

Is the **END** of the **WORLD** at hand?

**ARMAGEDDON!**

**#1** The "signs of the times."

EARTHQUAKES!  
FAMINES!  
APOSTASY!  
PERSECUTION!  
WAR!  
THE END HAS ARRIVED!  
PANDEMICS!  
FALSE TEACHERS!  
AND MORE!

For **nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**; and there will be **famines, plagues, and earthquakes** in various places.

Then they will deliver you up to **oppression**, and **will kill you**. You will be **hated** by all of the nations for my name's sake.

Many **false prophets** will arise, and will lead many astray. Because **evil will be greatly increased**, the love of many will grow cold.

... **the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky**, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken ...

(Selected phrases from Matthew 24.)

... he came out **conquering**, and to conquer.

... power to **take peace from the earth**, and that they should **kill one another**.

... "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages! ..." [**inflation/famine**]

... **Death. Hades** ... Authority over one fourth of the earth, to **kill with the sword**, with **famine**, with **plague**, and by the **wild animals** of the earth ...

... those who had been **killed for the Word of God**, and for the testimony of the Lamb ...

(Selected phrases from Revelation 6.)

**RADIO, TV, INTERNET  
NEWSPAPER -  
CRISIS IS  
EVERYWHERE!**

... a great **earthquake**. The **sun became black** as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole **moon became as blood**.

The **stars of the sky** fell to the earth, ...

The **sky was removed** like a scroll when it is rolled up. **Every mountain and island were moved** out of their places.

"... **the great day of [God's] wrath** has come; and who is able to stand?"

(More selected phrases from Revelation 6.)

IT'S THE "SIGNS OF THE TIMES"!

IT MEANS JESUS IS COMING SOON!

HE WILL DESTROY ALL EVIL AND MAKE EVERYTHING GOOD!

YOU CAN EXPECT HIM ANY DAY NOW!



**Some KEY ISSUES:**

1. God tells us what we NEED...
2. ... not necessarily what we WANT.
3. What we NEED is often not the same as what we WANT.
4. People tend to ignore the NEED and pursue the WANT.

**Because of this, we have:**  
 all sorts of views,  
 all sorts of claims,  
 all sorts of delusions  
 – and all sorts of disappointments, when things don't go the way we expected.

★ **WE WILL LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES** ★  
 (of failed predictions and misguided claims).

**FIRST OF ALL...**  
**WE DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT TIMING OF JESUS' RETURN.**

➔ Even JESUS, as a human, did not know!  
 (Don't be so arrogant as to think you know better than Jesus did!)

**WE DO KNOW THESE THINGS:**

1. He is coming back.
2. We don't know when.
3. We need to always be ready – on guard and alert.

At that time **they will see the Son of Man coming** in the clouds with great power and glory.  
**No one knows about that day or hour**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.  
**Be on your guard and stay alert!** For you do not know when the appointed time will come.  
 Mark 13:26, 32-33 (BSB)

**Down through the centuries, people have made predictions and expressed opinions.**

➔ On the next page are some of the dates people have predicted...

**This includes:**

- ✓ (occasionally) Opinions ("It *might* happen at this time.")
- ✓ (often) Strong opinions ("It will *probably* happen.")
- ✓ (more often) Direct claims ("It *will* happen.")

**Those who did it:**

- ✓ Many were false teachers and false prophets.
- ✓ Some were people who seemed to believe the Bible, but who didn't pay attention to Jesus' warning.
- ✓ A few were expressing opinions, not necessarily saying "it will happen at this specific time."

