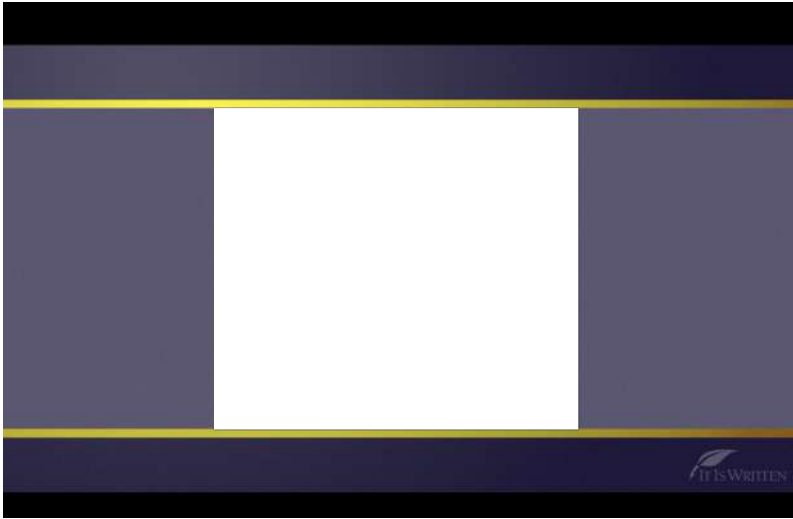




SEEING THE SIGNS

A BIBLE PROPHECY BOOKLET

Recognizing the signs of the times and discovering the hope of
Jesus Christ's return.

Do Not Ignore the Signs

The presentation begins with Pearl Harbor, where clear warning signs were seen but dismissed. The lesson is simple and serious: it is dangerous to ignore the signs.

Jesus also spoke of signs that would point toward His return and the end of the age. This booklet follows the original presentation through Matthew 24, Revelation, Daniel and other Bible passages, presenting the message as a continuous reading experience rather than a series of slides.

SEEING THE SIGNS

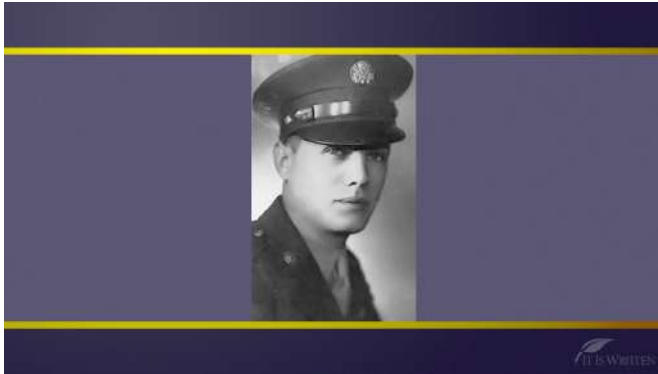
SEEING THE SIGNS

World War II began on the 7th of July 1937 when Japan invaded China. It escalated on the 1st of September, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. Ten days later, Canada joined World War II. It took another two years for the United States to join the war in the Pacific with the bombing of Pearl Harbour in Hawaii which ultimately brought the fighting to this region of the world.

On December 7, 1941, two US Army privates were manning a mobile radar unit on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. They saw something on their radar screens that would turn out to be absolutely disastrous. Japanese war planes were heading for Oahu. The attack resulted in 2,400 American service personnel being killed, 3,350 American planes being destroyed or badly damaged, and 18 ships lost.

More than 1,100 died when the U.S.S. Arizona was sunk. Pearl Harbour was a colossal tragedy, but it didn't have to be. It all could have been different. The war could have been kept in the North Pacific.

Concerned by what they saw, the men contacted their superiors at Fort Shafter, but were told there was nothing to worry about. They were told they had seen American planes on manoeuvres, probably flying from the deck of the aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Lexington. At 7:45 a.m., the two privates went for breakfast, by which time the blip on their radar screen had disappeared.

