

Where is the Promise  
of His Coming?

Jesus said to the Pharisees: How is it you can discern the face of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? What I'm saying Brethren is that the time is short, .... let those that use the things of this world live as if NOT engrossed in them, because this world and the lusts thereof are passing away. But we are not of this world, if we are in Christ, we are pilgrims here seeking a better country, a city coming down from Heaven, the New Jerusalem, where Jesus will rule in righteousness forever. Where there will be no more pain, no more tears and no more sorrows, only fullness of joy in His presence. This is Our Blessed Hope.

## **II Peter 3:1-10**

Where is promise of His coming?

What is different about now?

**ISRAEL!**

Matthew 24:36 –

But of that **day and hour** knoweth no man,

no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father

only.

We are not to set dates, but signs point to

something. Why would Jesus

give us so many signs pointing to His return if

He didn't want us to know the SEASON?

# I Thessalonians 5:1,2,4-

But of the **times and the seasons**, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

<sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.....

<sup>4</sup> **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**

## Matthew 24:33,34 –

So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

<sup>34</sup> Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.



# I. Prophecies Concerning Israel during the Last Days

## **Zechariah 12:2,3 -**

Behold, I will make **Jerusalem a cup of trembling** unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> And **in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone** for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

## Zechariah 14:1,2a,3-

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

<sup>2</sup> For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, ...

<sup>3</sup> Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

## Ezekiel 38:16-

<sup>16</sup> And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land,

that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Isaiah 66:8 – Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

If Jesus had returned BEFORE Israel became a nation again, in their own country, these prophecies could not have been fulfilled.

Matthew 26:56a –

But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

## II. Where is the Promise of His Coming?

II Peter 3: 3,4 –

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

<sup>4</sup> 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 the creation.

## II Peter 3:5-7 -

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

<sup>6</sup> Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

<sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**Luke 17:26-29** - <sup>26</sup> And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

<sup>27</sup> They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

<sup>28</sup> Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

<sup>29</sup> But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.



# Hope for God's Elect:

Genesis 19:20,22a -

<sup>20</sup> Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.....

<sup>22</sup> Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither.

## II Peter 3:8,9 –

But, beloved, **be not ignorant of this one thing**,  
that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,  
and a thousand years as one day.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as  
some men count slackness; but **is longsuffering to us-**  
**ward, not willing that any should perish,** but that all  
should come to repentance.

# SIDEBAR

**Psalm 90:4** - <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

**Leviticus 25:8** - <sup>8</sup> And thou shalt number seven sabbaths (\*weeks) of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

**Numbers 14:34 - <sup>34</sup>** After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, **each day for a year**, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

**Genesis 2:17** - <sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the **day** that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

(Speaking of immediate spiritual death of course, but note also Adam died 930 years old. Methuselah, the oldest man ever, lived 969 years, just under 1000 years --- one day in the Lord's sight)

# Be Mindful of the Prophets

II Peter 3:2 - <sup>2</sup>That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

**Hosea 5:15-6:2** - <sup>15</sup> I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

**2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up,** and we shall live in his sight.

## Hosea 3:4,5 –

<sup>4</sup> For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

<sup>5</sup> Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.



**Jeremiah 31:10** - <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, **He that scattered Israel will gather him,** and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

**Ezekiel 37:21,22** - <sup>21</sup> And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

<sup>22</sup> And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.

## Exodus 19:10,11-

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,

<sup>11</sup> And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

**James 1:1 - 1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

**Luke 21:24 - 24** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

### III. Israel is God's Fig Tree

**Matthew 24:32-35** - <sup>32</sup> Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

<sup>33</sup> So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

<sup>34</sup> Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

**Hosea 9:10** - <sup>10</sup> I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the **firstripe in the fig tree at her first time**: ...

**Joel 1:6,7** - <sup>6</sup> For a nation is come up **upon my land**, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

<sup>7</sup> He hath laid my vine waste, and **barked my fig tree**: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

Matthew 24:32 - <sup>32</sup> Now learn a **parable**  
**of the fig tree...**

Matthew 13:35 -

<sup>35</sup> That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in **parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.**

Mark 4:11 –

<sup>11</sup> And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to

know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto

them that are without, all these things are done in

parables:



# Quick sidebar on Types and Shadows:

Hosea 12:10-

<sup>10</sup> I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and **used similitudes**, by the ministry of the prophets.

**Colossians 2:17** - <sup>16</sup> Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

<sup>17</sup> Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

**Hebrews 8:3a & 5 -** <sup>3</sup> For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices:.... <sup>5</sup> Who serve unto the **example and shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou **make all things according to the pattern** shewed to thee in the mount.

**Hebrews 10:1a -** For the law having a **shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things,....**

# Examples:

**Matthew 12:40** - <sup>40</sup> For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; **so shall the Son of man be** three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

**John 6:49,51a** - <sup>49</sup> Your fathers did eat **manna** in the wilderness, and are dead.....

<sup>51</sup> **I am the living bread which came down from heaven:.....**

# Joseph as a fore-shadowing of Christ:

Sold for 20 pieces of silver (Jesus 30), betrayed by brethren

Brothers (Israel) did not recognize Him at His first appearance

Brothers (Israel) did recognize Him the second appearance (Zech. 12:10)

Saved the world from famine (sin)

Married a gentile bride (Church), 7 years before death

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Other Signs Jesus gave concerning His Return:

Increase in earthquakes, roaring of the seas (tsunamis?),  
stars falling from the skies

Increase in wickedness and deception

False Christs

Wars and rumors of wars

Famines and Pestilences (plagues)

Numerous additional signs, including persecutions of  
church



Matthew 24:8 - All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. ESV

Like labor pains, these signs will increase in frequency and intensity as the day of Jesus' return approaches.

**Scoffers can say we've always had earthquakes, wars, famines, etc. , but they cannot say "Israel has always been a country"**

**For clarity:**

**God did promise that Israel as a nation of people would never cease, but they have been in a "scattered" condition several times --- absent from their own country.**

# Knowing This, What Should Our Response Be?

II Peter 3:11 –

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,...

Hebrews 10:25 -

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

## Mark 13:33-37 –

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

<sup>34</sup> For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

<sup>35</sup> Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

<sup>36</sup> Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

<sup>37</sup> **And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

# This is Good News!!! Not something to fear!

**Luke 21:28** – And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and **lift up your heads**; for your redemption draweth nigh.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** – For God hath **not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation** by our Lord Jesus Christ,...

**Titus 2:13** – Looking for that **blessed hope, and the glorious appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**Luke 21:36** – Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to **escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**

**Revelation 3:10** - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

**John 16:21,22** - A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

<sup>22</sup> And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.



Maranatha!

Even so, come Lord Jesus!