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THE SIGNS OF
OUR LORD'S
RETURN

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THE SIGNS OF OUR LORD'S RETURN

By David R. Reagan

Jesus said we couldn't know the date of His return (Matt. 24:36). But the signs we are told to look for make it possible for believers to know the season of our Lord's return. Paul makes this clear in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4-6 where he says, "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. But you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are neither of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do; but let us watch and be sober."

There are many more signs about Christ's second coming than His first because God knows that untold millions would be reading His Word long after the first advent; therefore, He wanted information regarding Christ's return to encourage multitudes to repent and trust in the name of Jesus (see 2 Pet. 3:9). Jesus said that when we see the signs being fulfilled, we can "know that it (His second coming) is near – at the doors" (Matt. 24:33). Below is a comprehensive list of some of these signs.

- **SIGNS OF NATURE:** (Matt. 24:7): famine, earthquakes, plagues, signs in the heavens.
- **SIGNS OF SOCIETY:** (2 Tim. 3:1-4): lawlessness, violence, immoral-

ity, greed, selfishness, hedonism, and rebellion, despair.

- **NEGATIVE SPIRITUAL SIGNS:** false Christs and prophets and their cultic groups (Matt. 24:24), apostasy and widespread heresy in the Church (2 Tim. 3:5; 4:1-4), religious and economic globalization (Rev. 17-18), persecution of believers (Matt. 24:9-10; Mark 13:9, 11-13; Luke 21:12-19), outbreak of demonic and occult activity (1 Tim. 4:1).
 - **POSITIVE SPIRITUAL SIGNS:** outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29), revival of Davidic-style worship (Amos 9:11), worldwide evangelism (Mark 13:10), understanding of Bible prophecy (Dan. 12:4, 8-9).
 - **WORLD POLITICAL SIGNS:** Arab hostility toward Israel (Ezek. 35:1-36:7), military powers to the "far north" (perhaps Russia) threatening Israel (Ezek. 38:1 – 39:16), Asian nations capable of fielding an army of two hundred million (Rev. 9:15-16; 16:12), wars and rumors of wars (Matt. 24:6-7; Mark 13:7-8; Luke 21:10), reunification of Europe (Dan. 2:41-44; 7:8, 24-25; 9:26).
 - **THE ACCELERATOR SIGNS:** population explosion (Rev. 9:15-16), increase in knowledge (Dan. 12:4), increase in violence (Matt. 24:12).
- SIGNS OF ISRAEL:** re-gathering of the people (Isa. 11:10-12; Ezek. 37:1-12), re-establishment of the state (Zech. 12:1-6; Matt. 24:32-35), reclamation of the land (Isa. 35:1-2, 7), resurgence of the military (Zech. 12:1-6), reoccupation of Je-

rusalem (Zech. 12:2-6).

The signs of Israel are more important than all the rest put together, for the Jews are God's prophetic time clock. Jesus Himself states in Luke 21:24, that we are to watch Jerusalem, and when we see the city no longer under Gentile domination, we will know that the time has come for Him to return. All of these signs point to the beginning of the Tribulation period and the second coming of Jesus. However, when we see the signs, we can be sure that the Rapture of the church is imminent, for it will occur before the Tribulation begins.



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