

They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him. Zech 12:10.

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. Gen. 17:8. My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and parted my land. Joel 3:2.

When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. Psa. 102:16.

This is the primary sign that the return of Christ is near.

7. Breakdown of Biblical Faith

A largely apostate Protestantism (denial of the deity and virgin birth of Christ), the doctrines of Rome, the extra-biblical revelations of the charismatic movement, 2900 fewer words in modern New Testaments, failure to take Bible prophecy literally, the great hymns rarely sung – all contribute to this.

In the latter times some shall depart from the faith. I Tim.4:1.

There shall come in the last days scoffers...saying, Where is the promise of his coming. II Pet. 3:3,4.

8. Abounding Evil

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers...fierce, despisers of those that are good... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. II Tim. 3:1-4. As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. Lk. 17:26.

As it was in the days of Lot...thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. Lk. 17:28,30.

9. Exponential Population Increase

1830 1 Billion 1946 2 Billion 1975 3 Billion

1987 4 Billion 1996 5 Billion 2002 6 Billion

August 2008 6.72 Billion These days are unique !

Christ's Coming Will Be In Two Phases:

1. The Rapture. Believers will be caught up to meet Christ before the 7-year period known as the Tribulation begins.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up...to meet the Lord in the air. I Thess. 4:16,17.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. I Cor. 15:52.

The unconverted will be left to face these 7 years of catastrophe described in Revelation 6-18. Though there are foreshadowings now, it is then that the above signs have their fulfilment.

For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation. Mk 13:19.

I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world. Rev. 3:10.

2. The Return. The Tribulation will end with Christ's Return and the Battle of Armageddon. He will reign for a thousand years. This will be the first stage of the eternal ages.

The kings...of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty...Armageddon. Rev.16:14,16.

I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him. Rev. 19:19.

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ. Rev. 11:15.

All the earth shall worship thee. Psa. 66:4.

Our Need Is Great

For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Mk.8:36.

There is none righteous, no, not one, Rom. 3:10.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23.

Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:15.

The wicked shall be turned into hell. Psa. 9:17.

God's Love Is Greater

Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Rom. 5:20.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim.1:15.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body. I Pet. 2:24.

Who was delivered for our offences and raised for our justification

Rom. 4:25. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. Rev. 1:5.

IT IS FINISHED. Jhn 19:30.

The Offer is Urgent

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation. Heb. 2:3.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God Jn. 3:3.

Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Lk. 13:3.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts 16:31.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him. Rev. 3:20.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life. I Jhn. 5:13.

Behold, now is the accepted time... now is the day of salvation IICor.6:2.

Dear Friend, the hour is late! You need to confess to Jesus Christ in prayer that you repent of your sins and will receive Him as your personal Saviour. I John 5:13 will then become the **Title Deed** of your salvation.

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Bethel Baptist Church

129 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1QJ

Sunday 11am, 6pm

Perhaps Today

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

The Bible Declares Christ Will Return

This same Jesus...shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Acts 1:11.

He shall send Jesus Christ. Acts 3:20.

Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 1:7.

When Christ who is our life shall appear. Col. 3:4.

He shall appear the second time. Heb. 9:28.

He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Heb. 10:37.

Behold, He cometh...every eye shall see Him. Rev. 1:7.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13.

Notice that Titus 2:13 declares the Deity of Jesus Christ. See Jhn. 1:1; 5:18; 10:30; I Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:8,10; Isa. 9:6; Mt. 28:19.

Christ Said He Would Return

I will come again and receive you unto myself. Jhn. 14:3.

As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Mt. 24:27.

Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. Lk. 12:37.

Surely I come quickly. Rev. 22:20.

There are over 800 passages in the Bible which deal with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prophecies of Christ's First Coming Were Fulfilled Literally:

His Birth: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel. Isa.7:14 (written in 735 BC).*

But thou Bethlehem...Out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2 (700 BC).

His Sacrifice: *So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. Zech. 11:12 (520 BC).*

I hid not my face from shame and spitting. Isa. 50:6.

They gave me vinegar to drink. Psa. 69:21 (1000 BC).

*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Psa. 22:1.
They pierced my hands and my feet. Psa. 22:16.
They...cast lots upon my vesture. Psa. 22:18.
Into thine hand I commit my spirit. Psa. 31:5.*
The prophecies of Christ's Second Coming will be fulfilled as literally as these. See I Pet. 1:11.

Prophesied Events That Foreshadow Christ's Return

1. Increase of Natural Disasters

There are the common calamities of history, but as the Second Coming draws near these will increase dramatically. They are likened in the Bible to the pains of an approaching childbirth.