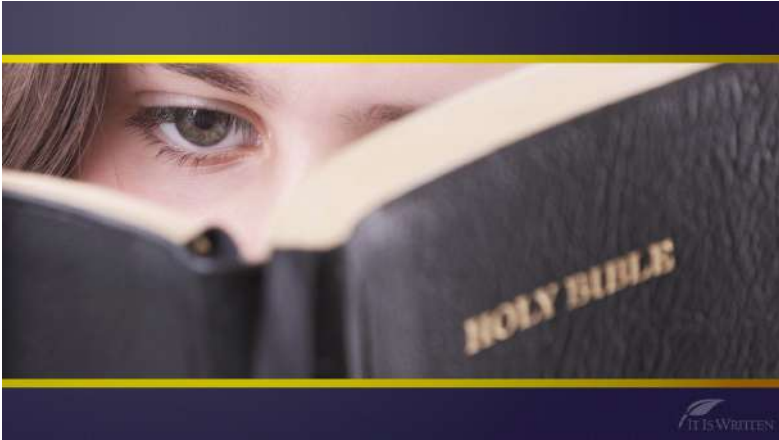


That was because the planes were now so close to Oahu the island's mountains rendered the radar incapable of detecting them. At 7:53 a.m., eight minutes after the men went for breakfast, the first bombs started raining down from the sky upon Pearl Harbor. Carnage, devastation, death, and destruction followed.

The great tragedy of it all is that for an hour, for a solid hour, there was clear, inescapable, irrefutable evidence of what was about to take place. Evidence that danger was at hand. The signs were screaming out that death was in the air, and the signs were observed... then ignored. Ladies and gentlemen, it's a dangerous thing to ignore the signs.

WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR COMING?

THE DISCIPLES' QUESTION



In the Bible, there are signs that clearly indicate that the end of the world is near, signs that Jesus is about to return, and these are signs that you don't want to miss. The disciples of Jesus came to him one day and they asked him a certain question.

It is found in Matthew 24:3. "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' They said to Jesus, 'Look at the temple.' Jesus said to them, 'There's coming a time where one stone won't be on another of the temple.'"

That confused them, it was the greatest structure in the world, so they asked Him about it. "What will be the sign, not only of the destruction of the temple, but of the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus began to tell them what it would be like in the world in the times immediately before He returned.

Now, God speaks to us by a variety of means. He speaks to you through your impressions. He speaks to you through other people, through

providences, but His primary method of communication with humanity is the Bible.

There is a book in the Bible that is specifically geared toward speaking to humanity in Earth's last days. The book of Revelation was written by John, one of Jesus' closest friends. John was present when Jesus was baptized. He was present when Jesus was crucified and he lived with Jesus for more than three and a half years. They were very close. John was one of the leaders of the early Christian church.

He wrote the book of Revelation while he was under house arrest on the island of Patmos, a very small Greek island not far from the coast of Turkey in the Aegean Sea. The book of Revelation is a message from God to a world poised on the edge of time.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The first verse of Revelation is very significant. It says: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John." There's a key point here. The book is the revelation of Jesus Christ, meaning it should show us Jesus, Himself. It should reveal to us what's on Christ's heart. It should reveal to us His thoughts towards a world that has lost its way.

Notice the verse says, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him." That's important. This book was not the invention of man. People often wrestle trying to understand the deep mysteries of the book of Revelation, and there are many who dismiss Revelation as unimportant or impossible to understand. But this is the revelation of Jesus, and it was given by God.

Revelation 1:3 says something else significant. Notice this: "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near." What time might that be? Some of the book of Revelation deals with ancient times, the times in which John was living. There are seven churches mentioned in the early chapters of the book of Revelation.

