

"Signs of the Times"

A joyful time of expectation: Advent

God promised the first coming of the Messiah
We look forward to a celebration
God promised the second coming of the Messiah
We look forward to His coming

What do you really think about Jesus second coming?

Some are obsessed by it:	Speculation
Some are fearful of it:	Judgment
Some are confused by it:	Misunderstanding
Some are disillusioned by it:	Delay

What do we really know about Jesus second coming?

The promise of His coming is clear
As is the destruction of Jerusalem
He will come in power and glory
Just at the right time
No one knows when he will come
Only the Father knows
There will be a judgment
With eternal consequences

The question we can't help but ask:

How can we know when it is getting close?

What did Jesus want us to know:

Do not be deceived:
False messiahs
False signs
Be prepared to endure to the end:
When you are persecuted
When others turn away
Above all, keep watch:
By living expectantly
By living faithfully

There's a great day coming...Are you ready?

Matthew 24:1-29

1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-let the reader understand- 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-and never to be equaled again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-if that were possible. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

29 "Immediately after the distress of those days
"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky,
and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man
coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he
will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his
elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get
tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even
so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the
door. 34 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away
until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will never pass away.

36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of
Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days
before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in
marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing
about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.
That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will
be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will
be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day
your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house
had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have
kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you
also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when
you do not expect him.

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has
put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at
the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds
him doing so when he returns. 47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in
charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and
says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then
begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.
50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not
expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to
pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.

NIV



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Times"***

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