

# WATCH OUT!

## SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN



### REVELATION'S OPENING AND CLOSING PROMISE

**Revelation 1:3, 7** *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 1174*

**Revelation 22:7** *“Behold, I am coming quickly!” 1190*

**Revelation 22:12** *“Behold, I am coming quickly!” 1190*

**Revelation 22:20** *“Surely I am coming quickly!” 1190*

The last, repeated \_\_\_\_\_ of Revelation is that Jesus is coming \_\_\_\_\_.

### PROPHECY GIVES SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN, NOT A TIME

**Matthew 24:42-44** *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. 961*

**2 Peter 3:3, 4** *...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 1167*

**1 Thessalonians 5:2-6** *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 1137*

We’re watching not for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s return, but for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ’s return.

### SPIRITUAL DECEPTION. POLITICAL STRIFE. AND NATURAL DISASTERS ARE SIGNS

**Matthew 24:3** *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” 960*

✓ **Spiritual Deception:** Matthew 24:4-5, 23-25 960

*False spiritual teachers; people Christ's name but teaching things contrary to His commands;  
Results seen in general religious confusion, even among Christians*

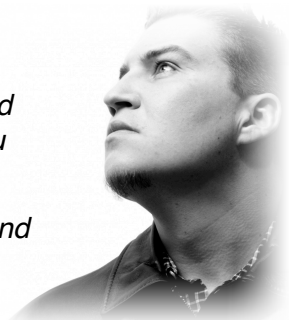
✓ **Political and Military Conflict:** Matthew 24:6, 7 960

*The twentieth century was the bloodiest in history with 160 million war deaths;  
The twenty-first century continues the trajectory with more than half a million war deaths so far*

✓ **Natural Disasters:** Matthew 24:7 960; Luke 21:25, 26 1019; Romans 8:22 1091

Famines

*Currently 1/6 of earth experiencing famine; 50,000-60,000 starve daily; decreasing agricultural lands  
World population becoming unsustainable; 780 million lack access to clean water*



### Pestilences (Diseases)

AIDS epidemic in many developing countries; SARS, bird flu, ebola, west Nile virus, etc.  
Resurgence and resilience of known diseases, lifestyle diseases are the #1 cause of death

### Earthquakes in Various Places

Number of known earthquakes and earthquake deaths has risen dramatically in the last 100 years  
December 26, 2004: over 300,000 died in one day in a tsunami triggered by an earthquake  
January 12, 2010: another 300,000 died in a single day plus another 8,000 in disease aftermath

## SIGNS WILL INCREASE

**Matthew 24:6** See that you are not troubled; for these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 960

**Matthew 24:32, 33** Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things know that it is near-- even at the doors. 961

**Matthew 24:8** All these are the beginnings of sorrows (birth pains) 960



## "THE LOVE OF MANY WILL GROW COLD"

**Matthew 24:12** Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 960

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. 1144

### ✓ **Increasingly Heartless and Violent Society**

Violent media (music, television, cinema, video games, etc.), murder, rape, kidnapping, animal cruelty  
Human trafficking: "there are more slaves than at any time in human history -- 27 million."

### ✓ **Erosion of Family Values**

U.S. Divorce rate over 50%  
Increasingly accepted homosexual agenda  
Abortion: 40+ million/year globally (125,000/day), nearly 1/4 of U.S. pregnancies aborted

### ✓ **Pleasure-Driven Society**

Alcoholism, drug abuse, obesity, etc.  
Media saturation (music, television, movies, internet), gambling, sports addiction,  
Consumer debt, pornography, etc. vital

## THOSE IN CHRIST WILL SPEAK UP AND STAND OUT

**Matthew 24:13, 14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. 960

**2 Peter 3:11, 12** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, 1167

**Revelation 14:14-16** And another angel came... crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 1184

**Revelation 22:11, 12** He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 1190