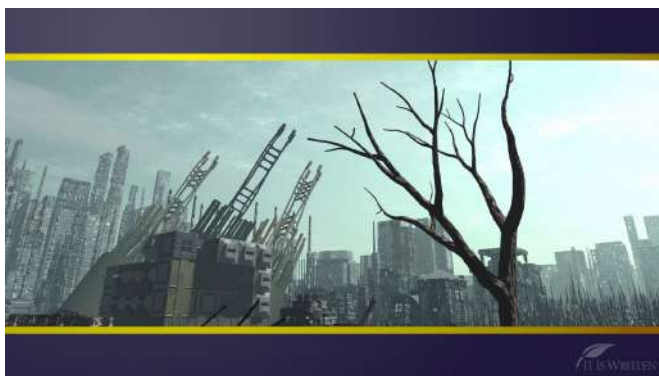
They were real churches that existed in Asia minor in what we today would call Turkey. Those passages of the book of Revelation were primarily intended for that time. Undoubtedly you can read the letters to the seven churches and find clear, powerful, necessary messages for us today. But it's true that some of Revelation dealt with ancient times. It's true that some of what you read in the book of Revelation has been

fulfilled already. There's no question about that.

When you get to the second half of the book of Revelation, that's where you find God writing clearly about a beast that brings spiritual calamity to the world. In the second half of the book of Revelation, not only do you read about the beast, but there is also an image to the beast, and associated with that is something called the mark of the beast.

Anybody who receives the mark of the beast cannot be saved and receive everlasting life. In fact, Revelation says everybody on Earth is going to follow after this beast except for a very small group of people. That's a sobering thought.

Later in Revelation, you read about the battle of Armageddon, and the seven last plagues. Further on, there's something called an end time Babylon, which would dominate the world like ancient Babylon did.



And then in Revelation chapter 19, there's a wonderful picture of the second coming of Jesus, the one declared in the Bible to be the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. Before Revelation is complete, Earth has been made new, and things are returned to perfection. God says in Revelation, "The time is at hand."

The inescapable conclusion we come to is that sooner or later, there would be a generation of people living on the earth for whom those things are close. Tonight we investigate this, and we pause long enough to determine whether or not the time could be close for us. Could it be that the last great events to come upon planet Earth are at hand?

Undoubtedly they could be. But are they? How do we know for sure? We'll dig into the Bible tonight.

There have been a lot of people down through the years who have predicted that the end of time is at hand, and they've been dead wrong. You remember that last year Pr Joshua Mhlakela from South Africa predicted that Christ would return September 23 or 24. It went viral. He named the date. People looked on.

The media gave him a lot of publicity, not because anyone in the media believed it, but because the media knows nothing attracts attention like a good train wreck-and that's what this prediction was going to be. No, Jesus didn't return. Judgement day didn't happen. They were just plain wrong, and that's unfortunate.

THE RETURN OF JESUS IS GOOD NEWS

HOPE AT THE END OF THE WORLD



It's no wonder people, even many Christians, roll their eyes and shrug sometimes when you talk about the end. Even Christians have heard so much talk about the return of Jesus and the end of the world that some of them have said, "Look, maybe it's just not for real after all. Maybe we should just forget about the whole thing."



Before we investigate that, there's something that I want to stress. When we talk about the end of the world from a biblical perspective, we are framing it in the context of good news. If what the Bible says is true, the world as we know it coming to the end isn't really the end but it's the beginning of something new and wonderful. We read in the Bible that Jesus will come back. We read in the Bible that when Jesus returns, there will be no more death, no more pain, no more sorrow.

There won't be any more child abuse or spousal abuse. There won't be marital discord. There will be no racism on that day. No longer will there be the bitterness of injustice. When Jesus comes back, he's going to make all things new. This is good news. We're not simply sitting around waiting for a conflagration or a calamity to send us all to ruin. No, thank God, tonight we look forward with hope.

