



# Signs of the Times

*"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief." (1Thessalonians 5:4)*

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study is from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

Why is the weather forecast so popular?

## Reference: Matthew 16:1-4

- 1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.
- 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';
- 3 "and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.
- 4 "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

1. Why did Jesus call Pharisees and Sadducees hypocrites?
2. What signs of the times should the Pharisees have been able to discern?
3. What is "the sign of the prophet Jonah"?

## Signs of Nature - Acts of God

4. Will weather itself be a sign of the times?  
Luke 21:25-26 - "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken."
5. What does it mean the powers of heaven will be shaken?
6. Could the powers of heaven being shaken refer to something mankind does?
7. How may we use record setting weather patterns and the hysteria over global warming to point people to Christ?
8. Why is global warming so politically correct?

9. What is the responsibility that God's children should have for the environment?

Genesis 1:28 - God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (NIV)

10. How may health trends be a sign of the times?  
Luke 21:11 - "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven."
11. What are the great signs from heaven in Luke 21:11?

## Israel: God's Prophetic Clock

12. What miracle does Malachi 3:6 represent?  
Malachi 3:6 - For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.
13. Has the Church replaced Israel in God's promises?
14. How do we know that the prophecies about Israel being restored to the land have not been fulfilled in history?
15. For the following verses, explain (1) what indicates this is a prophecy related to the return of Christ and (2) what indicates that Israel is returning to the land in unbelief...  
Ezekiel 36:22-24 - <sup>22</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. <sup>23</sup> And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. <sup>24</sup> For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land."
16. How has Israel profaned the name of the Lord?
17. How do we know that Ezekiel 37:21-25 has not been fulfilled in history?

Ezekiel 37:21-25 - <sup>21</sup>"Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; <sup>22</sup>"and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. <sup>23</sup>"They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. <sup>24</sup>"David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. <sup>25</sup>"Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

18. How do we know that this passage is not talking about Israel's restoration from Babylon?

19. What is Ezekiel 37:22 talking about that they will no longer be two nations?

20. What does Ezekiel 37:23 have to say about whether this passage has been fulfilled or not?

21. When will Israel as a nation be God's people again?

22. Is there a possibility that the current re-gathering of Israel may not be the fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:21-25? Could God remove Israel from the land and re-gather them again?

23. What does it mean in Ezekiel 37:24 that David will rule over Israel?

24. What is significant about what the land where Israel will be restored to will be called?

Ezekiel 37:12 – Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

25. What does Isaiah 35:1-2 have to say about how else God will restore the land to Israel?

Isaiah 35:1-2 - The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They

shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God.

God will make the desert bloom and blossom as a rose when He brings back Israel to the land.

26. What is the glory of Lebanon God will give to Israel?

27. Has the land of Israel bloomed and blossomed as a rose?

28. Why has Israel has been able to produce so much food?

29. What is the order of Israel's return to the land?

Isaiah 43:5-6 - Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth--

30. What do we know about the Hebrew language that goes contrary to trends in the world?

Zephaniah 3:8-9 - Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; my determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all my fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. For then I will **restore** to the peoples a **pure** language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.

31. Are the number of languages in the world growing?

32. How does a pure language describe Hebrew as we know it today?

33. What occurred in 1967 that partially fulfills Luke 21:24?

Luke 21:24 - "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

34. Why can't we say that Israel taking control of Jerusalem is a complete fulfillment of Luke 21:24?

35. How far do you think we are from the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled?

36. Why is Jerusalem always in the news?

Zechariah 12:3 - And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

37. How will the last days government of Israel differ from times before they were dispersed?

Zechariah 12:5 - And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.'

38. Given that Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948, how is Isaiah 66:7-8 fulfilled by this event?

Isaiah 66:7-8 - Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, she delivered a male child. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.

39. What will Israel's military power be in the end times? Zechariah 12:6 - In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place - Jerusalem.

## Signs in Society (Spiritual Decay)

Jesus said in Matthew 24:37, *as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

40. Given Matthew 24:37, how will the return of Jesus be like the days of Noah?

Genesis 6:5,11 - the wickedness of man was great in the earth... the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... and the earth was filled with violence

41. What can we expect to see in the society of mankind before Christ returns?

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. And from such people turn away!

42. What will make the last days perilous?

43. How has sensational news on superficial topics become entertainment in our day?

2 Timothy 3:1-4 - There will be terrible times in the last days... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (NIV)

44. How are undisciplined children an end-times sign?

45. What is a form of godliness but denying its power?

46. What signs of degradation have we seen in our society?

47. What is causing today's escalation of crime?

## God gives us over to ourselves...

### Reference: Romans 1:18-32

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

<sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God **gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

<sup>26</sup>Because of this, God **gave them over** to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup>In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

<sup>28</sup>Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he **gave them over** to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup>They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup>they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (NIV)