**WHEN is Jesus' second coming, or the end of the age? (a few of the false predictions)\***

|                        |                                      |                   |                   |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Predicted date:</b> | 500                                  | 6 April 793       | 1 January 1000    |
|                        | 1260                                 | 1370              | 1504              |
|                        | 20 February 1524                     | 1524-1526         |                   |
|                        | 19 October 1533                      | 1673              | 1694              |
|                        | 1694                                 | 1700              | 1757              |
|                        | 1770                                 | 1770              | 1793-1795         |
|                        | 25 December 1814                     |                   |                   |
|                        | 15 September 1829                    | 1836              | 22 October 1844   |
|                        | 7 August 1847                        | 1861              | 1863              |
|                        | 1874                                 | 1874              | 1890              |
|                        | 1891                                 | 1901              | 1914              |
|                        | 1915                                 | 1917-1930         | 1930-1939         |
|                        | 1935, 1943, 1972 and 1975            | October 1964      | 21 June 1982      |
|                        | 1988                                 | 1988              | 6 September 1994  |
|                        | 1999-2009                            | 2000              |                   |
|                        | 2000                                 | 2000              | 6 April 2000      |
|                        | 21 May 2011                          |                   |                   |
|                        | 21 October 2011                      | 29 September 2011 | 27 May 2012       |
|                        | 18 May 2013                          | 2012              | 28 September 2015 |
|                        | 9 June 2019                          |                   |                   |
|                        | 2020                                 | 22 July 2020      | 2021              |
|                        | And they're making more predictions! |                   |                   |

\* (Sometimes different people picked the same year – example, year 2000.)

**If you include the apocalyptic ("end of the world") events predicted by others (false religions, etc.), the list is even greater...**

**Predicted date:**

|             |             |             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 66-70       | 365         | 375-400     | 27 May 482  | 500         |
| 6 Apr 793   | 800         | 799-806     | 847         | 992-995     |
| 1000        | 1033        | 1200-1260   | 1284        | 1290        |
| 1335        | 1346-1351   | 1368-1370   | 1378        | 1504        |
| 1 Feb 1524  | 20 Feb 1524 | 1525        | 27 May 1528 | 1528        |
| 19 Oct 1533 | 1533        | 5 Apr 1534  | 1555        | 1585        |
| 1588        | 1600        | 1 Feb 1624  | 1648        | 1651        |
| 1654        | 1656        | 1655-1657   | 1658        | 1660        |
| 1666        | 1666        | 1673        | 1688        | 1689        |
| 1694        | 1694        | 1697        | 1700        | 1700        |
| 1705-1708   | 1716        | 5 Apr 1719  | 1700-1734   | 16 Oct 1736 |
| 1736        | 1757        | 20 May 1773 | 19 May 1780 | 1789        |
| 1792        | 1794        | 19 Nov 1795 | 1793-1795   | 1805        |
| 1806        | 19 Oct 1814 | 1836        | 1836        | 1836        |
| 28 Apr 1843 | 31 Dec 1843 | 1843        | 21 Mar 1844 | 22 Oct 1844 |
| 7 Aug 1847  | 1847        | 1862        | 1862        | 1863        |
| 1873-1874   |             |             |             |             |

**MORE** →

↓

|             |             |             |                |                    |      |             |      |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|------|-------------|------|
| 1881        | 1890        | 1901        | 1910           | 1892-1911          | 1914 | 1915        | 1918 |
| 1920        | 13 Feb 1925 | 1926        | 1934           | Sep 1935           | 1936 | 1941        |      |
| 1943        | 1947        | 21 Dec 1954 | 22 Apr 1959    | 1951-1960          |      |             |      |
| 4 Feb 1962  | 20 Aug 1967 | 1967        | 9 Aug 1969     | 1969               | 1972 |             |      |
| Jan 1974    | 1975        | 1975        | 1976           | 1977               | 1977 | 17 Feb 1979 |      |
| 1980        | 1981        | 10 Mar 1982 | 21 Jun 1982    | 1982               | 1985 |             |      |
| 29 Apr 1986 | 17 Aug 1987 | 1988        | 11-13 Sep 1988 | 3 Oct 1988         |      |             |      |
| 30 Sep 1989 | 23 Apr 1990 | 9 Sep 1991  | 1991           | 28 Sep 1992        |      |             |      |
| 28 Oct 1992 | 1993        | 2 May 1994  | 6 Sep 1994     | 29 Sep 1994        |      |             |      |
| 2 Oct 1994  | 31 Mar 1995 | 26 Mar 1997 | 10 Aug 1997    | 23 Oct 1997        |      |             |      |
| 31 Mar 1998 | Jul 1999    | 18 Aug 1999 | 11 Sep 1999    | 1999               |      |             |      |
| 1999        | 1999        | 1999        | 1999           | 1 Jan 2000         | 2000 | 2000        | 2000 |
| 6 Apr 2000  | 5 May 2000  | 2000        | 2000           | 2000               | 2000 | 2000        | 2000 |
| 2000        | 2000        | 2001        | 27 May 2003    | 30 Oct-Nov 29 2003 |      |             |      |
| 12 Sep 2006 | 29 Apr 2007 | May 2008    | 2010           | 21 May 2011        |      |             |      |

