



**Birth Pangs Increase
With Increasing Severity and Frequency,
This is not an Actuarial Assessment
Matthew 24:8-14**

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Let me give you my bias right up front. Today is resurrection day and we celebrate the moment in time that all history ended and Jesus Christ became Lord of everything, the moment He walked out of the grave completing a purchase that is pending a final closing we read about in Revelation 4. Because Jesus promised in John 14:1-3 to come back for us. We are watching for Him to do so. His resurrection was the beginning of the end.



Paul provided a heads up for us in 1 Thessalonians 5.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

“Now as to the periods and times, brothers and sisters, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day.** We are not of night nor of darkness; so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober.” (NASB 2020)

Because we are expecting His return, we will not be surprised at all when He shows up, but for the world who is busy doing their own thing and ignoring the obvious signs of the Second Coming now converging everywhere all at once, while they busily proclaim, “Peace and Safety,” He returns for His own and we are out of here.

By the way, the UN is indeed proclaiming that. (United Nations 2025)

We are not looking for signs of the rapture, there are none. The rapture has been anticipated since Jesus ascended. But signs of the Second Coming, there are those.

For those of us who are busy scanning the global environment trying to assess where we are prophetically; the only global watch that makes any sense these days, is the one one Jesus gave hints about and warned about.

Just how much closer to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ are we? And if we are indeed that close, is the rapture today? Let me be brutally honest, I am shocked we are all together today and still here and as long as that continues, that means there are more who need to hear about Jesus. But we know that prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord and the revealing of the Antichrist, we are out of here.

2 Timothy 4:1–4

“I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: **Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 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. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.**” (NLT)

And yes, those days are now here.

Jesus tells us and emphasizes to us in the book of Revelation that He is coming quickly. Of the seven churches that Jesus writes to in Revelation 2 & 3, only two of them are told He is coming quickly. And the picture for each church of His soon return is very different.

The Greek word He uses is ταχύ (tachy), The English word tachometer comes from this term and is a device to measure the relative speed or rotation of a shaft or disk like in a motor. The Greek word means “prompt, swift, quickly, speedily, with haste...suddenly.” (Zodhiates 2000)

The coming referred to here is is coming to take those in the church who are His followers to be with Him. In the church in Pergamum, many were not ready for this forthcoming event. The church is a picture of a church which is tied up with its own internal politics yet busy doing good works on behalf of the Lord. Yet many, if not most in that church, are busy dealing with Baalam and all the various stumbling blocks this



church has placed in the way of those who want to follow Jesus. When Jesus returns coming quickly to this church, He will catch most of them by surprise as they are not looking for Him in the pretribulation rapture of the church.

The other church He tells He is coming quickly to, same word, is the church at Philadelphia. Unlike the church at Pergamum who had some issues, this church has nothing negative going on at all. They are busy serving with what little power they have implying this is not a large church but rather one that takes seriously the cause of Jesus Christ and making disciples. For this church, hearing Jesus is coming quickly is a joy for them to hear. They want Him to come now yet they will continue to occupy until He does indeed come.

The picture we see before us today is the same, a small portion of the church globally is looking forward to the soon return of Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, the rest of the “church” is busy doing their own thing and will be taken by surprise. In fact, some of them will even go through the Tribulation (Revelation 2:16).

It is this picture we find today. Since World War I and especially since the return of His people to Israel in 1947, the side of the church giving into to the culture has only grown while those who are serious about their relationship with Jesus, has gotten smaller.

Meanwhile, global events and some of the things Jesus warned about, are now all converging and taking place all at once. Warning all of us of the nearness of His Second Coming.

I want to focus in on one aspect of His warning an again, if we see this increasing today in frequency and severity, look up, our redemption is at any second.

Matthew 24:8–14

“But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pains. “Then **they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another.** And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will become cold. But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (NASB 2020)

In 2022, “the group Open Doors USA figures that 360 million Christians last year lived in countries where persecution was “significant.” Roughly 5,600 Christians were murdered, more than 6,000 were detained or imprisoned, and another 4,000-plus were kidnapped. In addition, more than 5,000 churches and other religious facilities were destroyed. This makes it appear that Christianity is the most highly persecuted group in the world. (Bandow 2022)

The amazing thing to me is this, the EU is the group that most recently made the declaration.

On January 21, 2026, the EU Parliament produced their annual report on human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union’s policy on the matter. Down in Article 83 and 84 we find this.