If the Bible can be trusted at all, it's telling us that there is a great day coming where Jesus will return and lead his people out of the Egypt that is this world and on to the Promised Land which is to come. Tonight, we look forward with hope. If Jesus is going to return to this earth, it will be the best, happiest, greatest event ever to have happened in human history. Since the creation of the world, since Jesus came to the earth 2000 years ago, the return of Jesus has thrilled the hearts of men and women.

We can look beyond the heartbreak and the hurt of our own present experience, and know that good things are coming. Christ will return, and He offers hope to the world tonight. You've met people suffering from terrible diseases, some of them who are not going to survive, but they have hope, because they know there's a better day coming.

There are on this earth some people who are just ... We call them less fortunate. Their burdens are great, but they know one day they will lay down their burdens, and one day they will wear the crown Jesus gives them and live in the mansion Jesus is preparing for them now.



That great hope of Christ's return is spoken of clearly in the book of Job.

Job 19:25-27 says, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth;

And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

There is hope. We have reasons to be hopeful today. Let's go back to that question. In Matthew 24:3, the disciples of Jesus asked Him: "What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" They asked him point-blank. Jesus spoke very clearly to this. On the one hand, He said, you'll see signs indicating that His return is near, even at the door. Which is near!

Also, He said in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." Now let's not deceive ourselves. Many people down through the years have said Jesus is returning on a particular day, or the end of the world is happening at a particular time.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

Or others say, "I'm not saying that the end of the world is happening then, but maybe." We don't want to be setting dates, pretending that we know precisely when Jesus will return. There's no problem saying what we know, and that is that we believe that Jesus is coming back soon. That's close enough.

In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." That's worth believing. Now there are those who say that the Bible isn't inspired by God, or that it's only partially inspired. Well, while the Bible claims to be inspired, it doesn't say that all opinions are inspired by God.

We're all welcome to our own opinions, and I know it isn't realistic to expect that everyone would agree about the Bible on every point. People being people, we're likely going to see things from different angles. So we want to be careful about two things. Number one: we want to make sure that our desire is to know the truth. Jesus said, "The truth will make you free." He did not say that an opinion will make you free, or a tradition or a lie. "The truth will make you free."

That's very important. The other thing is this: A lot of people are reluctant to give up their own opinions, and they'll make their own opinions more important than what the Bible says. We need to have enough humility that we're praying, "Lord, guide me. God, show me the message of the Bible." We don't want to get into the Bible and just wrestle with it, and try to impose our own thoughts, our own ideas, our own logic onto the Bible.

That's not God's way. Instead, we come to the Bible in an honest effort to search and understand God's message to us. Instead of coming to the

Bible and saying, "I'll decide what this means." particularly when you get to prophecies that are symbolic and a little mysterious, you want to find the Bible keys to unlocking those Bible mysteries.

Then Jesus said to the disciples in Matthew 24:6, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars." He went on to say, "See that you are not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

Since the year 1900 several Billion people have been directly involved in armed conflict. Just try to imagine how massive that number is. It leads me to think that if Jesus wasn't referring to this day, then what was He referring to?

In World War I, 24 million people died. In World War II, it was 60 million.

SIGNS JESUS DESCRIBED IN MATTHEW 24

FAMINES, PESTILENCES AND EARTHQUAKES



We can add to that the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism, The war in Ukraine and Gaza and so many wars that are taking place around the world today that don't even make the news.

When Jesus said that a sign of Earth's last days, a sign of His coming and of the end of the world is wars and rumors of wars, there is no question He could easily have been talking about our day.



Now, He adds to that. Matthew 24:7 where He says, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Here is where Jesus specifically talks about wars. Undoubtedly He could have been talking about World Wars I and II. Imagine trying to explain to one of the people listening to the Sermon on the Mount, or to Jesus' message in Matthew 24, that 60 million people would die in one war. They'd find it impossible to get their mind around that number.

Then He said, "And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." We here are doing okay. We're eating pretty well. Perhaps even in our neighborhood, there are people who are hungry, but the fact is we live in a very blessed part of the world. It's easy to forget that while we're doing well, and while we know that our next meal probably isn't very far away, there have been at least a dozen famines or food crises affecting millions and millions of people in the last decade.

