



# 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.

## Why is the weather forecast most people's favorite part of the news?

- People are fascinated with forecasting the future and weather reports are the closest mankind can come.
- People were like this in Jesus' time as well. Let's see how Jesus related weather forecasts to more important signs of the times...

### 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 the Pharisees and Sadducees hypocrites?

The Pharisees could predict the weather but could not "discern the signs of the times."

### 2. What signs of the times should the Pharisees have been able to discern?

The Pharisees should have been able to discern the coming of the Messiah... Jesus was born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, etc. Daniel 9 even tells when He would come.

### 3. What is "the sign of the prophet Jonah"?

His own death and resurrection. On another occasion, Jesus made this clear...

Matthew 12:40 - "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

## Signs of Nature - Acts of God

God has always used nature to send people wake-up calls. The Old Testament is full of stories where the prophets called the Israelites to repentance foretelling of crop failures and other calamities if they did not. A special star directed wise men to the Child Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12) and an earthquake heralded His death on the cross (Matthew 27:50-51). For more on this, see the BibleTract.org study on Signs of the Times.

## Israel: God's Prophetic Clock

### 4. 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.

- Despite the dispersion of the Jews throughout the nations, they have preserved their uniqueness. The Jews have not been assimilated into the cultures of the nations where they have lived. This is unprecedented in history.
- Note that the Lord ordained that the Jews would be a special people, unique in all the world...  
Deut 26:18 - the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He has promised you, that you should keep all His commandments

### 5. Has the Church replaced Israel in God's promises?

No, God has made separate promises to Israel and the church. If you get this basic concept wrong, you'll have a difficult time taking the Bible literally for what it says, you'll end up having to spiritualize everything it says about end-time events. God is not done working through Israel as a nation...

Romans 11:25-26 - For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

God keeps his promises. He has made many to Israel that have great prophetic significance. We've already looked at the most vivid which is the promise fixing the generation who'll see Christ's return in His parable of the fig tree. And we've seen how the times of the Lord's first and second

advents (at least the second phase) can be determined by watching Israel. This has caused many Bible students to refer to Israel as God's prophetic time clock.

**6. There are many Bible references to Israel being restored to the land. Indeed they had been taken off into captivity by Babylon, how do we know that these prophecies have not been fulfilled in history?**

We know that the prophecies in these verses have not been fulfilled from their context. Some are talking about restoration to the land from Babylon, others are clearly talking about a time that better fits today or has not yet been fulfilled...

When you study the prophecies about Israel being regathered carefully, you'll find that they fall into three categories...

A few prophecies relate to the return from Babylonian captivity, most however concern two great regatherings from all over the world, one in unbelief before the Lord returns and the other in belief after the Lord returns...

**7. 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 - 22 "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. 23 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. 24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

(1) This is talking about a regathering from multiple nations in all three verses.

(2) This is clearly talking about regathering them in unbelief since it refers to Israel as having profaned the name of the Lord (verses 22 & 23).

**8. How has Israel profaned the name of the Lord?**

As a nation, Israel has not acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah. Indeed, Israel is a very secular nation today.

There are a lot of verses that refer to Israel returning to the land in belief (Deuteronomy 4:29-31, 30:1-10, Isaiah 11:11-12, 27:12-13, 43:5-7, Jeremiah 16:14-15, 31:7-10, Ezekiel 11:14-18, 20:33-38, Amos 9:14-15, Zephaniah 2:1-2, Zechariah 10:8-12, and many more. Note that once God returns Israel to their land that they will be there forever...

Amos 9:14-15 - I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and

inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. **I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,**" says the LORD your God.

**9. Is there a possibility that the current re-gathering of Israel may not be the fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:22-24? Could God remove Israel from the land and re-gather them again?**

God is sovereign and could remove Israel from the land and re-gather them again. I believe this passage allows for that but I don't believe that is what will happen because it is not God's pattern of leading people to repentance. God has dispersed Israel as punishment for turning away from Him. Since the current re-gathered Israel has not yet turned to Him, it would not be appropriate for God to begin their restoration to the land then prematurely end it before they turn back to Him.

There are many prophecies about Israel that are very subtle and would require a more intimate knowledge of Israel than we have. We're just going to look at some of the more obvious...

**Reference: Zephaniah 3:8-9**

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.

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

Note that in the end times it says the Lord will **RESTORE** a **PURE** language... This means they had a pure language that was lost but in the end-times, it will be restored.

**11. Are there more or less languages in the world today than in times past?**

- There are fewer languages in the world than there once were because many have been consolidated and some have been effectively lost (Latin).
- Languages and dialects are consolidating as the world seeks to work together more thus reversing what happened at the Tower of Babel.