Earthquakes Worldwide: Yearly averages over 3 decades: Earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.0 and above

1980 – 89	103.5	of which 10.5 were 7.0+
1990 – 99	149.2	15.3
2000 – 07	156.6	14.4

2007 saw a near record number of 189 with 18 at 7.0+. USGS

Atlantic Hurricanes: Yearly averages over 3 periods

1950 – 69	6.5	hurricanes of which 3.0 were major (Cat. 4,5)
1970 – 94	5.0	1.5
1995 – 07	8.0	3.8

2005 was the most active year on record. 2007 recorded the first time that two Category 5 hurricanes made landfall. NOAA

Northwest Pacific Typhoons: Yearly averages over 3 periods

1950 – 69	5.1	"super" typhoons (Category 4,5)
1970 – 94	3.3	
1995 – 07	5.6	

UNISYS

South Indian Ocean Cyclones: Yearly averages over 2 periods

1982/3 – 92/3	1.7	major cyclones (Category 4,5)
1993/4 – 06/7	4.3	

UNISYS, JTWC

USA Tornadoes: Yearly averages over 4 decades

1971 – 80	879	1991 – 00	1,208
1981 – 90	846	2001 – 06	1,241

NOAA

Increased Solar Radiation: Tests during times of quiet sunspot activity have shown increased radiation since the late 1970s.

The increase is significant: nearly .05% per decade. NASA

Increased Volcanic Emissions: Ten monitoring sites in different parts of the world show a consistent increase of emissions into the atmosphere; from about 327 ppmv of CO₂ in 1970 to 377 in 2004. Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Retreat of Mountain Glaciers: At mid latitudes nearly all have melted away, and at higher latitudes most are retreating. This is especially so since 1995. Science and Society, Columbia Univ.

Retreating Polar Ice: In Sept. 07 Artic ice was 39% below the norm NSIDC. "The Antarctic is losing ice nearly twice as fast as ten years ago" Times 14 Jan. 08.

Rising Sea Levels: Global sea levels have risen by between 10 to 25 cm over the past 100 years. UNEP

A Hotter Britain: Records going back to 1914 indicate that Britains Ten Warmest Years are nearly all recent: 2006 2007 2003 2004 2002 2005 1990 1997 1949 1999. Met Office

*Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven. Mal. 4:1.
For a fire is kindled in mine anger...and shall consume the earth with her increase. Deut. 32:22.*

The fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun... And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God. Rev. 16:8,9 .

There shall be earthquakes in divers places. Mark 13:8.

The sea and the waves roaring. Luke 21:25.

A great whirlwind...from the coasts of the earth. Jer. 25:32.

The earth... is defiled under the inhabitants thereof. Isa. 24:5.

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. Rom. 8:22.

2. World Financial Turmoil

Rapidly Increasing Debt: Debt - personal, corporate, and governmental – has risen sharply in Britain, but especially so in the US where it has grown from \$5.7 trillion in Jan. 2001 to \$9.6 trillion in Aug. 2008. Debt on this scale has brought the world's financial system into uncharted territory. US National Debt Clock

Doubling Wheat Prices: Wheat on world markets sold for \$5 a bushel at the start of 2007 and \$10 at the end. Fox BusinessNews

The Bible (Rev. 6:5,6) describes a future time when an entire day's wage will be spent on food.

Spiralling Oil Costs: With little increase in output since 2005, and huge added demand from India and China, 2012 is projected as the crunch year for supply / demand. Int. Energy Agency

3. European Super State:

Leading up to Christ's Return, the Bible describes a kind of Revived Roman Empire based on the remnants of its ancient states. Ten heads of state (called "horns") will play a key role, (Dan. 2 and 7; Rev. 13 and 17). The European Union began with the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Remarkably, it has developed into a super state with a common currency, but as yet without a finalized constitution and central leader.

And the horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise; and another shall rise after them. Dan. 7:24.

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom...It shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. Dan. 2:44.

4. The Quickening Road to Antichrist

Never in history has such a union been undertaken without a

strong central leader. That such a one will arise is clearly taught in the Bible. With satanically inspired power and charisma, he will bring Europe to the place of global leadership.

*There came up among them (ten horns) another little horn before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up. Dan. 7:8 .
And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. Rev. 17:12,13.*

By peace (he) shall destroy many. Dan. 8:25.

And power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. Rev. 13:7.

He will establish ("confirm", Dan. 9:27) a 7-year treaty involving Israel, but will break it after 3 ½ years. This may be based on current peace attempts. He will not be revealed until after the Rapture when believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit are taken from the earth. He who now letteth (restrains) will let until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall...destroy with...his coming. II Thess. 2:7.

5. Foreshadowings of 666

That no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name...Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is 666. Rev. 13:17,18 .

Under the pretext of dealing with terrorism, crime, credit card fraud, an energy crisis, or some other international emergency, the mark will be the Antichrist's masterstroke in binding many on earth to himself. A Barcode on a implanted chip is a possibility. For a generation the world has not been able to buy or sell without the Barcode. When the mark is enforced during the Tribulation Period, and you have been 'left behind', avoid taking it at all costs!

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive a mark. Rev. 13:16.

If any man...receive his mark...the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God. Rev. 14:10,11.

6. Jerusalem!

Always a flashpoint, international tensions in the last days will centre on Jerusalem.

Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations. Ezek. 5:5.

And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people. Zech. 12:3.

Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Lk. 21:24.

I will gather all nations against Jerusalem...Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations...And his feet shall stand...upon the mount of Olives. Zech. 14:14.