



Sermon Series: The Coming Savior part 3

Sermon Title: Know the Signs

Date: December 19, 2021

Matthew 24:1-31

Many are asking, "Is Jesus' return is near?" The best answer is what Jesus says in **Luke 12:40**. Many of us respond to disturbing global trends with an anxious exclamation, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Big Idea. Don't be anxious about the times; rather, know the signs.

We should prepare by knowing the signs that lead to it. Before Matthew 24, Jesus confronted the hypocrisy of the Religious Leaders who rejected him as Messiah. He closes with **Matthew 23:37–39**. This grabs the attention of disciples who ask - **Matthew 24:3**

Jesus identifies several signs that build like the waves of a tsunami that will lead up to his coming in glory to reign on the earth.

Reason #1: Birth Pains

Matthew 24:5–8

Birth Pains = "Labor pains." The hard work that precedes the "big event." The time Jesus describes in these verses are historic birth pains that precede the 2nd coming of Jesus. Our place on the prophetic timeline is a portrait of spiritual birth pains.

False teachers, wars & rumors of wars (Afghanistan, Ukraine, Nigeria), Famine, Persecution (245 million people experience high levels of persecution because of their decision to follow Jesus Christ),

Sign #2: Anti-semitism on the rise

Matthew 24:9-14 refers to a specific people.

Jesus is speaking to His disciples about the persecution of the Jews. The devil's hostility toward God's covenant people will rise increasingly to a fever pitch against the Jews. Anti-Semitism is once again being expressed publicly

and violently. And it will continue to increase and will reach its climax during a 7-year period of time that we call the "Time of Tribulation," a period of time that immediately precedes the glorious return of Jesus Christ **Jeremiah 30:7**.

It will target not only God's Covenant people, the Jews, for extinction but also those who come to faith in Christ after Jesus removes His Church.

During this time, a single powerful leader will gain control of most of the world.

Sign #3: Faith That Stumbles

Matthew 24:10-12

A great "stumbling" is on the increase even now. There are a growing number of once-credible spokesmen for the gospel who have either abandoned or are in the process of "deconstruction." It's sad, but the phenomenon should not surprise us. **1 Timothy 4:1**

It's on the increase even now and growing in size like a tsunami. And it will become especially evident when genuine Christ-followers have been removed at the event called the Rapture.

The shock of the Church's disappearance will open some hearts wide. God will draw people to himself, even after the Church is removed from the earth. The gospel [good news] of the kingdom" will spread worldwide. Many will put their trust in Jesus. And many will seal their testimony with their blood.

Matthew 24:13-14

Jesus describes in **Matthew 24:15-20** how the Anti-Christ will set himself up as an object of worship in the newly-rebuilt Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

There is also the warning for Jews in Jerusalem to flee to the mountains. **Matthew 24:22-26** speak of false messiahs, prophets, and teachers who perform counterfeit but convincing miracles. **Matthew 24:29** says that cosmic darkness will blot out the sun, moon, and stars.

Then finally, in **Matthew 24:27, 30-31**, Jesus will appear like a bolt of lightning that all will see. God's people, the Jews, will call in brokenness but saving faith upon Jesus. And they will be gathered to Him.

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Anti-semitism is on the rise. What are the reasons behind that?
- Do you believe that we are in the last days before Jesus returns? What signs do you see or not see that lead you to that conclusion?
- Do you believe the end times will occur just as it is laid out in scripture?
- Why would God reveal to us the details of the end times?
- Will there ever be true peace on earth before the return of Jesus? Explain
- Christians tend to disagree about the events of the end times. What are some absolutes about the end times where all Christians agree?