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

During the dispersion of Israel, Hebrew as a spoken language was all but lost except for Biblical scholars. The Hebrew language had been corrupted with other languages

such as Ladino which is a combination of Hebrew and Spanish or Yiddish which is as a combination of German and Hebrew. Zephania Elineazer Ben Yahoda dedicated his life to the pure Hebrew language inventing thousands of new words based on Hebrew root words. Now a pure form of Hebrew is the language that binds Israelis together despite their coming from different nations. Israelis can now read original biblical scrolls without translation. You can not even say the same thing about English, Old English is almost unintelligible to us today. In 1982 Hebrew became the official language of Israel.

### **13. Zechariah 12:3 - Why is there always something about Jerusalem 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.

Jerusalem is a "burdensome stone" (KJV) that stands in the way of world peace (cessation of hostilities). Besides the fact that God said that Jerusalem would be an important new item in the end times, Israel is in a strategic location in the heart of the world's greatest oil reserves. It is also the epicenter of the world war on terrorism and the most difficult nut to crack in terms of world peace. If mankind can bring peace to the Mid-East, there is nothing preventing peace worldwide. Of course this peace that the nations seek after is just a cessation of hostilities that has nothing to do with God.

### **14. Zechariah 12:5 - 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.'

Israel will be ruled by a democracy rather than a monarchy as they were in times before the dispersion. Also note that Israel is currently the only democracy in the Middle East. Note that the leaders of Israel during this time will be secular leaders because they refer to the Lord as "their God."

### **15. Zechariah 12:6 - What do know about Israel's military power 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.

Israeli forces have astounded the world by their victories during four wars with vastly superior forces that have opposed them since 1948 ('56, '67, '73, '81). Today they are the most powerful force in the region and currently the

only nation with nuclear weapons. Israel's military forces have been rated at 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> in the world but in terms of their effectiveness probably number one.

## **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.*

### **16. Matthew 24:37 - How will the return of Jesus be like the days of Noah?**

Noah's society is the classic example of the pouring out of God's wrath: *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*, Genesis 6:5,11.

### **17. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 - 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!

Notice in the last days that perilous times will come.

### **18. What will make the last days perilous?**

People will be self-focused and blatantly sinful. There will be lawlessness, violence, immorality, greed, selfishness, hedonism, rebellion, and despair. Jesus explained why the end times would be perilous:

Matthew 24:12 - And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

### **19. How are undisciplined children an end-times sign?**

The presence of undisciplined children is a symptom of the breakdown of the moral moorings of the family. It is also a sign of judgment from God...

Isaiah 3:4 - I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

If people are just animals driven by their feelings, you don't have a right to punish children so that they will behave...

Proverbs 13:24 - He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. (NKJ)

The prophet Malachi said that children would rebel against their parents in the end-times...

Malachi 4:5-6 - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to

their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

## **20. What is a form of godliness but denying its power?**

This is a reference to apostasy, a falling away from the Christian faith. It is people professing to be Christians by denying basic truths such as the deity of Christ and His atonement for sin being the only way to be saved. Paul said that the day of our resurrection and gathering to the Lord will not happen until there is a mass falling-away of the faith...

2 Thessalonians 2:3 - Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition

Since the church is in the world, it will naturally reflect the societal trends present in the world at large. The same problems that are present in society can be found in the professing church.

## **21. What trend should we expect to see in society as we get closer to the return of the Lord?**

As we get closer to the Lord's return we should expect to see a degradation of society with more blatant sin and more consequences of that sin.

## **22. We've always had crime if not the sort that we have today and not perpetrated by youth as we have today. What is causing this escalation of crime?**

The trend away from Christian principals and toward relaxed morality has had disastrous effects in our society.

- God is being removed from all our institutions and there is more stress on the family than there ever has been.

## **23. What can we do about the problems in society?**

We can't change others. We can't change ourselves without God's help. Only God can change people. So we should focus on our own relationship with God and see these problems in society as reason to draw closer to Him. God will not hold us accountable for the sins of society but we are accountable to Him for our own sins.

**Spiritual Decay** - We've already talked a little about how there will be an increase in spiritual apostasy in the time leading up to Christ's return. Let's take a look at some other verses which give us more insight to this...

## **24. 2 Timothy 3:13 - 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  
It will increase.

## **25. Who believes society will get better?**

Secular humanists believe society will get better because they believe that people are basically good.