The United Nations tells us that one in nine people don't get enough food to live a healthy, active life. We can forget that from our place of comfort. That's a huge problem. What if 11% of the people here this evening weren't getting enough food. That's how it is on a global level. One person dies every five seconds from hunger-related causes, in spite of the fact that one third of the food produced on our planet is wasted.

In a world so advanced, so intelligent, so studied, so qualified, so technologically developed, we can't figure out how to stop people from dying from hunger-related causes when a third of the food we produce is wasted. That's amazing. Consider the United States, the each North American wastes 100 kgs of food a year on average. It must break God's

heart.

Jesus spoke of famines and pestilences. Let's think about this. There are pestilences in our midst that we don't even see anymore. COVID locked our world down. AIDS is killing 2 million people a year. We thank God for the advancements in medication and treatment and that HIV is no longer necessarily a death sentence. People can live with HIV for many years now. However an HIV expert spoke out recently, and said, "No, I do not believe there will ever be a cure."



One person dying every 15 seconds. Add to that the people all over the world who are dying from heart disease and cancer and diabetes. Most of the South Pacific is pre-diabetic. It's costing the region billions and billions of dollars. We all know somebody who died from a heart attack. We all know people with cancer. These diseases are modern-day pestilences that barely existed in this region 150 years ago.

We don't think about them so much. Then there are the diseases that really scare us, like Ebola, and SARS, and mad cow disease. These are terrifying diseases.

Jesus said a sign of the last days would be famines and pestilences. And it may surprise you to know that one of the most common places to get sick is at a hospital! We are sicker, perhaps, than we have ever been. In our modern world, with all of our science and our modern medication, and all of our research, and all of our study, we are very sick.

We wonder when Jesus says earthquakes, could he be talking about this, our day? In the last 20 years alone nearly 1 million people have died from earthquakes.

VIOLENCE, CORRUPTION AND THE CONDITION OF SOCIETY

AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH



In 2010, 222,000 people died from one earthquake in Haiti. That's phenomenal. These are catastrophic events, massive events. They have to be telling us, "Yes, we are living in that age that Jesus spoke about when He was talking about the signs of His return."

Then we start thinking about weather-related events. Who can forget Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023 or Cyclone Harold in 2020, a one-two punch that caused billions worth of damage across Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand. Nobody had ever seen anything like it before.



The damage was one thing, but then there was the loss of life. The families torn apart, the communities destroyed. You can't put a price on that.

However it's not just rain coming down from the sky. In some places, it's a lack of rain. Australia has been experiencing droughts of biblical proportion. The most recent ran for four years from 2016 - 2020. Australia is rushing to build desalination plants to turn sea water into fresh water so just so that people can drink. Not long ago, in the Amazon Jungle, there were two one-in-100-year droughts, except they didn't happen 100 years apart. They happened within five years. These kinds of extreme weather events are going on all the time.

Think about this in terms of another sign that Jesus gave. Matthew 24:37 says, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." What were the days of Noah like?

Let's look in Genesis 6. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." They sat around plotting, and scheming, and planning how to be more evil than they'd been before.

Genesis 6:11 says, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the Earth was filled with violence." Does it sound like the world in which we live today? It does, doesn't it? Have you looked at the level of violence and murder in PNG lately? And the consider the epidemic of domestic violence sweeping across the

South Pacific.

What we see around us, on our streets, in our cities, around the world, suggests to us that we're living in that day. Noah's day was characterised by violence. Jesus said the day of his return will be like Noah's day. Friends, I think we are there.

How bad does it have to be before we realize where we are? Last December in Bondi, Australia, two Islamic terrorists ran amok, and by the time they were done, 40 people had been shot and 15 people were dead. Those guys actually planned to do even greater harm. They wanted to kill everybody in the Hanukah celebration that was happening. Thank God it didn't work out that way.

