, 1 in 7 Christians worldwide are under persecution—a total of 365 million people. Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world today, but the media mostly ignores it.

Global Christian persecution is getting worse, driven by Islamic Jihadists and by nationalists. The worst persecution occurs in countries such as Nicaragua, North Korea, China, India, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Pakistan, and Iran. Even in the developed world, persecution is spreading in the UK, Canada, Germany, and even in the U.S.

Underlying this is a demonic hatred of all who follow Christ.

## Two Passages With Multiple Predictions

Two passages from Jesus and the Apostle Paul carry so many predictions we must discuss them individually. Here are the verses.

Matthew 24:10 (NLT): And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.

2 Timothy 3:1–4 (NLT): You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup> For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup> They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup> They

will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. <sup>5</sup> They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

Let's break down all the predictions these passages contain.

## 6. Signs Of Depraved Hearts I: A Love of Money and Pleasure, a Loss of Self-Control, Scoffers and Mockers

The pursuit of money and career seems to be the paramount goal that the culture teaches us today.

What about loving pleasure? It seems to be the main message of the media and the culture.

And self-control? Constantly, we see how celebrities, sports icons, and public figures display nothing but wanton excess and wild living. Some of them seek nothing but fame—a good example of being puffed up. Look at Megan Markle and the Kardashians for perfect examples of this.

What about being unloving and unforgiving? A new radical ideology, CRT, has taken over not only the culture, but many schools and churches. This is also part of the next prophecy. We'll address this later.

### Scoffers and Mockers

To the above quotes we can add 2 Peter 3:3–4a (NLT):

Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again?”

Everywhere we turn today, the media, comedians, the Oscars, the View, the leftist news networks, and even some politicians and political parties mock God, the Church, and his priests and pastors. They act as if he doesn't exist. Try to use the name of Jesus in a prayer before Congress, and you will be criticized for not “being inclusive”.

The culture now embraces gender confusion, insisting we use male pronouns for females and female pronouns for males. But this, too, is in direct opposition of what God's plan for mankind. From the beginning, he declared us male and female, and he opposes transgenderism. (Romans 1) Anything opposed to this is mocking God.

What about the churches that avoid all mention of end-times prophecy? Are they, by their silence, implicitly aligned with those who scoff at Jesus's imminent return?

## 7. Signs of Depraved Hearts II: An Increasingly Hate-Filled World

### Critical Race Theory

Critical Race Theory has become one of the most endemic and promoted ideologies in today's world. It's being taught in schools, and its precepts are embraced by academia, government, education, the media, and the military. What is it?

Critical Race Theory, or CRT, is a pseudo-Marxist ideology that divides the world into oppressors and the oppressed. Under this ideology, all white people are, by definition, racist and oppressors. Because of the color of their skin, they cannot help who they are and as such, they can never be forgiven. It doesn't matter if an individual belonging to the white race has never shown any indication that they're racist, or that any of their ancestors were never racist. CRT declares that they are. It also declares that anyone objecting to CRT is also, by definition, a racist.

Of course, such assertions are illogical. It is really the ultimate racist ideology. It's anti-human, and in direct opposition to everything Christ taught. Any ideology that says you can never forgive someone for being who they are or how they were born is the epitome of racism. It's pure evil. Satan himself could not have created a more divisive, hateful, and destructive ideology. It's what schools are teaching young people today. And it's tearing societies apart.

### World-Wide Hatred of Israel.

Since the Israeli-Hamas war, the level of hatred directed toward the Jewish people today has increased dramatically across the world. An explosion of virulent, anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish protests is happening everywhere across the planet. It's nothing short of astounding.

Could anyone imagine only a few years ago this situation: A group of terrorists attacks a country without warning on one of their holy days. And they proceed to do the following:

- They ruthlessly murder 1,400 people.

- They cut the heads off of babies.
- They put babies into ovens and burn them alive.
- They rape women and cut the breasts off them.
- They take more than a hundred hostages, who, in captivity, they barely keep alive.
- And then, after the monsters do all this and return home, 90–95% of the people from whom the terrorist came, welcome them back with honor and approve of what they did.

After all that, what does the world do when the injured country responds with massive force and a goal to wipe out the barbarians? They turn against the injured party and call *them* terrorists.