48. What are the three stages of God giving us over to ourselves?

49. What stage is our society in today?
50. How has an evolutionary world-view led to racism?
51. Where have the races come from?  
Genesis 11:7-9 - Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel —because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth. (NIV)
52. What is wrong with homosexual marriage?  
Genesis 2:24 - a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (NIV)
53. How is the devaluation of marriage actually opposition to God?  
Malachi 2:16 - "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel (NIV)
54. Why has God allowed AIDS to plague humanity?
55. What examples of being given over to a debased mind can you identify?
56. What is radical feminism?
57. Why did God allow radical feminism to take root?  
Isaiah 3:12 - As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths."
58. How has feminism impacted our society?
59. What is the agenda of radical feminism?  
Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law.
60. How have the roots of feminism been around since Eve?  
Gen 3:16 - To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."
61. What does it mean, "your desire shall be for your husband"?
62. Are certain political views more aligned with God?  
Ecclesiastes 10:2-3 - The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. Even as he walks along the road, the fool lacks sense and shows everyone how stupid he is. (NIV)
63. Why is there so much political polarization in our day?  
Romans 1:28-31 - since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind... they are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice... gossips, slanderers... senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (NIV)
64. What can we do about the problems in society?
65. What trend can we expect for religious deception as we near Christ's return?  
2 Timothy 3:13 - evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived
66. Who believes society will get better?
67. Why shouldn't it be a surprise that society will get worse prior to the Lord's return?
68. How should Christians respond to the trend toward a godless society?  
John 17:16-18 - They are not of the world, even as I am not of it... As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world (NIV)

## Apostasy

69. What happens when people get away from the God of the Bible?  
2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
70. What is more popular today, Christianity or new age philosophies?
71. Why are people so quick to embrace astrology, psychics, ESP, channeling, spirit guides, crystal gazing, etc. instead of the God of the Bible?
72. Why does God in His Word forbid us for attempting to make contact with the dead?

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

73. What religious practices should we expect "in the latter times"?

1 Timothy 4:1-3 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

74. What signs of apostasy have you seen in our world?

75. What religions do we see "forbidding to marry" today?

76. Where do Catholics get the idea that their spiritual leaders are not to marry?

77. What is the flaw in the logic that all spiritual leaders should not be married?

78. What is the problem with the Catholic Church's policy on the marriage of priests?

79. What else in 1 Timothy 4:1-3 reinforces that this is a prophecy of the Roman Catholic Church?

80. How does the Catholic Church embrace doctrines of demons?

81. What trend are we seeing in society at large that is forbidding to marry?

82. What kind of foods do people abstain from today for religious reasons?

83. What did Jesus have to say about false Christians at their judgment?

Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

84. What did Jesus have to say about false Christians in relation to His return?

Matthew 24:24 - For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect,

85. What motivates false prophets?

Matthew 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

86. How may we test the works of false prophets?

87. Are there any legitimate miracles performed by religious leaders today?

88. People argue that we should have miracles of the type the Apostles performed *because* "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8). What is wrong with this argument?

89. There were many other prophets, how did they authenticate that they spoke for God?

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 - "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 'and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'-- which you have not known--' and let us serve them,' 'you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

90. Why must we recognize false teachers? What is the danger of even subtle deviations from true doctrine?

Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

91. What other end-time trend should we expect to see in society per Daniel 7:25? Who is the "he" in this passage?

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

92. What does the "times" in Daniel 7:25 refer to?

93. Do we see persecution of Christians today?

94. Why should persecution of Christians during our day be of no surprise to us?

John 15:20 - Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

95. What does it mean in Daniel 7:25 that the Antichrist will change times and law?
96. How have we abandoned God's laws in our day?
97. What will the rejection of God's laws result in?  
Isaiah 24:5-6 - The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

## End-Times Scoffing

### Reference: 2 Peter 3:3-7

- 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,  
4 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."  
5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,  
6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.  
7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
98. 3:3 - What trend do we expect to see in end-times?
99. What does it mean to scoff at the return of Christ?
100. What does it mean to walk according to their own lusts?
101. 2 Peter 3:4 – Who will the end-time scoffers be?
102. How do scoffers justify their claim that the return of Christ is not imminent?
103. What kind of scoffing have you observed?
104. 3:5-6 – What are the end-time scoffers forgetting?
105. What does “willfully forgetting” the flood mean?
106. What do people believe about the flood of Noah?
107. What do we know about the world that existed before the flood?

108. What happens to a layer of heaven atmosphere above a lighter atmosphere when the heaven layer breaks down?
109. How might the lessons learned from the Ozone layer help us understand the formation of the polar icecaps?
110. How can the quick-formation of the polar ice caps help us to understand today's global warming symptoms?
111. 2 Peter 3:5 – What else will people willfully forget prior to the Lord's return? How did creation come about?
112. How does the willful forgetfulness of creation cause people to scoff at the return of Christ?
113. 2 Peter 3:7 – How long will God hold the heavens and earth together?
114. Are there only bad spiritual signs in the end-times?
115. What good spiritual signs are there in Joel 2:28-29?  
Joel 2:28-29 - And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
116. What does Daniel 12:4 have to say about good spiritual signs in the end-times?  
Daniel 12:4 - But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

## Signs in Technology

117. Why can we understand more about Bible prophecy today than in ancient times?  
Daniel 12:8-10 - Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.
118. Who will understand the prophecies in Daniel?
119. Why is it necessary to be saved as a prerequisite to understand prophecy?  
1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to

him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

120. How rapidly will the key end-time events transpire when they begin at the rapture?

121. What are we seeing today that is a fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel 12:4?

Daniel 12:4 - "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

122. For a lot of people to travel, what had to happen?

123. What does the expansion of knowledge mean?

124. Why does God generally work through natural means rather than the supernatural?

2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight.