In 2019 a white supremacist terrorist in New Zealand shot 89 people, killing 51 while they were worshipping. In 2024 a man started randomly stabbing people in a mall in Sydney. 12 were injured including a baby and six died.

In peaceful Norway some years ago, one man took the lives of 77 people. 77.

Now, we live with the scourge of terrorism. In some parts of the world, you have to fear ISIS and it's modern offshoots. We thought Al Qaeda was bad, and the Taliban. There have been terrible attacks in Paris, Brussels and other cities. In Nigeria there's Boko Haram, In the Philipines, Abu Sayaff and In other parts of the world there are other groups.

All of these trouble spots are flaring at the same time. The Middle East is a powder keg. The Holocaust happened 70 years ago, and yet there are nations in the Middle East looking at Israel and saying, with masses of protestors in Sydney calling for all Jewish people worldwide to be gassed. Somehow, that's tolerated in this world, and I don't quite know how. But that's our world. Evil continually, the earth filled with violence.



I don't think there's anybody alive who does not believe 9/11 attacks on the U.S. could happen again. That's why when you go through an airport the security is extremely tight. It's hard to remember a time without it. And we live with it because we must, for there are people in this world who would do it again what has once been done. Evil continually. Filled with violence. It's an absolute tragedy.

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS



We're living in a world where you cannot take your safety for granted, where it's routine for people to alarm their homes and put multiple locks on their doors. We go to great lengths to protect ourselves, because even in the unlikely places, the unthinkable can happen. That's where we are, and we ask ourselves, "Could it be that we are near the return of Jesus?"

You might be tempted to say, "Well, there have always been natural disasters, earthquakes, famines and pestilences." Yes, they're all over the Bible, but notice what Jesus said in Matthew 24:8. It's significant.

He said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows." That word sorrows, it means birth pains.

I'm no expert on birth pains. I have had little experience.

But here's what I do know about birth pains. When an unborn child is on the way, contractions begin. At first, not quite so intense, and they're

further apart, but the closer you get to the baby's arrival, the contractions get closer together, and they get more intense. Jesus said the signs of his coming are, "like birth pains."

They get close together, and they get more intense. Another earthquake doesn't mean much, but a preponderance of these things, a frequency of these events introduces us to the idea that Jesus is coming back soon. The signs are getting closer together, and they're becoming more intense. It's not madness to realize this. It's prudent for us to recognize this, and we should. So how should we feel? Hopeless? No!

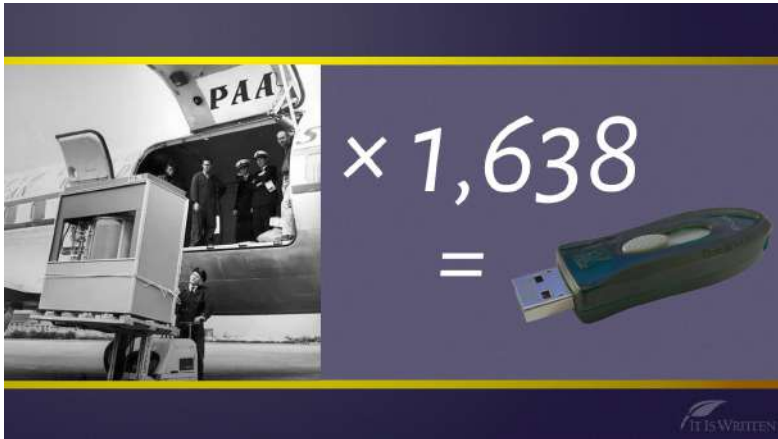
In Luke 21:28, Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Thank the Lord! If what we're seeing are the signs of Jesus's return, and if they are indicating to us that we are getting closer to that time, then this is a hopeful thing, and not a negative thing.

Now, there's another sign I want to show you.

