

Signs of the End Times: God's Clock Is Ticking Down.

"24:1 As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. 2 But he responded, 'Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!'

3 Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, 'Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?' 4 Jesus told them, 'Don't let anyone mislead you, 5 for many will come in my name, claiming, "I am the Messiah." They will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

9 'Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

15 'The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.' (Reader, pay attention!) 16 'Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. 17 A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. 18 A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. 19 How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. 20 And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. 22 In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones.

29 'Immediately after the anguish of those days, - the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

30 And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

32 'Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. 33 *In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door.*'

Observation: Circle the question marks in verse 2-3. **Underline** anything that would be a specific sign in the End Times. **Box** in all references to deception.

1. Why are people interested in the future?
2. What prophetic statement did Jesus make about the temple? (24:2)
3. As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, what questions did the disciples ask? (24:3)
4. What wide-scale calamities did Jesus predict would occur near the end of the world? (24:6-8)
5. What other events did Jesus say would take place? (24:9-13)
6. What did Jesus say about the moral state of the world in the end? (24:12)
7. To what extent will the gospel be preached in the last days? How is this possible? (24:14)
8. What other events will occur in the final days? (24:15-22)
9. What are some examples of false teaching deceiving people today?
10. What heavenly signs will accompany the return of Christ? (24:29)
11. What part did Jesus say the angels of God would play in His return? (24:31)
12. Which of these signs do you see today? How does this chapter affect you?

Conclusion: **God is in control and has a plan for the world and our lives.**

Suggested Action Steps: ► If you have not received Christ as your Savior, do it today. ► As a Christian, if you have not been living for Christ, rededicate your life to Him. ► Read Matthew 24-25 and make a list of the End Times signs. ► Invite someone to the next Bible study.