## **26. Why shouldn't it be a surprise that society will get worse prior to the Lord's return?**

- Besides 2 Timothy 3:13, Jesus told us that society will be like the days of Noah.
- Human nature is sinful (Romans 3:23), all you need to do is look at history and extrapolate out the trend.
- God out of His graces gives us over to ourselves to face the consequences so that we'll learn to depend on Him and not ourselves.

## **27. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 - 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.

- They will develop philosophies and form cults to justify their own desires.
- The politically correct religion of **secular humanism** promotes all kinds of spiritual deception including public tolerance of abominations such as Satanism and witchcraft.

## **28. Why are people so quick to embrace astrology, psychics, ESP, channeling, spirit guides, crystal gazing, etc. instead of the God of the Bible?**

People do not want to believe the supernatural nature of the Word of God yet they'll espouse supernatural intervention in a cosmic context as if the universe as a whole were expressing itself.

## **Reference: 2 Peter 3:3-6?**

- 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.

## **29. 3:3 - What trend do we expect to see in end-times?**

In the end-times society, people will scoff at the idea the Lord will return.

## **30. What does it mean to scoff at the return of Christ?**

They will deny that Christ is returning and ridicule those who say He is returning.

**31. What does it mean to walk according to their own lusts?**

- In the end-times, people will be “looking out for number one” (themselves) to the exclusion of anyone else, especially God.
- In the end-times, people will make it a common practice to yield to their natural impulses.

**32. How do scoffers justify their claim that the return of Christ is not imminent?**

- As it says in verse 4, they say “all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”
- Effectively they say, “every generation of Christians has expected Christ to return in their lifetime and He has not so why should our generation be any different?”

**33. 3:5-6 – What are the end-time scoffers forgetting?**

End-time scoffers forget that God brought judgment on the whole earth once before and He will do so again. Specifically, they forget about Noah’s flood.

**34. What does “willfully forgetting” the flood mean?**

End-time scoffers are those who know about the flood but intentionally dismiss it as irrelevant to our day.

**35. What do people believe about the flood of Noah?**

People have bought into the rationalization that Noah’s flood is a myth picked up by many ancient cultures. They believe that there probably was a great flood in ancient history but that it was local and not worldwide as the Bible proclaims.

**36. 3:5 – What else will people willfully forget prior to the Lord’s return? How did creation come about?**

Creation came about by the Word of God who spoke it into existence:

Genesis 1:3 - God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

**37. How does the willful forgetfulness of creation cause people to scoff at the return of Christ?**

Forgetting the supernatural way God brought the creation into being goes along with ignoring His Word. People ignore God’s Word because they really don’t know who God and do not have a relationship with Him. If you know God, you know that He is Almighty and does act supernaturally and is in active control of the universe...

Colossians 1:16-17 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Without the power of God to holding matter together, it would fly apart and disintegrate...

Revelation 4:11 - You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

**38. 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.

- God will pour out His Spirit on us resulting in a great many people being saved.
- This passage will be fulfilled during the tribulation when I believe God will again speak through prophets like He did when Scripture was being recorded (see my study on miracles during VBS 2002).
- Even though this passage is specifically addressing the tribulation period, we can see foreshadowings of it in the great revivals where many people were saved during the church age.

**39. 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."

Knowledge about end-times events will become clearer as we near the end of the age. Daniel did not understand what he was prophesying about but God said that those living at the time of their fulfillment would understand...

## Signs in Technology

The prophets were led by God to write about many things they could not comprehend. When Daniel asked God to explain some of these things to him, God said it is not intended that people understand them until the end 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.

**40. Who did God say would understand the prophecies in Daniel?**

Note that those who are purified, made white, and refined will understand. So the prerequisite to understand the end-time prophecies is to trust in Christ for salvation. But notice that it says they are refined. I believe that this means that

you must be a mature Christian to really understand the prophetic Scriptures.

**41. Daniel 12:4 - What are we seeing today that is a fulfillment of this prophecy?**

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."

This passage says that in the end-times, there will be a lot of people traveling and there will be an expansion of knowledge.

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

For transportation to handle a lot of people, it had to improve. Indeed, transportation has gotten more convenient, faster, and able to accommodate more people.

Prior to the advent of the automobile, the fastest mankind could travel using personal transportation was about 30 miles per hour. Adam could mount a horse and travel that fast through the Garden of Eden. Now, even air travel is routine. Running *to and fro* at 350 MPH between Houston and Dallas is like catching a bus. This century is the first ever to have such a dramatic jump in mobility.

**43. What does the expansion of knowledge mean?**

Certainly there is an increased understanding of the prophetic Scriptures in our day. Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Christians had to expect that the end-time prophecies would happen strictly by supernatural means. Today, there are many natural means by which most of the prophecies may come to pass.