**MORE** →

↓

|                |                    |              |                   |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 29 Sep 2011    | 21 Oct 2011        | Aug-Oct 2011 | 27 May 2012       |
| 30 Jun 2012    | 21 Dec 2012        | 23 Aug 2013  | Apr 2014-Sep 2015 |
| 7 October 2015 | 23 Sep-15 Oct 2017 | 23 Apr 2018  | 9 Jun 2019        |
| 2020           | 5 Sep 2020         | 2021         |                   |

**Future predictions:**

|                   |             |                 |                 |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 13 Nov 2026       | 2026        | 2028            | 31 Dec 2129     |
| 30 Sep 2239       | 2280        | 11,118          | 300,000         |
| 1 million         | 100 million | 500-600 million | 600-800 million |
| 1-5 billion       | 1.3 billion | 7.59 billion    | 22 billion      |
| 10 <sup>100</sup> |             |                 |                 |


**Tempted to make a prediction?  
JUST SAY "NO!" to your temptation.  
(Or "Get behind me, Satan!" or something like that.)**

Source of these two series of date-settings:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predictions\\_and\\_claims\\_for\\_the\\_Second\\_Coming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predictions_and_claims_for_the_Second_Coming) and  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_dates\\_predicted\\_for\\_apocalyptic\\_events](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dates_predicted_for_apocalyptic_events). This source is not always 100% accurate, but still gives us a basic idea of how wrong people have been!

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**Now what about the "SIGNS"?**

**Some KEY ISSUES:**



- Signs are **POINTERS**, reminders of what's going to happen.
- They might mean "It's here" ... or not. EXAMPLES OF BOTH:
- Perhaps 3 factors to consider:
  - the "intensity" of the signs;
  - the response of people (repentance or not);
  - the convergence of many signs at one time.

**Regardless of what happens...  
our obligation is to be on guard and alert!**

"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Don't be alarmed! These things must happen, but **they don't mean that the end has come.** ..."

In the same way, when you see all these things, **you know that he is near, at the door.**"

Matthew 24:6, 33 (GW)

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**At the time this is being written (i.e., today), many catastrophic events are happening, or have the high potential of happening in the near future.**

Down through history, there have been *many* disasters and cataclysmic events – both natural and man-made. Some of the worst ones occurred many *centuries* ago.

- However, the *potential* for such disasters to occur seems to be increasing.
- Perhaps the "final" fulfillment will occur when *all* of these signs converge together, in unprecedented ways.

**EVEN SO...**


- Regardless of the outcome, these signs should be viewed as reminders to keep on being ready for Jesus' coming. Besides, when the "final" signs occur, they might not match *our* expectations; so we might not recognize them!

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**The problem of making predictions (besides being false).**

THIS NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PROVES THAT THE END HAS FINALLY COME!

- People see these signs occurring and jump to the conclusion that "the end" has arrived.
- Usually, people don't do the research needed to find out if what they've heard is true. (They may also be too young to know the past... or too old to remember it!)



**THE UNFORTUNATE RESULT...**

- Predictions are constantly being proved false. The whole concept of "end-time signs" gets discredited. It often causes people to stop taking the Bible seriously – they conclude that the Bible can't be understood or believed.

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**Are the signs being fulfilled right now?**

➡ We will look at a few of the signs and see what we can find out.

**IN CASE YOU'RE TOO IMPATIENT TO WAIT FOR THE CONCLUSION, HERE IS A SNEAK PEAK AT IT:**

**WE WILL DISCOVER...**

- ➡ When we look at the actual data, we learn: Things are not happening to the point that we can reach a definite conclusion that "the end" has arrived.
- ➡ At the same time, many of these situations have the potential of changing in a matter of minutes.

