

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

[Signs Preceding Christ's Second Coming]
(These signs are all around us in the world and in the Churches of today)

✧ SCOFFERS, APATHY, DECEIVERS & BEING DECEIVED

- ✧ People will call evil good and good evil *Isaiah 5:20 (The entire text is Isaiah 5:7-23), Mal 2:17*

The greatest concern of Jesus and the Holy Spirit regarding the last days was the influence of the deceivers. They will be so convincing in their presentation of error, that it could be nearly sufficient to deceive the very elect.

Scriptures dealing with the signs of the end that warn against deceivers, far out- weigh all other signs. It is the dominant concern God expressed through all the prophets.

God does not want us to be ignorant about what is coming since ignorance does not prepare anyone for the attacks of the enemy. The eternal souls of men are at stake. Therefore God has done everything possible to warn us in advance.

It is as though God Himself was our spy in enemy territory, our reliable intelligence agent. The question then is this, **will we use this intelligence to arm ourselves for what is coming, or will we chose to ignore it to our own destruction?**

Deception is one of the signs most prevalent around the world today with the influence of the Humanist and New Age movements, and the vast spread of cults and the acceptance of the occult and even deceptive teachings in the Churches of the world today.

Everything will be going on as usual in everyday living with people caught up in the cares of this life trying to get ahead in the things of the world. They will be swayed by the worldly concepts and values of those around them who listen to the various "authorities." They do not have time nor inclination to seek to know the truth that God has revealed.

The world will experience a **general apathy** of its religious people who accept the wisdom of men instead of that of God Most High. Their minds will be guided by the news media, writers, doctors, educators, psychiatrists, and psychologists. Consider abortion, euthanasia, immorality as well as violence at home and publicly in our time.

Then without warning, the world will be plunged into the time the prophets have warned about. People will find they were not ready or watching for prophecy to be fulfilled in their time.

Scriptures that demonstrate the normality of living at the time of the end.

- ✧ **As the days of Noah** *Matthew 24:37-39*
- ✧ As it was in the days of Noah, **Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot:** *Luke 17:26-30*

Scriptures that demonstrate the effectiveness & danger of ENDTIME deceivers

- ✝ Scoffing servant. *Matthew 24:48-5*
- ✝ Thief in the night **when they say, "Peace and safety!"** *1 Thessalonians 5:1-3*
- ✝ Deceived Congregations *2 Timothy 3:1-9*
- ✝ Fallen Churches. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*
- ✝ Scoffers will come in the last days. *2 Peter 3:3-4*
- ✝ Mockers in the last time. *Jude 1:17-19*
- ✝ Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. *2 Timothy 3:12-14*

As you talk to people today, tell them that Jesus is coming soon and see what they say to you. Then come again to these texts and see if the words of these prophets are not repeated by the majority of the people. This is indeed the time of the end. Every where we go, we find those who exactly fulfill the words of these prophets. That alone is enough to tell us that God knew back then what men would do in our days. The time is near!

When Jesus was asked by His disciples what the signs would be, He gave these warnings about coming deceivers. Jesus said:

- ✝ **"Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My Name, saying I am the Christ; and shall deceive many"**. *Matthew 24:4-5*
- ✝ **"Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."** *Matthew 24:11*
- ✝ **"Take heed lest any man deceive you. For many shall come in My Name, saying I am Christ, and shall deceive many"**. *Mark 13:5-6*
- ✝ **"Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My Name saying, I am Christ. The time draws near, therefore, do not go after them."** *Luke 21:7-8*
- ✝ **False teachers** will abound. *Luke 17:22-24*
- ✝ **World deceiving powers of the Antichrist and the False Prophet.** *Matthew 24:23-24 and Mark 13:21-22*

In his writings, when Paul was encouraging the churches, he was forced to deal with deceiving workers who had come into the church in his days. He thereby passed on **information that is helpful for us now in the time of the end.** Paul said:

- ✝ Such people are **false apostles, deceitful workers, who transform themselves into apostles of Christ.** And no wonder, for **Satan presents himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers present themselves as ministers of righteousness.** *2 Corinthians 11:12-15*
- ✝ Let no man deceive you by any means. That Day shall not come unless a falling away comes first and the man of sin is revealed, the **son of perdition**, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, **so that he sits as God in the temple of God representing himself to be God.** *2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (Rev 13:1-18).*
- ✝ Now the spirit expressly declares that **in latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons; speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared as though with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving, by those who believe and know the truth.** *1 Timothy 4:1-3*

- ✠ But evil men and deceivers will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. *2 Timothy 3:13*

Peter warned the church in his epistle and spoke of the **possibility of being led away by the error of the wicked.**

- ✠ Therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, **beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.** *2 Peter 3:17*