Daniel 12:4 says, "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." In this passage it seems there's no doubt Daniel was referring to spiritual knowledge, but it also seems certain He was referring to secular knowledge as well.

A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE



I want to show you what a five megabyte hard drive looked like in 1956. It weighed over a ton, and it's being loaded onto an airplane with a forklift. Next to it is a flash drive, and that flash drive has 49 million times more hard drive space than that one ton hard drive did in 1956. You see, knowledge has increased!

Tell a teenager that back in the olden days you had to take the film out of the camera, and you had to take it to a chemist in order to get it processed... The teen would hardly believe you! If you really want to get inside a teen's head, explain to the kid that when you were young, if you wanted to see what was on the other channel on TV, you had to get out of your chair, walk across the living room, turn a knob and adjust the antenna.

If you explain that there was only one channel, oh my goodness ... Tell the teen it was in black and white, they're going to laugh their heads off and ask if you had electricity and running water back in the old days.

Times have changed. Digital cameras, cell phones, satellite dishes, streaming, e-mail, texting, video call, Star Link, AI ...



We know it's all going to keep on changing. Our children's children are going to laugh at their parents, and the fact that they texted. There will be something new then. Are we nearly there yet? Based on what Jesus said, the inescapable conclusion is that yes we are, which means that the greatest event in human history is about to take place.

Now, with Jesus's words, there came a caution.

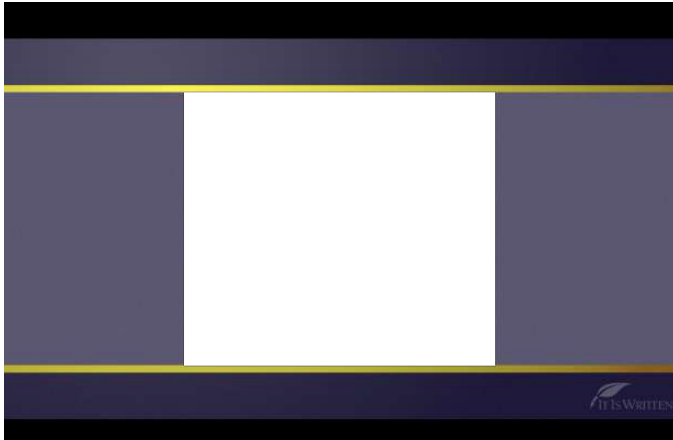
He said this in Matthew 24, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." Have we seen that? Certainly.

In the United States a man named Jim Jones, a popular man, pastored a church which was a model of racial harmony. The wife of the U.S. President met with him on several occasions. The mayor of San Francisco said he was a great fellow.

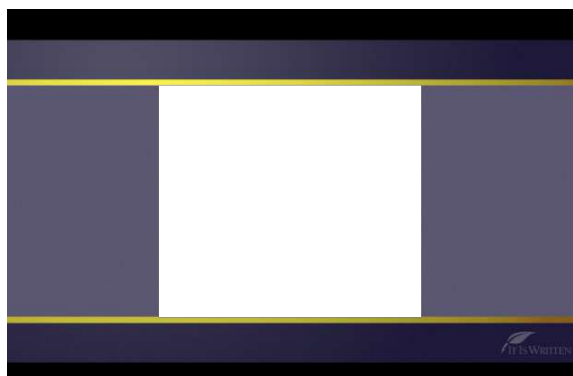
But in 1978, he led 900 of his followers to kill themselves in Guyana. Among the dead were 300 children. Here was a man who said, "If you want me to be your friend, I'll be your friend." He said, "If you want me to be your god, I will be your god." He stood in the place of Christ for these people. Tragic.

STAYING GROUNDED IN CHRIST AND HIS WORD

TAKE HEED THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU



The devil still wants to deceive people, but I want to encourage you. There's a simple way to not be deceived, and that is to pray, read your Bible and follow Christ. Follow the teachings of Jesus. Gather around the Word of God, and make that your counsel. Make it your guide. If you don't yet understand the deep prophecies of the Bible, that's okay. Understand the straightforward things in the Bible and follow them. Love your neighbor as yourself.



