

## PROMISE OF CHRIST'S RETURN

### 1 What promise has Jesus made concerning His return?

**JOHN 14:3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, \_\_\_\_\_ and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Every promise that Jesus made is reliable and true. Therefore, we can be sure He will return leading His children to heaven.

### 2 Besides His promise, what other evidence do we have that Jesus will return?

**MATTHEW 24:32-33** "Now learn this \_\_\_\_\_ from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that \_\_\_\_\_ is near. (33) So you also, when you see \_\_\_\_\_, know that it is \_\_\_\_\_—at the doors!"

The signs that Jesus revealed to His disciples are the harbingers of His return. Each sign fulfilled indicates the nearness of the long awaited, glorious event.

### 3 What assurance has the book of Hebrews given to those who anchor their faith in the return of Jesus?

**HEBREWS 9:28** "...To those who \_\_\_\_\_ wait for Him He will appear a \_\_\_\_\_ time, apart from sin, for \_\_\_\_\_."

The first advent of Jesus is recognized by Christians and Atheists alike. While Jesus is not generally accepted as Savior, His earthly existence is a fact. His place of birth, biblical lineage, and lasting impact on the world are among the reasons we can have the assurance, "Jesus Shall Return."

## SIGNS BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN

### 4 And what sign will exist in the political relationship between nations?

**MATTHEW 24:7** "For nation will \_\_\_\_\_ nation, and kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom."

The Bible forecasts political unrest between world leaders and the nations they represent. Sometimes the political unrest will be within that nation, against its own government. Other times it will come from outside.

### 5 What sign will exist in the military relationships between nations?

**MATTHEW 24:6** "And you will hear of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of wars. See that you are not \_\_\_\_\_; for all these things must come to pass, but the \_\_\_\_\_ is not yet."

More than ever before, the earth is poised for international conflict. Leaders are flexing their nuclear muscles. Weapons of mass destruction are being developed by evil leaders that have no respect for human life. But for God's restraint, the world would be plunged into devastation. Paul the apostle describes this as: "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV)

### 6 What signs are predicted for a crumbling moral condition in society?

**2 TIMOTHY 3:1-7** "But know this, that in the last days \_\_\_\_\_ times will come: (2) For men will be lovers of \_\_\_\_\_, lovers of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ to parents, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, (3) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ self-control, \_\_\_\_\_, despisers of \_\_\_\_\_, (4) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, lovers of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than lovers of \_\_\_\_\_, (5) having a \_\_\_\_\_ of godliness but \_\_\_\_\_ its power. And from such people \_\_\_\_\_ away! (6) For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of \_\_\_\_\_ women loaded down with \_\_\_\_\_, led away by various \_\_\_\_\_, (7) always learning and \_\_\_\_\_ able to come to the knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_."

Paul's predictions are fulfilling before our eyes. Unimaginable passion possess humanity. Evil behaviors are becoming acceptable as the new normal.

### 7 What reason does Isaiah the prophet reveal as to why the world's moral condition is crumbling?

**ISAIAH 24:5** "The earth is also \_\_\_\_\_ under its inhabitants, because they have \_\_\_\_\_ the laws, \_\_\_\_\_ the ordinance, \_\_\_\_\_ the everlasting covenant."

The nonspiritual heart is out of harmony with God's Law and the fruit of that violated law is corrupt behavior. Today we see atrocities and carnage that stretch the imagination. Paul the apostle's reason for this is that, "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." Romans 8:7 (NIV). It is not possible for sinful humanity to live in harmony with God's perfect law until they possess Christ's gift a righteous nature.

### 8 Are the signs that Christ will return similar to those signs told Noah that brought on the flood?

**GENESIS 6:13** "And God said to Noah, 'The \_\_\_\_\_ of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ through them; and behold, I will \_\_\_\_\_ them with the \_\_\_\_\_.'"

As in Noah's day the earth is filled with violence. Video game manufacturers exploit this thirst for violence. The disregard for human life permeates the minds of gunmen perpetrating mayhem upon the most vulnerable of society.

### 9 What signs will exist in the global climate prior to Christ's return?

**LUKE 21:25** "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth \_\_\_\_\_ of nations, with \_\_\_\_\_, the sea and the waves \_\_\_\_\_."

Because world leaders will be unable to provide answers to the earth's perplexity, society will be in a state of confusion. The instability of nature will be another confirmation that the signs of Jesus' soon return are unfolding.

### 10 How does the Bible describe man's reaction to this global climate instability?

**LUKE 21:26** "Men's hearts \_\_\_\_\_ them from \_\_\_\_\_ and the expectation of those things which are coming on the \_\_\_\_\_, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the heavens will be \_\_\_\_\_."

Humanity will be confronted by a hopelessness created by the turbulence and roaring of the seas. These anomalies may be the product of sea-based natural disasters signaling the approaching day of the Lord.