Hamas is the epitome of evil. And Israel is doing what any country on earth would do after such a brutal, barbaric attack, including the United States.

The anti-Jewish hatred of Israel that is sweeping the world as never before can only be demon-inspired. It surely is another sign of the end.

All who follow this path should keep in mind Genesis 12:1–3, where God says that those who bless Israel, he will bless. And those who curse Israel, he will curse.

## 8. Signs Of Depraved Hearts III: Lawlessness, Cold Hearts, and Increasing Sin

To the previous two passages, we can add Matthew 24:12 (HCSB): **Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold.**

Or, as the New Living Translation translates the same verse: **Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.**

### An Explosion of Sin

Oh how true this is of our world today! You cannot watch a movie or a show on Netflix or Amazon Prime without seeing a man kissing a man or a woman kissing a woman, or without an excess of profanity and violence.

The media not only insists on showing sinful lifestyles it now promotes them. They seem bent on inserting LGBTQ lifestyles into plots and stories where they don't belong, as if they're on a mission to evangelize those sins to force everyone, not only to accept them, but to celebrate them.

Some churches have even embraced gay marriage and homosexual sin, abandoning the Bible,

reinterpreting it, bending it to the culture, and twisting the eternal word of God by claiming that it's a "living document". Such churches have lost their way. They are apostate. If you belong to one of them, you should flee.

## Unrestrained Lawlessness and Crime

Since the George Floyd incident, there's been an explosion of rioting and violence from far-left activists that still erupts today. These rioters are filled with hatred and a desire for disorder, chaos, and anarchy.

In the last three and one-half years, crime has exploded across the country as never before. An idea has infected judges, legislatures, and prosecutors that too many of those being jailed for crimes are minorities. To rectify this perceived injustice, they made changes that have dramatically increased crime.

Romans 1 tells us that when a people abandons God, he eventually abandons them to their sinful natures. Thus, lawless governments changed the laws, so that criminals are released without bail shortly after their capture. Next, they made the theft of items worth less than \$900 or some other low number a mere misdemeanor.

The result was entirely predictable. Crime exploded. Criminals flaunt the cops. Smash and grab robberies empty stores of goods. And bankrupt stores are closing or leaving the cities where crime has made it impossible to make a profit.

Carjackings in Minneapolis and many other big cities are at record numbers, leaving law-abiding citizens fearful and helpless.

Mass shooting occur almost weekly. And it's not the gun that pulls the trigger. It's the spiritual darkness possessing the shooter that kills its victims.

Governments themselves have become lawless, starting with a Federal government that intentionally flouts the law requiring them to secure the country's borders. State and city governments have declared themselves "sanctuaries", ignoring the laws of the country. These cities are then flooded with thousands of illegals, some with criminal intent. These needy masses are sucking the resources away from their own citizens, overwhelming support systems, and, in all cases, leading them to ruin.

Just a few years ago, who could have imagined that we would ever live in such a world?

## Abortion

Psalm 139:13–16 (HCSB):

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

According to the Bible, all life is sacred, including the life of the unborn in the womb. If someone murders a woman carrying a baby, the death of the baby is considered murder. Yet, if a woman decides to abort the child she's carrying, that is not called the murder of the unborn, but the woman's "right to choose". Abortion is nothing less than the murder of the unborn, and the proponents of this travesty are adamant, even marching in the streets, that they must continue the practice. But in God's eyes, it's murder.

Conclusion: The culture now accepts and promotes every kind of sin.

## 9. End-Times Events Will Come With Increasing Frequency

Matthew 24:8 (NLT): "But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come."

Jesus calls these events "birth pains" and says that worse will be on the way. What happens when a woman is giving birth and has "birth pains"? The contractions start slowly and then come faster and faster. And so, just as a woman knows that her time of birth is near, we will also know that when the end-times events are occurring faster and faster, the end is near.

That is exactly what we are seeing today.



## 10. All the Signs, Everywhere, Are Converging, All at Once

One argument you might hear is that throughout history, we have seen all these things before, so today is really no different from what has occurred throughout history.

Ah, but that isn't true at all.

What we are seeing today is that *all the signs* that Jesus and the Apostles predicted are now present, and all across the world. This has never happened before.

