

# Recognizing the Signs

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People in every generation have wondered about the future of this planet and what changes might occur over time. However, it is only in recent history that we have developed the technology to utterly destroy life on Earth. Consequently, it is incumbent upon us to consider all the options available in order to understand what our future might look like, especially now that the possibility of WW3 is a clear and present danger. Even for those who do not consider God's word as having any merit, it is foolish to dismiss it "out of hand," especially as there are a number of specific references to a future global cataclysm.

This potential global cataclysm is referred to using various phrases including "end of days" (Daniel 12:13), "latter days" (Daniel 10:14), "latter years" (Ezekiel 38:8), "time of the end" (Daniel 12:9), etc.

For these predictions to be reliable, it has to be understood that our Creator has the ability to see into the future and, just as importantly, know for a certainty that persistent lawless behavior will lead to the destruction of this planet.

*For I am God, and there is no other, and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done...*** (Isaiah 46:9-10; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; emphasis added).

The ability to foresee the specific consequences, which will result in a global catastrophe, was granted to Christ from his Father in heaven.

*And turning to his disciples he (Christ) said, **"All things have been delivered to me by My Father..."*** (Luke 10:22a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Therefore, Christ is able to isolate the main reason behind a future cataclysm and he describes it here.

*Because **lawlessness will abound** the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12; emphasis added).*

He then reveals the final consequence of this lawless behavior.

*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this (future) time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Matthew 24:21-22; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

As there are other sources that describe this same scenario, we will examine some of these now. The first example describes a time in our history when there is an explosion of information, in combination with mass transportation.

*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" (Daniel 12:4).*

We are now at a point in history when the internet makes information readily available to billions of people, and we have numerous methods of transportation with no end in sight. Describing the Day of the Lord, the prophet Isaiah uses the language of his day to describe our civilization with its affluence, including innumerable cars, trucks, trains, etc.

Their land is full of silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is also full of horses, and **there is no end to their chariots** (Isaiah 2:7; emphasis added).

Isaiah also prophesied that coming up to the Day of the Lord, there would be an absence of strong, principled leadership.

*As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you, lead you astray, and destroy the way of your paths (Isaiah 3:12).*

A large proportion of younger people are involved with violent crime, including at protests and riots from coast to coast.

*Make a chain (from coast to coast), for the land is filled with crimes of blood, and the city is full of violence (Ezekiel 7:23; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

The heart of this end time generation is described as being preoccupied with self-serving and rebellious attitudes.

*But know this, that in the last days perilous (stressful) 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 (stubborn), haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form (pretense) of godliness but denying its power (God's moral authority) (2Timothy 3:1-5; Ed. notes in parentheses).*

Things will get so bad that previous definitions of what is good and acceptable behavior will be turned on their head with dire consequences.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (Isaiah 5:20).*

These characteristics were extant coming up to Noah's flood, and Christ makes this connection to the generation living at the time of his return when there will again be punishment

fitting the crimes, followed by the reconstruction and reeducation of this planet.

*And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will also be in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all (Luke 17:26-27).*

Given the fact that lawless people do not willingly give up their lawless behavior, and as the younger generation in western nations is being indoctrinated to disrespect law and order, we could well be in the generation that Christ associated with his return.

*Now learn this parable from the fig tree. When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So, you also, when you see all these things, know that he (Christ) is near, at the very doors. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away (Matthew 24:32-35; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

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