John wrote to the church to demonstrate that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, and how God Himself had come to earth and became a man as our great example. In his letters of encouragement and instruction to the church, he went to great lengths to explain **how we can identify the `spirit of the antichrist.'**

- ✠ Who is a liar but **he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denies the Father and the Son.** *1 John 2:22*
- ✠ Beloved, **do not believe every spirit,** but **try (test) the spirits, to see if they are of God** because **many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you will recognize the spirit of God: Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.** This is the spirit of Antichrist which you have heard would be coming, and even now it is already in the world. *1 John 4:1-3*

Note: **(THE EXISTENCE OF LYING SPIRITS ARE SHOWN IN** *1 Kings 22:19-23 and 2 Chronicles 18:18-22)*

John warns against receiving people with false doctrine into your home:

- ✠ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house or wish him God's blessing. For he who wishes him God's blessing, shares in his evil deeds *2 John 1:7-11*

In the Old Testament we find many warnings of deceivers. With those warnings we are given an insight into how God looks on the works of the deceivers, and what their standing will be before God when the time comes for them to give account for their deeds.

- ✠ Prophets that fill you with false hopes making you fruitless. *Jeremiah 23:16-18*
- ✠ False prophets who encourage the sinner and condemn the Saint. *Ezekiel 13:1-23 [see also Jeremiah 23:9-40]*
- ✠ Death to the prophet God has not sent. *Deuteronomy 18:20*

God is very strong against those who speak out in His Name presumptuously when He has not spoken nor sent you. Many prophecies we hear in churches today are spoken that way. I fear for the ones who bring messages "In the Name of the Lord" when it is from their own imaginations. This causes people to have false expectations where they might otherwise be called to repentance.

Always use extreme care to be sure the message is indeed from God when you bring a prophecy "In His Name." I would not suggest that we in any way quench the Spirit of the Living God. We should be conscious that The Great Almighty God knows when we speak out in His Name, when He has not sent us nor spoken. It is He who will judge the speaker. Remember that **God spoke to the churches about deceivers:**

- ✠ Those of the Synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews when they are not. *Revelation 2:9*
- ✠ Doctrine of Balaam *Revelation 2:14-15*

✠ Teachings of Jezebel tolerated. *Revelation 2:20-25*

Moving into the last days and seeing the signs of the end coming around us, **out of fear people will be looking for a way to escape. They will look for someone to tell them that all is well and that we will have peace;** but in reality, God is bringing on the Great Tribulation and we will have persecution, danger, betrayal, martyrdom, trouble, and testing to the end to try our faith. **People will flock to false prophets that say "peace, safety, prosperity, and health" when the opposite is true.**

There is a great responsibility to be right when speaking in the Name of the Lord. **If the message is in line with the scriptures and calling people to a closer walk with God, or to repentance, it is following the scriptural pattern. If it raises false expectation, and gives the hearer false confidence in their sinful practices without calling them to repentance, then it is not of God.**

IN THE LAST DAYS WE CAN EXPECT THE FOLLOWING:

PERSECUTION - BETRAYAL - MARTYRDOM - HATRED

- ✠ Betrayal to death from within ones own family *Matthew 10:16-23*
- ✠ Widespread betrayal against the Saints. *Matthew 24:9-14*
- ✠ Betrayed to death by family members. *Mark 13:9-13*
- ✠ Betrayed to death by members of your own family, relatives, and friends. *Luke 21:12-19*
- ✠ All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. *2 Timothy 3:12-14*

The persecution, betrayal, hatred, and martyrdom will not come only from the enemy, but from inside the family also. The stage is set today as family ties break down. Both young and old become involved in their own lives to the exclusion of the other, causing communication to break down, and rebellion and hatred to increase, spurred on by Humanists and the present education system. This prophecy is now beginning to be fulfilled.

WARS - FAMINES - PESTILENCE - VIOLENCE - EARTHQUAKES - DEATH

- ✠ Wars, rumors of wars, **famines, pestilences** and **earthquakes** in many places. *Matthew 24:6-8, Mark 13:7-8 and Luke 21:9-10*

'Wars and rumors of wars' have continued throughout the time of the church, from the time Jesus spoke these words until now and will continue to the battle of Armageddon. However there appear to be **specific wars that will usher in the Great Tribulation:**

- ✠ Seal # 1 Rider went out on a **white horse conquering and to conquer.** *Revelation 6:1-8*

I am convinced that these seals, showing **THE CONQUEROR BENT ON CONQUERING**, culminate in the Communist movement of world conquest in recent years. **The rider with the great sword that takes peace from the earth** is the **spirit of unrest and rebellion** that is running rampant around the world opening the doors for rebellions, revolutions, world, national, state, city, and local violence in every form imaginable including world terrorism.

