Signs of the end of the world…and what to do about it

**Experience God’s assurance**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 24:1-5, John 8:44, Isaiah 5:20

The worst deception is thinking good things are evil and evil things are good. **Journalize** your thoughts on these scriptures.

**Tuesday**

Read Matthew 24:6-8, 2 Chronicles 20:3, John 14:1, Philippians 4:4, Psalms 46, Psalms 37:19

Refuse to be troubled or alarmed about anything today. Instead **rejoice** in the Lord all day long.

**Wednesday**

Read Matthew 24:9-13, John 6:60-69, Isaiah 7:9, 1 Thessalonians 3:4

Never give up; be firm in what you know. **Mediate** on what God is telling you.

**Thursday**

Read Matthew 24:14-31, 2 Timothy 4:8

Think about Jesus’ return and look forward to Him coming back for you.

**Friday**

Read Matthew 24:32-51, Ephesians 6:18

Stay spiritually **alert** all day today.

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**Matthew 24 New International Version (NIV)**

**24**Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. **2**“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

In 70 AD, about 35 years later, the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.

There are short term prophecies that God fulfills very quickly, those that take a while and those that are in the distant future.

Amos 3:7 New International Version (NIV)

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing

    without revealing his plan

    to his servants the prophets.

**3**As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, (temple be destroyed) and *what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age*?”

**4**Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.

Open deception

Fake news, google slowly but surely favoring one search over another, social media bots pumping out biased new, politicians openly lying.

**[John 8:44](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+8%3A44&version=ESV)**

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Example of social deception: It is good to be dependent

God wants you to be God dependent so that you can be self-sufficient!

Galatians 6:5 New International Version (NIV)

**5**for each one should carry their own load.

Galatians 6:2 New International Version (NIV)

**2**Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 New International Version (NIV)

**11**and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,

The ultimate deception:

**Isaiah 5:20**

20 Woe to those who call evil good

    and good evil,

who put darkness for light

    and light for darkness,

who put bitter for sweet

    and sweet for bitter.

What things is our country calling good that is evil?

What things is our country calling evil that is actually good?

**5**For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. … **11**and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

There will be those who claim to be Jesus or a prophet of God

There have been several in the last several hundred years who have claimed to be Jesus, but not with any massive following. Few who have collected world-wide followings are those who have claimed to be prophets of God, Mohammed and Joseph Smith most notably.

But there will come a time (and this should be a sign to us) when some will claim to be Jesus and actually deceive many

**6**You will hear of wars and rumors of wars,

Wars and rumors of wars

but see to it that you are not alarmed.

2 Chronicles 20:3 New International Version (NIV)

**3**Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

John 14:1 New International Version (NIV)

**14**“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

Philippians 4:4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. **7**Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Natural disasters

Famines in Somalia, Sudan, Nigeria. It is said that 30 million are affected by it.

Earthquakes we have seen. Notable recent earthquakes in Haiti, China, Chili, Indonesia and California.

The thing about natural disasters is that it takes our eyes off what we or science or our government can do and we start crying out to the Almighty God because we look to someone greater than the great disaster.

**Psalm 46 New International Version (NIV)**

1 God is our refuge and strength,

    an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

    and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam

    and the mountains quake with their surging.

**Psalm 37:19 New International Version (NIV)**

19 In times of disaster they will not wither;

    in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

**8**All these are the beginning of birth pains.

**9**“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

There will be persecution

1 Thessalonians 3:4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

If the devil can’t find someone to persecute you, he persecutes you spiritually with fear, threats, lies about who you are, poverty, sickness, marital strife, oppressive work situation.

**10**At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Christians will turn away from God

**11**and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12**Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Increase in selfishness and wickedness

**[2 Timothy 3:1-5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3A1-5&version=ESV)**

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

**13**but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Isaiah 7:9 New International Version (NIV)

**9**

…If you do not stand firm in your faith,

    you will not stand at all.

To stand firm is to never give up

John 6:67-68 New International Version (NIV)

**67**“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

**68**Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**14**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations,

The Gospel of Jesus will be preached to all nations - tell people about Jesus

and then the end will come.

**15**“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—**16**then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **17**Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. **18**Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. **19**How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! **20**Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. **21**For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

**22**“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. **23**At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. **24**For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

**25**See, I have told you ahead of time.

**26**“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. **27**For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

**28**Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

*If you follow false teachers, you are to attract to yourself the evil that comes with false teaching.*

**29**“Immediately after the distress of those days

“‘the sun will be darkened,

    and the moon will not give its light;

the stars will fall from the sky,

    and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

**30**“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn (do you think we as Christians will mourn) when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. **31**And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

2 Timothy 4:8 New International Version (NIV)

**8**Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**32**“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. **33**Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. **34**Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

**35**Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“Rely exclusively on my Word”

**36**“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37**As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38**For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;**39**and they knew nothing (but Noah did) about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **40**Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **41**Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

**42**“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Ephesians 6:18 New International Version (NIV)

**18**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

**43**But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **44**So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Next week: “3 questions we have to answer after we die”

Five young women were prepared, and five were not. We need to prepare ourselves to meet Jesus. That is what this life is about!

**45**“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? **46**It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.**47**Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. **48**But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ **49**and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. **50**The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **51**He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**How should we react to the signs of the end of the world?**

Do not let your heart be troubled, rejoice in the Lord

Never give up, just stand firm

Tell people about Jesus

Look forward to Jesus’ appearing

Rely exclusively on God’s Word

Stay spiritually alert