

- I. **Intro. Story:** in 2010, the FBI raided several houses of a group called the Hutaree. These people were actively waiting for an encounter with the Antichrist. The Hutaree are soldiers who call Christ their general as they were stockpiling arms to face a coming apocalypse. Were these people right to prepare for an apocalypse? What does the Bible describe to be the signs of Jesus' return?
- II. Jesus aroused the disciples curiosity when He spoke of future events. The temple had taken over forty years to build, yet Jesus predicted, "Not one stone shall be left upon another". When they came to the Mount of Olives to rest, the disciples saw the opportunity to ask Jesus when this event would take place. But they looked even further into the future when they asked about the end of the world and the signs of Christ's Second Coming.
  - A. Matthew 24:3: Jesus proceeded to tell them of deceptions which would take place, and also not one sign, but many signs which would indicate the nearness of Christ's coming. Some of His predictions had their fulfillment primarily in Jerusalem itself, but served as minor fulfillment's to illustrate the ultimate events, showing that Christ would soon appear.
- III. **Can we know the exact date of the second coming?**
- A. Matthew 24:36: Many in the past have made the mistake of setting a date for Christ's return. Jesus was definite, nobody knows the exact time when He will come.
- IV. **Does Jesus speak about warning signs leading to the end of time?**
  - A. Matthew 24:32,36: Even though the exact time is unknown. Christ made it clear that His followers would be able to tell the nearness of His coming. When the Bible signs come to pass, it is the signal to the Christian to look up because redemption draws near. Just as the new shoots on the trees show that springtime is here and summer is near so the signs tell us that Christ's coming is at the doors.
  - B. Luke 21:28: These signs do not mean we are to be fearful, but we are to be hopeful.
- V. **What are the signs we are to look for?**
  - A. Matthew 24:29: During the dark ages Christians were oppressed, and, but for the grace of God, would have been extinguished. Millions died as martyrs for the Christian faith.
  - B. This tribulation was to come to an end however, and was marked by the darkening of the sun. On May 19, 1780 the sun was mysteriously darkened. It was not an eclipse. In fact, no scientific explanation for the event has been given to this

day. Neither did the moon shine that night. Many thought the day of judgement had come.

- C. On November 13, 1833 the greatest meteoric shower ever seen occurred. More than 200,000 "shooting stars" fell each hour for six hours. Many had read that the stars would fall, and they were convinced the end of the world had come, and prayed in the streets. These events did not mark the end of time, but were signs that the world had entered into the period of time known as the "time of the end". These happenings marked the "beginning of the end".

**VI. Will the end times be a time of proclamation for the gospel?**

- A. Matthew 24:14: The commission given to the Christian church was to take the message of Christ to the whole world. Most of the world has been reached in some way or another. Bibles, preaching, literature, radio, T.V. etc., When this is accomplished, Christ will come.

**VII. What about the Moral corruption in the world, how does this signify the nearness of Christ's return?**

- A. Matthew 24:12: Our world is in a state of moral collapse. The crime rate grows at more than ten times the population growth. Immorality of the worst kind is seen in the world today, and is becoming more widespread. Purity in life is

becoming a rare commodity, and is ridiculed by those controlled by their lusts. As we see iniquity abound, it is a sure sign that Jesus is coming soon.

**VIII. Will there be signs in the atmosphere and terrain that will point to the end?**

- A. Luke 21:11: At one time earthquake centres were pinpointed, now they occur at anywhere at anytime. Destructive earthquakes are multiplying year by year, suggesting that our world is stumbling towards its fall like a drunken man.
- B. The world population is multiplying at a fantastic rate. More than 190,000 people everyday, and it is increasing. Already our planet is overcrowded. How can these extra mouths be fed? Even now, most of the world goes to bed hungry each night. The fact is, they cannot be fed - we must face mass starvation. When famines occur, which they do frequently, just as Jesus said, then the tragedy is even greater. Pestilence has increased in the plant and animal world, and among mankind. Insects pests are a constant concern for the man on the land. New strains of virus are developing year by year, many are resistant to some antibiotics. It is a constant battle to keep ahead.

**IX. Will the wars that abound on the earth signify the coming of our Lord?**

- A. Luke 21:25,26: The nations are perplexed today. Peace agreements, and every effort to bring

nations into harmony nearly always fall short of the mark. Because of the world's troubles, the nations are distressed. Men are anxious for the future because they see no solution to man's predicament.

- B. Matthew 24:6-7: Our generation is the only one which has seen world wars. Wars are being fought somewhere on the earth all the time. There have always been wars, but not of the magnitude seen in our age.

**X. The Elite grow richer and the poor get poorer, how does this signify the nearness of the end?**

- A. James 5:3-4, 8: The hoarding of great riches, strife between employers and employees are signs that Jesus is coming. We have never seen such big business, we have never seen so many strikes and industrial unrest.

**XI. There are so many skeptics today about the Bible, does the Bible predict that they will mock Christians?**

- A. 2 Peter 3:3-4: Many today scoff at the thought of Jesus coming. They reason that because it has been spoken of so long, and has not happened, then it will never occur. They conclude that the world will continue on as always, without change. This is what the people before the flood thought, but they were wrong.

- B. Matthew 24:37-39 (referring to Genesis 6:5): The people living before the flood were secular. They were more concerned with material things and the way of this life. They were so tied up with common interests that they had no interest in Noah's warning of coming destruction. These wicked people did not believe. They were too interested in themselves and their wicked pleasures. They are indeed a parallel to the majority of people living in our world today.

**XII. The news headlines are abundant with disturbing images and reports, hasn't this been the way it was since sin entered the world?**

- A. 2 Timothy 3:1-5: However bad it has been, the condition of the world leading up to the end of time will surpass it in its depravity. Here is a list of the most outstanding sins of our generation (as listed in scripture), see how they apply.

**XIII. Will the Bible be understood, especially the prophetic, apocalyptic books which were sealed?**

- A. Daniel 12:4: The book of Daniel was a sealed book up to the last hundred years or so. Many eyes searched to and fro and in the "time of the end" this knowledge increased. Today - this book is unsealed, its great prophecies are understood.

**XIV. Does Jesus command us to prepare for the end of time?**

- A. Mark 13:29: We can see from the words of Jesus and other Bible writers that we are indeed living in a time when we can expect Jesus to come. The signs are clear, the end is near, but we have no need to fear. It simply means that the Christian will soon be gathered with all the saved to receive the reward of everlasting life.
- B. Matthew 24:44: The preparation of the heart is supposed to be the priority that Christians must undertake as the signs are apparent.

My friend, there is no doubt that Jesus is coming soon. Are you ready? Have you made the necessary preparation? Have you asked the Lord Jesus to be Ruler of your life?