The move of this spirit began with the attacks against the Church from the time of the Apostles. However, **the great swing toward its final move and the ushering in of the Great Tribulation began with the holocaust of World War II and has continued since that time**, as evidenced by the recent communist movement and other attempts at genocide, abortion and euthanasia included. **It will continue to accelerate until its ultimate expression in the action of Russia with her allies when she makes her attack against Israel, and finally in the work of the Antichrist.**

The shortage of food and it's high cost represents the famine all countries experience when rebel organizations take over and create shortages in an attempt to destroy the will and ability of the population to resist them. Examples of which we now see in European, African, Asian and South American nations affected by this sweeping movement.

Of course, along with all this human destruction and violence, the onslaught of **Death** comes to every country touched by it. For all who are not Saints of God, washed by the blood of Jesus, **Hell** always accompanies death.

People are dying by the millions to weapons of man, disease, starvation, natural death, and animals around the world. Much of this is a result of the genocide practiced by the recent communists and other militant movements. They destroy crops, ship food from the area of the takeover, destroy food storage in the area and engage in mass slaughter of everyone they consider to be political opponents, then add the impact of abortion and euthanasia, the total is staggering.

The final war that will usher in the Great Tribulation will be the one Russia will lead against Israel:

(see identification of peoples through lists found in *Genesis chapter 10 and 25:1-6*)

✧ Battle of Gog and Magog against Israel. *Ezekiel 38:1-23, Ezekiel 39:1-29*

I do not know of any time in history until now, when the countries named in Ezekiel 38 and 39 have been in league with, aligned with, and their armies pledged or under the direct control of Moscow, as they are today. Specifically **Iran, Ethiopia, Libya, Germany, and all the far north country of today's Russia**. Yet God specifically named these countries as being in alliance and coming together with the armies of Russia as a united force against the Land of Israel.

Now with the Gulf war "Desert Storm" over, Iraq diminished, the United states pulling her troops out of Europe and the Middle East, the deactivation of US bases and forces, the current world scene is set up for such a move in the near future. Germany now united, has a treaty signed with Russia. All these countries are now under Russian influence, if not total control. They are all declared enemies of Israel, intent on the destruction of the State of Israel.

Do not allow yourself to be deceived by what appears to be a softening of Communist push for world control in the fall of the Berlin Wall and release of some of the countries previously conquered, or by what looks like acceptance of Democracy and freedom of religion in Russia. Whether they are called Communists or not, God still says, He will bring Russia and her pact down in an invasion against Israel, this will happen. "Peace and safety" culminating in sudden destruction.

Until 1948 Israel was not even a nation in Palestine. In 1967 the Jews took control of Jerusalem in spite of world opposition. Today they truly are a people brought back from every nation of the world, fulfilling prophecy to the letter.

All other countries will be so intimidated by the military power of Russia and her allies that they will be rendered impotent, to the point of only "verbally questioning" Russia's intent.

The United States of America even has trouble now raising support for native freedom fighters in countries being overrun by the Communist invasions and revolutionary leaders. We sit back and watch as millions of people are murdered by them. The small token of hope is to eventually allow a small number to come into this country as refugees, if they can make it this far, still alive, on their own.

To expect more than just a verbal challenge, in the form of a question, when Russia attacks Israel in full force would be unrealistic if it happened today. Our commitment to the defense of Israel is becoming weaker every day. Our congress resists the efforts to offer any help at all to countries under attack by Russia or other revolutions.

When the time comes for God to start His move of vengeance, (described as the Great Tribulation) to avenge the wrongs done to His people and to His Name, the stage will be fully set and well established. When the Lord acts to hallow, magnify, sanctify, and glorify Himself in Gog and his allies, as the scriptures say He will, **there will be no doubt that it truly was the HAND OF GOD that accomplished it.**

So when He says, "**Then they shall know that I am God,**" the statement will be literally fulfilled. No nation, nor any people, will be in a position to claim responsibility for the mighty spectacular destruction of **five-sixth** of the armies of Russia and associates. **The world will truly know that GOD alone is GOD, and there is no other.** Not only will Moscow be forced to recognize the fact, but **all nations will know including Israel.**

Just as in *Ezekiel 39:7* God said: **SO I WILL MAKE MY HOLY NAME KNOWN IN THE MIDST OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL and I will not let them profane My Holy Name anymore. THEN THE NATIONS SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD, THE HOLY ONE IN ISRAEL.** And in *Ezekiel 39:22*, **SO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD THEIR GOD FROM THAT DAY FORWARD.** Again in *verse 28*, **THEN THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD THEIR GOD,** Who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their own land, and left none of them captive any longer.