125. Does the prophesied expansion of knowledge have an application to society at large? How does it apply?

126. How can we better understand how the whole world will be able to see the death and resurrection of the two witnesses God sends during the tribulation?

Revelation 11:8-11 - And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

127. What modern tools make it easy to see how Revelation 13:15-17 can be literally fulfilled?

Revelation 13:15-17 - He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

128. Nahum 2:3-4 - What does this verse describe using 7th century B.C. terminology?

Nahum 2:3-4 - The shields of his mighty men are made red, the valiant men are in scarlet. **The chariots come with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the spears are brandished. The chariots rage in the streets, they jostle one another in the broad roads; they seem like torches, they run like lightning.**

129. What are the flaming torches a reference to?

130. What does it mean the spears are brandished and the chariots rage in the streets jostling one in the broad roads?

131. What does it mean they run like lightning?

132. How could this verse be understood before the 1960s?

Obadiah 4 - "though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," says the LORD.

## World Politics

133. What will our government be like when Christ returns?

Revelation 13:7 - It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

134. Where is America in prophecy?

135. Does it look like we are moving toward or away from a one-world government?

136. What does Revelation 16:12 have to say about another political trend we can expect in the end-times?

Revelation 16:12 - Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

## World Religion

137. What sort of religion will there be when Christ returns?

Revelation 13:8 - All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

138. How have we seen the groundwork for a one-world religion today?

139. What is ecumenicalism?

140. Where have we seen ecumenicalism?

141. If God intends the church to be one, why are there so many denominations?

## War and Peace

142. What kind of peace will there be in the time-frame when Christ returns?

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 - 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,

143. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:3 mean by destruction coming "as labor pains upon a pregnant woman"?

144. What is the Lord talking about in Luke 21:25-26 when He says there will be "distress of nations" associated with His return?

Luke 21:25-26 - "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken."

145. What is the "distress of nations with perplexity?"

146. How do the wars in the 20th Century indicate we are nearing the time of Christ's return?

147. How could a war annihilating all life on earth prior to nuclear weapons be possible?

Matthew 24:22 - And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

148. Why is it likely that Jesus is talking about our generation that will see His return when He said, "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved" (Matthew 24:22)?

149. How does the rise of terrorism relate to Christ's return?

Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war!  
Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, "I am strong!" (Joel 3:9-10, NIV)

150. Jesus said in Matthew 24:6 that in the time leading up to his return, *you will hear of wars and rumors of wars*. What is a *rumor of war*?

## Ezekiel 38-39

151. What activity is described in Ezekiel 39:11-15?

Ezekiel 39:11-15 - "It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. Indeed all the people of the land will be burying them, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord GOD. "They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. The search party will pass through the land; and whenever anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog."

152. What is special about this clean-up?

153. What clues are there as to the timing of this future historical event from Ezekiel 38:8?

Ezekiel 38:8 - "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely."

154. What does Ezekiel 38:12 say as the reason Gog, the leader of Magog, goes into Israel?

Ezekiel 38:12 - "to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations"

155. What will happen to the army of Gog?

Ezekiel 38:22 - "And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone."

156. What is being burned for fuel in Ezekiel 39:9-10?  
 Ezekiel 39:9-10 - "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them," says the Lord GOD."

157. What clue is there in Ezekiel 39:9 as to why this war may be prior to the tribulation?

158. What could the seven years be a reference to?

159. What kind of scenario can you see where this war could help the Antichrist coming into power?

160. What could trigger the destruction of Damascus, the capital of Syria?  
 Isaiah 17:1 - The burden against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap.

161. How will the world react when Damascus is destroyed?

162. How will the Russian army that invades the Mid-East be destroyed?  
 Ezekiel 39:6 - And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

163. Why is the midst of the world-wide crisis of Damascus being destroyed and Russia invading the Mid-East be a good time for the rapture?

164. Does the security wall in Israel need to come down before Ezekiel 38 can come to pass?  
 Ezekiel 38:11 - "I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. (NIV)

Could the destruction of Damascus be a totally separate event from Ezekiel 38?

165. What weapons are represented by these verses?  
 Isaiah 41:14-16 - Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you," says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat

them small, and make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the LORD, and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

Zechariah 14:12 - And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

166. What war does Jeremiah 50:9 describe?  
 Jeremiah 50:9 - For behold, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country, and they shall array themselves against her; from there she shall be captured. Their arrows shall be like those of an expert warrior; none shall return in vain.

167. What do all the signs we've been discussing tell us?

168. What should we be doing as we see the Day of the Lord approaching?  
 Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

169. What message should these signs of the soon coming of the Lord send to unbelievers?

170. What message should these signs of the soon coming of the Lord send to believers?