

Signs preceding the Second Coming of Christ (Earthquakes, wars, Epidemics...)

Introduction

We know how to watch for signs of the seasons. For example when the dark clouds are forming in the sky we know it is going to rain soon. Meteorological Services send out weather forecasts from time to time to alert people to take precautions so as to minimize loss of lives and damage.

During the recent cyclone Katrina in the US, the relevant authorities gave warnings days in advance to the residents in its path for a total evacuation. But many people ignored the warning and clung to their dogs and cats and other possessions and did not budge. You know what happened. Many lives were lost and properties damaged or washed away. Yet, the people blamed the government and rescue workers for not coming to their aid fast enough to save their lives.

This prompted me to write the following article about the early warning signs given by none other than Jesus, the truthful Son of God to the people of all generations.

These prophecies (forewarnings) were of greatest importance to God and all the people of the world because,

- Jesus Christ, the Son of God gave them and they are definitely going to happen just as said and they should be trusted.
- The purpose of giving them is to prepare us ready and waiting for His return to take us Home to be with Him forever.
- It urges everyone in all generations to make sure that they are trusting Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord they die or before He returns to judge the nations, as we are not told the date and time of His coming will be. (Therefore, the urgency)

(The following verses of Scripture are taken from **Matthew Chapter 24**, of the Holy Bible.)

These are the words of Jesus:

In verse 3, the disciples asked Jesus, "... Will there be any sign ahead of time to signal your return and the end of the world?" Replying, Jesus said, "Don't let anyone mislead you," He added that the

following events are going to happen like "birth pangs", i.e. these events will happen with increasing frequency and in greater magnitude, until He finally comes back again.

(Jesus was also called Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord, Redeemer, etc., in the Holy Bible.)

Every prophecy originates from Almighty God, will always come true no matter how long it takes, because God knows all things past, present and future and it involves divine power to fulfill them. Therefore, they are trustworthy. For e.g. in 750 BC Isaiah prophesied about the virgin birth by Isaiah, in Isaiah 7:14 saying, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emanuel." This prophecy was fulfilled 750 yrs later when Jesus was born of Virgin Mary in AD 1. That is **how certain** divine prophecies are.

Fortune telling originates from mortal men whose knowledge about future is zero. Thus their fulfillment is doubtful and uncertain, most of the time never materialize. It is like gambling.

JESUS foretold that the following events will happen before his Second Coming but He did not give specific date or time in Matthew chapter 24. That is why we have to watch and wait.

Here are some of the signs we could watch for:

1. False Messiahs and False Prophets will arise

v.5, "For many will come claiming to be the Messiah, and will lead many astray". v.11, "And many false prophets will appear and will lead many people astray". This is another sign pointing towards the Second Coming of Jesus.

2. Wars and Rumors of Wars

vv. 6-7, "And wars will break out near and far, but don't panic. Yes, these things must come, but the end won't follow immediately. The nations and kingdoms will proclaim war against each other..." This is also another sign pointing towards the Second Coming of Jesus.

One can see from the following table the frequency of wars increasing as the years go by, just as Jesus had foretold. Following data was obtained from

www.HistoryGuy.com Visit this Web Page for more details.

Major wars and conflicts:

Period in yrs.	Wars & conflicts	Major ones
1~1000Bc (1000)	27 -1789	~ 30
1001~1500Ad (500)	395 - 1492	~ 50
1501~1900 (400)	1416 - 1902	~ 220
1901~2000 (100)	1904 - 1991	~ 80

Casualties are also mounting due to the sophisticated weapons used in modern warfare. One can read this from the daily newspapers. Many conflicts are still being fought around the world and new ones are waged. There are nations making hasty preparations for war against one another too.

3. Famines

v.7, "... and there will be famines..." This is now happening in many countries around the world, for example, North Korea, some countries in Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq and many more. And the numbers are increasing each year according to newspaper reports. Read the Straits Times report on page 14 of Feb 8, 2002, "World expected to be hit by drought and flood... The return of El Nino whose full force will be felt in the coming months."

4. Earthquakes

vv.7-8, "There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this will only the beginning of the horrors to come". As for the earthquakes the number and intensity increases as the years go by, just as Jesus had prophesied. The following information is obtained from: National Earthquake Information Center

See the following chart:

Major Earthquake information

Period in yrs.	Earthquakes (M>5)	Reported fatalities
1500~1800 (300)	5	1,100,000
1801~1900 (100)	30	~ 20,000
1901~2000 (100)	129	~ 880,000
2001~2003 (3)	8	~ 24,000

5. You will be Arrested, Persecuted and Killed

v.9, "Then you (the followers of Jesus both Jews, and Gentiles converts) will be arrested, persecuted,

and killed. You will be hated all over the world because of your allegiance to Me."

One should not be surprised when this happens because Jesus had already warned us. He said, Matthew 5:11-12, "God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted, too". Again He said in, John 15:10, "Since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you".

John 16:2, "...and indeed the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing God a service".

These persecutions will intensify as we approach the Second Coming of Jesus.

6. Many will turn away from Christ, betray and hate each other

v.10, "And many will turn away from me, betray and hate each other". When the persecution becomes intense, the tendency is to deny that we belong to Jesus and thus betray and hate other Christians to find favor with our persecutors. This is another sign pointing to the Second Coming of Jesus.

But God has promised Christians in Romans 8:35-39, "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can't, life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

7. Disobedience to God will be Widespread

v.12, 13, "Sin (Doing things that are displeasing to God), will be rampant everywhere and love of many will grow cold. But those who endure to the end will

be saved." Revelation 22:11 "...vile will become more vile; good men will be better; those who are holy will continue on in greater holiness."

8. The Message of Jesus will be preached Throughout the World

v.14 "And the Good News about the Kingdom of God will be preached throughout the world, so that all nations will hear it...and then finally, the end will come."

In summary, what Jesus foretold is already happening in many parts of the world today in small or smaller scale. As time goes on it will intensify to greater and formidable scale. He told His disciples in John 14:29, "I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe Me."

Why did Jesus prophesy these?

Some of the reasons are:

- So that when they happen we will not be surprised, or be misled by misinterpretations of these events by some clever men.
- Fulfillment of all these will prove that Jesus is truly the Messiah and His promised Second Coming is near.
- When we hear the gospel (Message of Salvation in Jesus Christ) we will take the message seriously and Repent of (turn away from) our sins and receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Acts 4:12 says, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is other name under heaven given to men by whom we must be saved."
- He wants us to eagerly wait for His return to take us to be with Him in Heaven forever.

Hebrews 9:27-28 says, in the Holy Bible, "And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died only once as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again but not to deal with our sins. This time he will bring salvation (saving from the power and effects of sin) to all those who are eagerly waiting for Him".

These are all signs preceding His imminent return. And if you postpone or reject Him this time, most probably you will miss the last chance and never get in.

You may be asking,

Why should I receive Jesus Christ now?

➤ Because, if you are not ready and waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, you will miss the only opportunity for being saved from eternal death, because this time when Jesus comes, He comes to take those who are eagerly waiting for His Second Coming.

- Hebrews 9:27-28 says, "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."
- Luke 12:38-40, "It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." So, You don't want to miss that only last chance.

➤ Secondly, Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) but through Me."

Well dear friend, if you sincerely desire to want to be saved, you have to get ready before His unannounced return to take us to our eternal Home in Heaven.

Does this makes sense to you? If yes, and you are serious about receiving Jesus Christ, here is how you could receive Him.

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