In all this destruction of the enemy God has only one **purpose**, which is the same throughout all the tribulation, and that is **to prove to mankind that God really is God and to test man's willingness to accept that fact.'**

GOSPEL IS PREACHED WORLD WIDE

- ✠ This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. *Matthew 24:14, Mark 13:10*

One great sign of His soon return is the fact that, never before has the Gospel found such great access to the entire world, as it has today with the wide spread use of radio and television. Now with satellites retransmitting to every remote part of the earth, coupled with changes in formerly Communist countries with an openness to the Gospel.

Mankind everywhere has access to the Word of God and to the Gospel. In fact, almost every person on earth has the Gospel, or at least part of the Gospel, passing right through them by radio waves and television; all they need do is turn their receivers to the channel to hear it.

To fulfill the prophecy, delivered by Jesus, does not require every man, woman, and child to accept the Gospel; but only that the Gospel is proclaimed somewhere in their country.

The availability of the Gospel is a witness regarding their choice to learn of God, or their choice to refuse knowledge of Him. They will give account to God for the choice they make.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE SPEAKING THROUGH BELIEVERS OUR TESTIMONY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR ALL WHO WILL HEAR:

Testimony of imprisoned Saints **Before**, **During**, and **After** the Great Tribulation

- ✠ It shall come to pass **in the last days**, says God, that **I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on My servants and on My handmaidens, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy.** *Acts 2:17-18*
- ✠ But **when they arrest you and deliver you up**, do not contemplate beforehand, or premeditate on what you will speak. But **whatever shall be given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.** *Mark 13:11, Luke 12:11-12* **At** that time.
- ✠ But **before** all this, they will lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and rulers for My Name's sake. And **it shall turn out for you as an occasion for your testimony.** Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer. **For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to repudiate or resist.** *Luke 21:12-15* **Before** that time.
- ✠ It shall come to pass **afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.** Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Also **in those days, I will pour out My Spirit upon the servants and upon the handmaids.** *Joel 2:28-29*

Notice, when the Holy Spirit is poured out He enables the speaker to speak:

- ✠ **Before the Great Tribulation** *(Luke 21:12-15)*
- ✠ **During the Great Tribulation** *(Joel 2:28-29, Mark 13:11, & Acts 2:17-18)*
- ✠ **After "the Great Tribulation."** *(Joel 2:28-29)*

(RESTRAINER OF SIN) WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY

- ✠ When the Restrainer is taken out of the way, **then the Wicked one shall be revealed.** *2 Thessalonians 2:5-10*

When the **'discerning church'** is taken out of the world by the **rapture**, the prophecy will be fulfilled which says: "Only **He who now holds it back and restrains it will do so until He is taken out of the way.**"

This "**He**" **is the church**, taken by the rapture which is made up of those who stand up and make a difference in the world around them. It is those who know right from wrong and are able to influence the world for the cause of righteousness and justice. Truly, they are the "light of the world" and the "salt of the earth" just like Jesus said of them. Their influence is all that holds back evil.

When the vital Church is taken out of the way, wickedness will have no restraint and will be revealed for what it really is. At that time, the door will be open for all evil to flourish and the Antichrist to be revealed to do all the evil things he has been prophesied to do.

During the holocaust of World War II, Hitler caused twelve million men, women and children to be killed. As shocking as that is to the mind of moral mankind, it will be a normal thing when the Antichrist causes more people to be beheaded than anyone can number. Violence and evil will be as complete as it was in the days of Noah, just before the Great Flood.

PSEUDO PEACE CONFIRMED BY THE ANTICHRIST

- ✠ The Antichrist will cunningly come into power with a program that will bring a false sense of security and seemingly seven years of **peace and safety** to the troubled world. *Daniel 8:25, Daniel 9:27, 1 Thes 5:3*

RUNNING TO AND FRO - INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE

- ✠ But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book **UNTIL** the **time of the end.** **Many shall run to and fro,** and **knowledge shall be increased.** *Daniel 12:4*

Since the **automobile** was invented and **electricity** harnessed, the expansion of **knowledge has accelerated** at an alarming rate. We have now harnessed the **atom**, created **micro-electronics**, **computers**, and so many more devices that I am at a loss to even attempt to name them.

With **air and space travel** available, the running to and fro takes on new meaning, and becomes a factor that could not occur until the last days. It is easy to see why the writer indicated these specific occurrences as **'last time signs.'** It is true, men have been running to and fro throughout history, but never to the extent that is accomplished today.

Throughout history men were writing books and increasing in knowledge, but never to the extent that has become possible since the computer came on the scene. Who knows how far it will go before Jesus comes for His church in the rapture. **Every prophecy is already satisfied, except the attack that Russia will make against Israel. However the Rapture could come before that attack,** since it will be further evidence of the Endtimes and at the same time provide further enablement for the first four seals of Revelation. **The wise will be ready and watching at all times. The foolish will wait for the last minute. The gamble is very risky.**