Reiterates its condemnation of all forms of racism, intolerance, antisemitism, Islamophobia, persecution of Christians, xenophobia and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, social class, disability, caste, religion, belief, age, sexual orientation or gender identity; calls for the adoption or the strengthening of mechanisms for reporting discriminatory behaviours, as well as access to effective legal remedies, to help end the impunity of those who engage in such acts;



Regrets that, while Christianity remains the most persecuted religion in the world today, with more than 380 million people affected, there is no European coordinator responsible for combating Christianophobia, even though a coordinator has been appointed to combat Islamophobia;
(European Parliament 2026)

That all sounds good but “the resolution is political in nature and does not provide for the introduction of specific measures at the EU level.” And the reality is very basic, it does not require individual members of the EU to fall in line. Finland sure hasn’t.

Finland’s Supreme Court has fined member of parliament Päivi Räsänen for incitement against a group over a church pamphlet, while clearing her of charges linked to a social media post that cited the Bible. The ruling ends a legal process that lasted close to seven years and has drawn political and legal reaction across the country.

The court ruled by a 3–2 vote that Räsänen and Lutheran bishop Juhana Pohjola committed an offence by publishing and keeping available a text that insulted homosexuals as a group. The text formed part of a pamphlet written in 2004 and later shared online in 2019 and 2020. (Helsinki Times 2026)

Finland’s former Minister of the Interior was placed on trial for a tweet that was a Bible verse.

What started as a tweet with a Bible passage about sexual morality escalated into a criminal complaint, police interrogations, and dozens of hours spent preparing for and attending multiple court hearings. (Lykins 2025)

Yes, there will be an appeal to the EU, but at present, they are both convicted purveyors of hate per the Finnish Supreme Court.

Bishop Pohjola said “I am called, and it is my duty, to teach biblical faith on the created order of male and female, on the Christian understanding of marriage, and on the purpose and use of human sexuality,” Bishop Pohjola reflected following the judgment. “My basic rights of freedom of religion as a Lutheran bishop to teach biblical faith according to the confession of our church and my conscience have now been deeply violated. It is not a matter of the sum of euros of the fine but of principle and basic rights.” (Block 2026)

Meanwhile, back over on this side of the Atlantic, we are now seeing the same thing begin to take form.

“The majority of Canadian MPs have voted to pass a Liberal bill that will allow the criminalization of religious expression and belief when quoting parts of the Bible, including about homosexuality and gender.

Early Wednesday evening, MPs from the Liberal Party and the Bloc Québécois, in a 186–137 vote, passed Bill C-9, known as the “Combating Hate Act.”” (Murdoch 2026) But the reality behind it is totally antichrist in origin.

David Cooke, a pastor “said the Bill C-9 was framed as a law going after “hate,” but, in reality, it is a bill that religious leaders from various faith communities “say could lead to hate-related charges against believers – empowers ideologically-driven police officers and judges to target, for the first time, the very word of God on matters of life, family, and faith.”” (Murdoch 2026)

In Finland, it was the courts, but what we are seeing now in Canada, could be a precursor for what we may deal with here soon.



Here is the thing, a legislative body in a Western democracy has voted to make the reading of Scripture, a potential hate crime. Romans 1:18-32, hate crime. Deuteronomy 22:5, hate crime. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, hate crime. 1 Timothy 1:8-11, hate crime. John 14:6, hate crime. John 3:16, hate crime.

What we have seen in the past week is the criminalization of the Bible, in a western democracy and Christians convicted for being followers of Jesus Christ and simply teaching His word to others.

By the way, those who want to control the narrative, and control what they consider to be the truth, are saying there is nothing to be concerned about in the Canadian bill. And what is one of the major concerns of Jesus for His flock in the last days, deception, not to be misled.

Hillary Clinton, as part of her defense of abortion, said this and in doing so, telegraphs to us the goal of many today; "Laws have to be backed up with resources and political will. And deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs, and structural biases have to be changed." (Alters 2015)

If given the opportunity, we will indeed see this being imposed in this nation. In 2018, California Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi stated the following in debate over a bill that fortunately this time around, failed. It does though show us what to pray about. "The faith community, like anyone else, needs to evolve with the times," Democratic Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi said during debate on the legislation. "The science is clear. The claim that the First Amendment can be used as a defense for promoting fraudulent conduct is a fallacious argument." (Starnes 2018)

The gentleman from California used the Constitution to define the Bible and what is appropriate based on his own bias. Yes, this is man, telling God, we do not need you and we can figure this out on our own. What we are seeing is, this is all not only continuing but appears to be increasing in frequency and in severity.

Yes, for a short time the Bible was indeed banned in all schools of the Davis School District in Utah in 2023 before the community forced that to reverse.

Here in the last days, look for this to increase. And there will be those who will deceive along the way to get you to buy that it is a good idea to deny rights to a Christian.

Ephesians 5:6–10

"Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord." (NLT)

Let's pray.



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