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**HOW ABOUT EARTHQUAKES?**

**USGS Magnitude 2.5+ Earthquakes, Past Day**  
41 earthquakes.

**41 EARTHQUAKES IN 24 HOURS!! OBVIOUSLY AN END-TIME SIGN!!**

**WHAT WE DISCOVER:**

- ❖ This is actually quite normal.
- ❖ Even "big" ones tend to occur every year.

From <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/> late afternoon, on 10/19/2023

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**Deaths from earthquakes, 1500 to 2017**

Deaths from earthquakes includes direct deaths from the event plus those from secondary impacts (such as a tsunami triggered by an earthquake). Due to data availability, reporting and evidence, it's expected that more recent data will be more complete than the long historical record. A trend in reported estimates therefore doesn't necessarily reflect the true change over time.

**WHAT WE DISCOVER:**

- ❖ The deadliest quake on record was about 500 years ago.
- ❖ The average number of deaths have increased, but probably not as fast as the world population has increased.

Source: National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) of the NOAA  
OurWorldInData.org/natural-disasters • CC BY

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**Evaluation of the EARTHQUAKE data.**

- ➡ It's hard to determine a trend. The ability to detect earthquakes has increased in recent years; so we can *expect* to detect more than in the past.
- ➡ One of the worst earthquakes (for fatalities) occurred nearly 500 years ago; but deadly earthquakes have happened at random intervals for centuries. The number of fatalities has probably not increased as fast as the population of the world has.
- ➡ Some years have an above-average number of major earthquakes; others have a below-average number.
- ➡ **HOWEVER**, there are several major fault lines that are potentially "overdue" for an earthquake (based on long-term calculations). So things could potentially change without warning.

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**WHAT ABOUT FAMINE?**

I KEEP HEARING ABOUT FOOD SHORTAGES!!

I SEE MANY NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT FAMINES!!

I GET LOTS OF JUNK MAIL ASKING FOR DONATIONS TO HELP FAMINE VICTIMS!!

**WHAT WE DISCOVER:**

- ❖ Famines are actually a lot less common today than in the past!! [See chart, next page.]
- ❖ But there are many threats to the food supply, which have the potential of quickly changing this.

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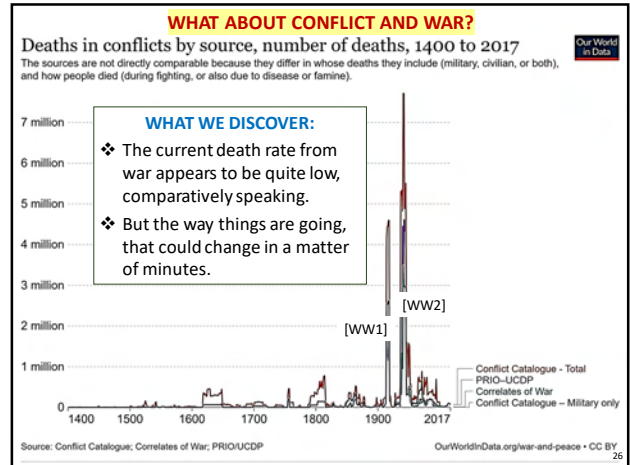
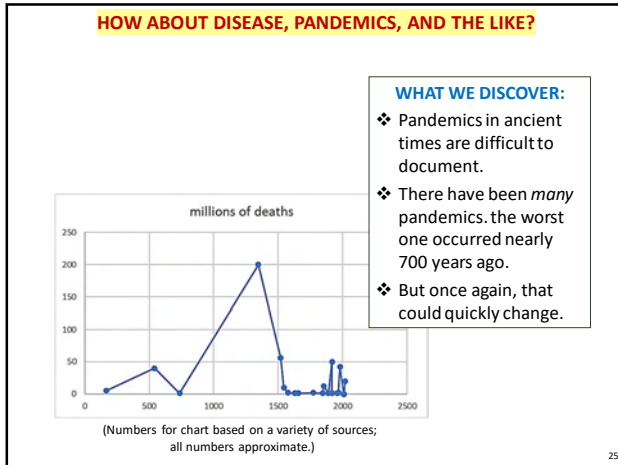
**Annual rate of people dying due to a famine globally, per decade**

**WHAT WE DISCOVER:**

- ❖ In recent years, there has been a downward trend in the severity of famines in the world.
- ❖ Food supplies have kept pace with population growth.