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

God prefers to be very subtle so that those who have responded to Him and a relationship with Him will recognize His work.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight. God giving people a worldly explanation respects the decision of those who have chosen to reject God in their lives. God is the ultimate gentleman, He is not going to force anyone into a relationship with Him even though He desires all of His creation to know Him...

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**45. Rev 11:8-11 - How will the whole world see the resurrection of God's two tribulation witnesses?**

It is easy to see how all the world will be able to see prophecy being fulfilled in the Middle east just by tuning into CNN. All the world seeing these events unfold does not require supernatural intervention by God, the technology

we have today can literally fulfill the prophecy of all the world seeing the events unfold.

**46. 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.**

It is pretty clear this passage is describing the automobile. Note the time frame: "*in the day of his preparation.*"

**47. What are the flaming torches a reference to?**

Head lights and tail lights.

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

Cars are weapons that kill many people. We've already talked about how 50,000 people die each year in the U.S. from automobile accidents. We've accepted this as normal life but to the 7<sup>th</sup> Century observer, this is incredible carnage. This passage even appears to make reference to road rage on the freeways.

**49. What does it mean they run like lightning?**

This is a reference to speed. Certainly car lights at night when they are turning and illuminating a stationary observer could resemble lightning.

## World Politics

**50. Revelation 13:7 - What sort of government will there be 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.

The Antichrist will be head of a one-world government. We also see this from the prophet Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream that it will be an extension of the Roman Empire hence we call it the Revived Roman Empire.

**51. Where is America in prophecy?**

If we are truly in the end-times and since the United States is the only superpower, surely the U.S. would be mentioned in the Bible. I think the U.S. is included as the leader of Western Civilization which is part of the Revived Roman Empire. The United States is basically an extension of Europe since it was founded by Europeans. Look at our form of government, our democratic-republic is modeled

after the Roman government. Even the architecture of our official buildings in Washington D.C. have a Roman style to them.

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

- The nations of the world are rapidly moving in this direction reversing what God did at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)...  
Acts 17:26 - And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and **the boundaries of their dwellings**
- It is a common thing to hear about U. N. "peace keeping" forces being deployed.
- Europe is the benchmark for giving up national sovereignty to a regional government. This was prophesied to happen in the end-times (see Daniel 2:41-44, 7:8, 24-25 & 9:26).
- There is a growing belief that the only way to deal with global problems is for world organizations to resolve them. We've had global conferences on trade, the environment, population growth, AIDS, woman's issues.
  - We've seen NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), barely achieve a majority in Congress and a lame-duck Congress approve an even more comprehensive GATT (Global Agreement on Trade and Tariffs)...
  - The GATT documentation is so lengthy, our legislators couldn't even know about everything for which they voted.
  - The WTO (World Trade Organization) will have broad powers over national sovereignty
  - The world already has a global economy where the economic troubles in one nation can effect many others. Corporations are forced into the international marketplace in order to grow or even survive.

## **World Religion**

### **53. Revelation 13:8 - 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.

When the Lord returns, there will be a world-wide religion where people trust in a charismatic world leader for their salvation rather than God. We know that this world leader will be charismatic because of Revelation 13:5, "*and he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies.*"

### **54. What is ecumenicalism?**

Ecumenicalism is all about achieving unity of the church through human means and compromising the truth of God's Word in the process.

### **55. Where have we seen ecumenicalism?**

- The World Council of Churches is one of the ecumenical efforts going on today boldly proclaiming the gospel of many paths to God.
- The Pope has hosted worship sessions for a diverse group of world religious leaders including the Dalai Lama and Indian shaman.
- There has been a joint declaration of purpose between Catholics and Evangelical Protestants.
- There is a sense today that different religions just reflect a diversity of cultures, that all roads lead to God.
  - When we hold to the truth that Jesus Christ is the only path to God, we are labeled as insensitive and intolerant. But Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*, John 14:6.

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

There are so many denominations because of sin. Even though the body of born-again believers are truly one in Christ because we will be together in eternity, we are still in the world and our old sin natures are a factor. Churches have split with one another due to disagreements over how the Bible should be interpreted. Most of these disagreements have been over what Paul would call "doubtful things" (Romans 14:1) which the Bible does not specifically address and does not impact a person's salvation.

### **57. Hebrews 10:24-25 - 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.

We should not forsake meeting together to encourage one another to do good works.

### **58. What message should these signs of the soon coming of the Lord send to unbelievers?**

This should tell unbelievers to flee the wrath to come by turning to Jesus for salvation.

### **59. What message should these signs of the soon coming of the Lord send to believers?**

This should tell believers to flee ungodliness and embrace Jesus as Lord.