

The weather forecast is often the most popular portion of the TV news. There is a fascination with the weather because it is clearly beyond human control yet can have a great impact on our plans.

There is a coming event also beyond human control that will have an even greater impact on the plans of men: the return of Jesus Christ. The Bible says that while we can not know the "day and hour," Jesus can return at any time.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus rebuked the religious leaders who could forecast the weather by the color of the sky but failed to "discern the signs of the times" which revealed Him as their Messiah.<sup>2</sup> As there were signs which pointed to His first advent, Jesus told us what would indicate the season of His return. It was prophesied that Israel would cease to function as a nation but will be resurrected in the last days.<sup>3</sup> The parable of the fig tree tells us that the generation seeing Israel return to the promised land will see the return of Jesus.<sup>4</sup> We are that generation!

Jesus also said that preceding His return, there would be an increase in frequency and intensity of wars, racial strife, hunger, disease, earthquakes and yes, bad weather.<sup>5</sup> There are other Bible prophecies addressing the state of world politics, technology, society, and institutional Christendom prior to the Lord's return. Before you dismiss the idea that the coming of Jesus is near, it would be to your advantage to recognize that this prevailing view is in itself a sign that we're "in the last days." <sup>6</sup>

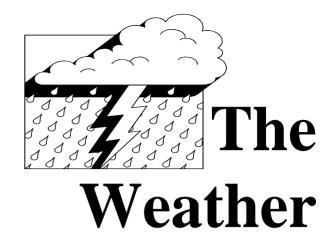


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## 1 Matthew 24:36

<sup>6</sup> Romans 6:23 8 Romans 3:23 01:01, 31:6 adol 1 6 2 Peter 3:3-4 <sup>o</sup> Matthew 24:6-8 & Luke 21:9-11, 25-27 the book of Joel. of the nation of Israel, see Hosea 9:10 and 4 Matthew 24:32-36, the fig tree is a symbol <sup>3</sup> Jeremiah 23:3, Ezekiel 36, 37:12 & 21

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 16:1-4

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10 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

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