Data source: The rate of the excess mortality due to famines shown here is presented in detail on OurWorldInData.org/famines (The dataset was constructed by Jon Hassel and Max Roser). How the rate is calculated: The annual rate is calculated for each decade by dividing the total number of famine victims in each decade by the average size of the world population in that decade and multiplying the resulting ratio by 10 and for the data from 2010 to 2018 is divided by 7 to arrive at a yearly rate. To express it as the rate per 100,000 people, the annual rate is then multiplied by 100,000. For famines for which different excess mortality estimates are published the midpoint between these estimates was chosen here. This visualization is available at OurWorldInData.org. There you find the full dataset and more research and visualizations on famines and global development. Licensed under CC-BY-SA 4.0

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### CAN WE SAY THAT ANY SIGNS ARE ACTUALLY BEING FULFILLED?

**PERHAPS WE CAN:**

- ❖ **EXAMPLE #1: ISRAEL** – According to some views about end-time events, Israel must exist as a nation in the land of Palestine.
  - ↳ Israel is in the land – something that didn't happen until 1948.
- ❖ **EXAMPLE #2: THE GOOD NEWS** – Scripture says that the Good News will be preached throughout the world.
  - ↳ In recent decades, this has been occurring at an unprecedented rate.

"This Good News about the kingdom will be spread throughout the world as a testimony to all nations. Then the end will come."  
Matthew 24:14 (GW)

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### WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE?

- ❖ At the time this information was gathered, most of the "signs" do NOT seem to be any more climactic than in the recent past.
  - ↳ However, world conditions do appear to be getting worse. So all of this could change in a matter of weeks, days, hours, minutes, and in some cases, seconds.
  - ↳ Some signs appear to be definitely "in process" – such as the increased proclamation of the Good News.

But if we obey Jesus' command  
to be on guard and alert,  
👉 WE WILL BE READY, 👉  
come what may!

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- ❖ **How could things quickly change?**

Today, there is the potential for so many catastrophic things to happen that were *never* possible before. Just the right set of circumstances could trigger a lot of problems. (God could also providentially "arrange" for them to all happen at once.)

- ↳ **Physical threats:** "Overdue" fault lines just waiting for something to trigger an earthquake; drug-resistant diseases starting to increase in number; invasive species of plants and animals, which could cause havoc on food supplies; increasing threats of war and nuclear holocaust; mass destruction of creation; etc.
- ↳ **Spiritual threats:** the "removal" of God from society and government; apostasy in the churches; people's dependency on the government, instead of on God; increasing lust and depravity in nations that once claimed to follow God; etc.

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**We DO know this much for certain:**

Jesus is returning... BE ON GUARD AND ALERT!



- ❖ **Different people have different views** about the end times events. But whether these views are right or wrong, this is certain:
  - ↳ Jesus told us to get ready for his return. The apostles told us to get ready. The Jews were told to get ready. Gentiles were told to get ready. *So no matter who you are... get ready!*
  - ↳ If your views about the end times leads you to think it's OK to disobey Jesus' command ... then either: ① your view is wrong; or ② you misunderstand your view.
  - ↳ The end times – however they may occur – are *not* going to develop in such a way that allows us to disobey Jesus' command to BE ON GUARD AND ALERT!

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❖ **What is MY opinion of the future?**

The present-day situations are different from the past. There are unprecedented changes in the world that did not exist before. This increases the likelihood that, if the signs were to intensify, it might be the "final" time.

- ↳ I would tend to conclude that the end is likely to be very soon. But we could be surprised... things could get even worse than we might expect. Or they might temporarily improve (perhaps like "a calm before the storm").
- ↳ This being the case, the wisest option is to wait and see... and use whatever is happening *now* as a reminder of what is going to happen in the future... and be ready for Jesus' return!

 **Be on guard and alert!** 

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**OUR MISSION:**

**REMEMBER these three things... and live by them!**

1. Jesus is coming back.
2. We don't know when.
3. We need to always be on guard and alert.

Then, when the signs come, we will be ready.  
(If we *aren't* ready by then, it may be too late to get ready.)

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**Did you notice this emphasis on: "be on guard and alert"?**

Most people – even in churches – live as though Jesus will *never* come back – or at least not any time soon.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

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Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

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Credits (2)

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