

## THE END OF TIME

### Mark 13:4-33

**Introduction:** No doubt today is a time of crisis. Mankind is heading toward destruction and is on the verge of the end of things as we know them. Television is filled with programs dealing with the future, books are written about futuristic topics. We live in an age of choice between life and death such as never before. Ours is a time of great crisis in human history. Values are unsettled, there is war, famine, pestilence and revolution all over the world. What is going to happen next?

### I. WHERE CAN WE FIND OUT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

1. Non-Christians go to fortune tellers, horoscopes and such when all they really need to do is go where Christians go and that is to God's Word, the Bible.
  - The Bible tells of the coming end of this world, that history will be climaxed by the return of Jesus Christ.
  - Many scoff at the idea of the return of Jesus.
    - He hasn't returned yet and probably never will.
    - The evolution theory doesn't include Jesus' return.
    - His return would ruin too many plans.
  - Today is exactly as the days of Noah were and they refused to believe the preacher, Noah, and went on their own ways.
  - God's offer of hope and salvation would be lost if we knew the exact hour Jesus would return.

### II. WHEN WILL JESUS COME BACK?

1. Many preachers and Christians live as if Jesus would return that very day.
  - That's the way all of us should live. How differently we would live if we knew Jesus was going to return TODAY. How different life would be.
2. Many don't really want Jesus to return.
  - Too many of life's plans would be ruined so they say that His return is still another thousand years or so away, so He won't come while I'm alive, therefore.....
3. There have been many who have predicted that Jesus would return on a certain day and thousands gathered together at a certain place to watch and wait for His return, but it didn't happen. ***"Watch ye therefore, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And I say unto you, I say unto all, WATCH!"***
4. There is a "teaching" that man is gradually progressing upward and eventually will reach the state of perfection.
  - This is what some HOPE is happening, not based on facts. Life is getting longer but death still is at the end of the road of life, no matter how long it lasts.

- Some point to the progress of transportation, communication systems but ignore the fact that it was for WAR that these two major advancements came, not for the spreading of the gospel.
- There is boasting of the more educated people, higher places of learning, but ignoring of the fact that prayer and Bible reading are out of our schools and public places.
- Much has been said about scientific advancement, splitting the atom, men in space, but then tremble at the thought of the possibility of the earth's destruction by man using these very scientific advancements.

### III. WHAT PROOF IS THERE THAT JESUS WILL EVEN RETURN?

1. There are over 318 references in God's Word concerning the return of Jesus.
  - It is the theme of the prophets in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, entire chapters and whole books are devoted to the return of Jesus.
2. The entire Bible emphasizes this fact over and over again.
  - Isaiah said, "***The Lord will come with fire and with His chariots like a whirlwind to render His anger with fury and His rebuke with flames.***"
  - Daniel saw the Lord's coming "***..as the judge and king of the earth..***"
  - Joel describes the world's armies arrayed in the last days against the hosts of heaven.
  - Nahum tells of the mountains quaking beneath the feet of the Lord and the earth burning with the presence of Christ.
  - Matthew tells that Christ is like a bridegroom coming for His bride.
  - Mark says He is like a house-owner away for a long journey.
  - Luke says He is a nobleman gone into a far country.
  - Peter says that the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night.
  - The whole book of Revelation is given over to the return of Jesus Christ.
3. When people cry out about what's going to happen, the Bible has the answer.

### IV. THE TIME, EXACT DATE OF JESUS'S RETURN IS UNKNOWN

1. It is not really important that we know the exact time but what is important is to be ready. Jesus said that even the angels in heaven don't know when His return will be.
2. Most Christian leaders feel that we are now in the last days as mentioned in the Bible and that the mighty drama which began in the Garden of Eden is about to come to a close.
  - Ancient Persia, once a key nation in the Old Testament has once again become a key nation (oil industry).
  - Israel is now, once again, a recognized nation and all eyes are upon this country.
  - It was from the rich fertile land of the East that civilization started and it spread out all over the world and now, it is beginning to return to the land of it's beginning.
3. Daniel says that in the latter days "***...many shall run to and fro...***" never before in all history has there been so much going and coming all over the world.

4. **2 Peter 3:10-12** that states that the world will be destroyed by fire was scoffed at for centuries until just a few years ago when the atomic bomb happened causing the skepticism of the Bible to be turned into wonder.

## CONCLUSION:

1. It would be wise not to predict WHEN Jesus will return, however it is obvious that:
  - Times of today differ radically from any time ever before.
  - Tempo has increased with gigantic events which caused so much wonder a few years ago now going unnoticed.
  - Moral laxness is so common and widely accepted that little if any effort is made to conceal what is happening.
  - Corruption is in every place, from the highest (governments) to the lowest.
  - The anti-Christ could very well be living among us today.
2. We may yet have thousands of years before Jesus returns or it could be in our lifetime. ***"Watch therefore for ye know not what hour your Lord doeth come."***
3. Christians, stay ready. Unbelievers, you better get ready.