Today there is a great convergence of signs. Each and every one has come to pass, and they seem to be accelerating. The portents are occurring not just in one country, but all across the world. It's true that *some* of the signs we see today were present in the Dark Ages, in World War I, and in World War II. But never all of them, in every country, all at the same time!

This brings us to what Jesus said in Matthew 24:32–34 (NLT):

“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.”

First let's look at verse 34, which can be confusing. The Greek word *genea* is often translated as “generation”. But it may also be translated as “race”, “descendants”, or “people of the same kind”, meaning “a people group”. Of course, the Jews as a people group are still here, and the Jewish race and the descendants of the Jews are still present.

If one defines a generation as 40 years, those who heard those words did pass away. But at that time, *all* of the things Jesus mentioned had not yet taken place. Jesus lived a sinless life and cannot lie. Everything he said was true. Every prophecy he gave has either come to pass or refers to the end times and has yet to come. Therefore, the word *genea* cannot be translated as generation, but as one of the other options. Any one of them could apply—race, or descendants, or Jewish people group. Not one of them has passed away.

Also note that when Jesus mentions “his return”, he's talking about his first return to earth and the beginning of the Rapture, the subject for the next article.

More importantly, what is the overall meaning of these verses?

Jesus is saying that when the fig tree buds and its leaves form, this is a sign that the season has

changed. It implies that we need to be on alert, looking for the signs of the times. And as we see the signs around us today, “all these things” are definitely present—everything he talked about. All of the them, not just some of them.

Therefore, either we are in the end times right now. Or they are almost upon us.

Conclusion: We are closer to the end times than we have ever been.

## There Are Even More Reasons Than These

I have listed ten reasons why the end times could come at any moment. But here are more we don't have space to go into:

1. The reunification of the Roman Empire under the European Union. When the Antichrist rules, he will first reunite the old Roman Empire.
2. A push for globalism, moving us toward the Antichrist's “one-world government”.
3. Today's technological advances are readying us for the Antichrist's totalitarian rule.
4. An embrace of atheist ideologies, such as socialism and wokeism, a new kind of fascism.
5. The increasingly rapid decline of America, a country nowhere present in the biblical end times prophecies.
6. Recently, the Temple Institute in Israel obtained five perfect red heifers for the purpose of purifying the construction of the Third Temple on purchased land adjacent to the Al Aqsa Mosque on Temple Mount. They plan to sacrifice the tenth red heifer publicly in April 2024. Significantly, the ninth red heifer was sacrificed over 2,000 years ago. Hamas stated that stopping this ritual and preventing the construction of the Third Temple was one of the reasons they began the October 7 attack on Israel.

All these events have occurred, adding to the list of signs warning us we are closer than ever to Jesus's return.

## How Do We Respond?

So how do we respond? What do we do? Do we wring our hands in despair and cry doom? Absolutely not!

In the first pages of this article, Scripture tells us that those who put their faith in Christ will not experience the wrath that will fall upon those who reject, despise, and scorn the Son of God. Christians will escape the wrath to come. The Rapture will remove them before the worst of God's judgments rain down upon the earth.

Knowing that, we should reject gloom, despair, and doom, and embrace hope, comfort, and joy.

Let's look at a few concluding verses from Matthew 24:13–14 (NLT):

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”

This is yet another promise that the one who endures, holds fast to their faith in Jesus, and isn't swayed by the evil culture in which we live will be spared. Everyone who puts their faith in Christ will escape the wrath to come.

But time is running out. Knowing the end is near should give us a new urgency to share the Gospel with others and bring them into the church before it's too late.

Verse 14 tells us that when the message about Jesus is preached to the whole world, the end will come. That preaching has been going on for centuries. And now reports are coming from the world of Islam that Muslims are seeing Jesus in dreams and converting to Christianity.

God's love for everyone is deep, and he does not want anyone to perish. Where men cannot bring the word of salvation to others, Jesus himself is appearing to those whose hearts are open.

## The Next Article—The Rapture

In the next article, I will delve into what happens first on the end-times calendar—the Rapture of the Church. The Bible tells us that this event could happen at any time and without notice. Every Christian will be swept out of the earth in the blink of an eye. I'll present the case for why it will occur before the Millennium, what will happen to those who are left behind, and the worldwide chaos that will result. After the Rapture, the Antichrist will appear, and the seven years of Tribulation will begin.

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Note: Red quotations indicate Jesus's words.

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