### 11 Is a false sense of security, even in light of global instability, a sign of Christ's return?

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:3** "For when they say, '\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!' then \_\_\_\_\_ destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

Just as it was during the rise of the New Testament church, many looked to the Roman Empire and its political promises as the base of their security. The same will exist prior to the return of Jesus. People will place their hopes in the vain and shallow promises of political leaders. But, this false security will be interrupted by a sudden destruction that will grip the world. That is why the psalmist David wrote, "Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help." Psalm 146:3 (NKJV)

## 12 How will the natural and medical signs speak to the certainty of the return of Jesus?

**MATTHEW 24:7** "...There will be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in various places."

Declining natural resources on earth will not sustain earth's rising population. Water shortage and drought will result in decreased farmable land. Shortage in drinking water will cause anxiety to the inhabitants of major cities. Disappearing rain forests and widening deserts promote famine.

According to the United Nations Chronicle, each day 25,000 people including more than 10,000 children die from hunger and related causes. Between 2004 and 2014 the frequency of earthquakes have tripled. The U.S. Geological Survey reported an average of 55 earthquakes occur daily. That is about 20,000 per year. 2020 brought the world to its knees with COVID-19. With the unpredictable COVID-19 variants that have risen since, we are truly living at a time of pestilences.

## 13 Will scoffers discount the signs of Christ's return?

**2 PETER 3:3-4** "Knowing this first: that \_\_\_\_\_ will come in the last days, walking according to their own \_\_\_\_\_, (4) and saying, 'Where is the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_? For since the fathers fell \_\_\_\_\_, all things \_\_\_\_\_ as they were from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_'"

As in the days of Noah, people willfully closed their minds to the signs. Jesus clearly diagnosed this generation by saying, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." Matthew 13:15 (NKJV)

## 14 What else does the Bible contribute to the willful ignorance towards the fulfilling signs of the return of Jesus?

**MARK 13:22** "For \_\_\_\_\_ christ's and false \_\_\_\_\_ will rise and show signs and wonders to \_\_\_\_\_, if possible, even the elect."

The last days will be characterized by people claiming to be Christ. From the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries, countless leaders have risen declaring to be divine. To name a few, modern false prophets like Jim Jones, of the Peoples Temple and Marshall Appelwhite, of the Heaven's Gate Cult have identified themselves as endowed with divinity. In both instances their followers met a tragic end. The Bible warned that these signs will occur.

## 15 How can we guard ourselves from being deceived as to the signs of Christ's return by false prophets and false Christs?

**ISAIAH 8:20** "To the \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no \_\_\_\_\_ in them."

Jesus gave us Scriptural safeguards to differentiate between those teaching truth and those that are not. Many claim to be connected to Christ, but by applying Scriptural safeguards we can be protected from deception. The apostle John wrote, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:3-4 (NKJV)

## 16 Why is it important to examine a minister based on the Bible and not be content to decide ones credibility by appearance?

**2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15** "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, \_\_\_\_\_ themselves into apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an \_\_\_\_\_ of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his \_\_\_\_\_ also transform themselves into ministers of \_\_\_\_\_, whose end will be according to their works."

Not only is it imperative to examine everything by the Bible, but also to test those that claim to be ministers by the same Word. As we near the return of Jesus deception will reach an apex. The first end-times warning that Jesus shared with His disciples also applies to us. "And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you.'" Matthew 24:4 (NKJV)

The greatest event in history is the Second Coming of Jesus. He has given us signs to know that His return is eminent and that His promises are true. Isaiah the prophet wrote, "And it will be said in that day: 'Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'" Isaiah 25:9 (NKJV). Get ready for Christ's return so that those words may be yours.

## 17 What positive sign does the Bible reveal as evidence that the return of Jesus is near?

**MATTHEW 24:14** "And this \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ in all the \_\_\_\_\_ as a witness to all the \_\_\_\_\_, and then the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_."

The gospel has never been preached on such a scale. The world is being blanketed with the message of the return of Jesus. Every method of communication is engaged in sharing the good news of salvation. The signs foretold in Scripture indicate that the return of Jesus could occur in our lifetime. What a blessing it would be to meet Jesus in peace.



Few people know about hesitant Harry Truman. No, he's not the former president of the United States, but the owner and caretaker of Mount St. Helen's Lodge in the shadow of its volcano at Spirit Lake, Washington. Despite vicious rumblings beneath his feet and warnings issued from the United States Geological Survey Station, Harry wouldn't leave. He chose not to pay attention to the signs! Harry's decision was fatal.

Many today make the same decision that Harry made. They share his sentiment that the danger does not appear threatening. However, the most earth shattering event of human history is fast approaching and the sequential signs revealed in the Bible forecast its approach.

Look at the crumbling world around you! Is this all a coincidence, or are these signs foretold in the Bible? The instability of nations, the threat of nuclear war, rising terrorism, unpredictable weather patterns, the breakdown of the family, crime, violence, and the spreading of the gospel to the corners of the globe, are the collective signs of Jesus' return. In Luke 21:28, Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Your story does not have to end like Harry Truman. By reading and accepting these Bible truths you can avoid his fate. You can make decisions that will impact your life eternally. But, whatever you decide, the end is coming!