

Signs Of The Lord's Return
Part 2
Matthew 24:4-5, 24-25

Four (4) of the disciples came to Jesus privately on the Mount of Olives and asked Him three (3) questions that are given in Matthew 24:3. Those questions triggered the longest response of Jesus to any question that was asked Him in Scripture.

- *Tell us, when shall these things be?*
The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.
- *And what shall be the sign of Your coming?*
Not just one ("the sign"), but six (6) signs, counting the destruction of the Temple.
- *And of the end of the age?*
Judge Gentiles and set up the earthly kingdom.

Quite often in Scriptural prophesy, there will be an immediate fulfillment, but there will also be a future, or long-term fulfilment. That is how the signs of the Lord's return will be.

Matthew 24:8 - All these are the beginning of birth pains.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 - For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

To what intensity do birth pains/labor pains occur and end? That would be the picture of the signs of the Lord's return.

21 judgments in the book of Revelation – 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 vials/bowls. Think again about our discussion of the intensity of birth pains in relation to these judgments.

Future events cast their shadows before the reality.

2. The sign of _____.

Matthew 24:4-5 - And Jesus answered and said to them, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

Matthew 24:24-25 - For false Christs (Antichrist of Revelation 13:1-10) and false prophets (the False Prophet of Revelation 13:11-18 and Revelation 19:20) will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive even the elect (Jews), if that were possible. See, I have told you in advance.

The second sign of the Lord's return is DECEPTION. What are some things happening in our world today that show the sign of DECEPTION as a birth pain, that will be increasing in intensity the closer we get to the rapture, and then increase during the Tribulation and is a sign for pointing to the Lord's return?

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 - And then shall that Wicked (the Antichrist) be revealed...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe what is the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

What kind of "lie" is Paul referring to in verse 11 that is the deception? (Read what is in bold)

Revelation 6:1-2 - Then I watched as the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" So I looked and saw a white horse, and its rider held a bow. And he was given a crown, and he rode out to overcome and conquer.

Zechariah 1:7-9 – ... the word of the LORD came to Zechariah...I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow (valley); and behind him were horses: red, sorrel (light brown), and white. Then I said, 'My lord, what are these?' So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are.'

Zechariah 1:10-11 – And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, 'These are the ones whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth.' So they answered the Angel of the LORD, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, 'We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly.'

Summarize what these verses are telling us concerning the four (4) horsemen of Revelation:

- a.
- b.
- c.

Zechariah 6:5-6 – *And the angel answered and said to me, 'These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth...'*

- d.
- e.
- f.

Describe the rider in Revelation 6:1-2.

Daniel 8:25 - *And through his policy also he shall cause deceit to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many...*

According to Daniel 8:25, how does the Antichrist gain the world's control?

Daniel 11:21-24 – *And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries....And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully...He shall enter peaceably...*

According to Daniel 11:21-24, how does the Antichrist gain the world's control?