Love God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Do to others as you would have them do you. If you love Me, keep My commandments. These are straightforward, simple things. Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and then when He prompts you to turn your life over to Him, yield your heart.

God can give you a new heart tonight, a new hope tonight, a new future tonight. That's what God can do. The One who made water into wine can turn a sinner into a saint. He opened the eyes of the blind when He walked on this earth.

He can open our eyes and help us to see Him through new eyes. Jesus raised the dead, and He can raise the spiritually dead. If we're without hope, if we're filled with sin, we come to this God who inspired Revelation. We don't come to Revelation as an academic exercise.

It's a spiritual exercise, because it's God's book, and it's a spiritual book. It's written to us about Jesus Christ, the God-man, the Savior of the world. We're not here just to gather knowledge now, but an experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ.

See, friends, what we read in the Bible, in the prophecies, in Revelation, in the signs of the times, is that the last movements of Earth's history will soon be fulfilled. We are living, definitely, in Earth's last days. We are there. Jesus is near, even at the door.



Years ago, people sent important messages by telegram. Does anyone remember when people used to get around with pagers stuck on their belts? Well, telegrams were before those.

Today, we're texting, and we're tweeting, and we're Facebooking, Snapchatting, Instagramming and Whatsapping. Instant communication.

But there's a message we really need to make sure we're getting. Long ago, God placed a message in His word, and the Holy Spirit calls to us, and speaks to us, and says the message simply is, "Put your faith in God." We are down here at the business end of Earth's history. The end is near. Jesus is soon to return. Put your faith in God. We believe Jesus is coming soon. Put your faith in God.

What does that mean if the signs say Jesus is coming soon? What about the prophecies about the beast? The mark of the beast? The image to the beast? Well, that means that they're coming sooner. We cannot be far away from what Daniel called, "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."

We cannot be far away. The signs tell us that Jesus is coming soon. The signs say we are almost there. Therefore, it's important that our faith is in the right place, that we're reading and hearing the right messages. We are near. We are close. The signs say so. We don't want to ignore the signs.



It's been more than 100 years now. The greatest ship in the world sailed from Southampton, New England, bound for New York City, New York. The largest ship in the water, and it was said it was the safest. However, we know what happened to the Titanic. It now sits on the sea floor beneath thousands of feet of seawater, about 600 kilometers south of Nova Scotia. The Titanic struck an iceberg.

THE TITANIC AND THE DANGER OF IGNORING SIGNS

DO NOT IGNORE THE WARNINGS



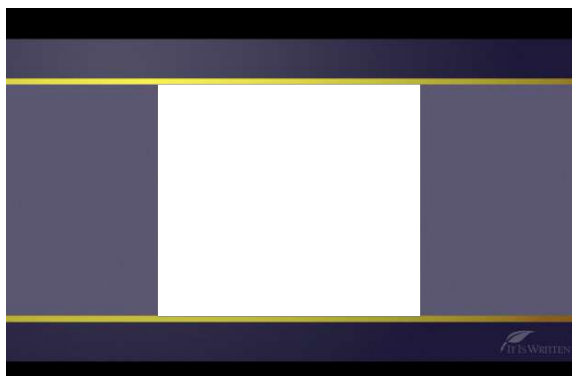
What many people forget is that while this White Star Line ship was heading west from Britain towards the United States, it received 9 warning messages saying there were icebergs ahead. Nine messages. Every one of those messages was received, and understood. Every one of those messages was ignored. Today, there are cemeteries in Nova Scotia filled with the dead recovered from the wreck of the Titanic.

More recently, a cruise ship, the Costa Concordia, was wrecked off the coast of a small Italian island named Isola del Giglio. It ran over a rock that tore a 160-foot gash in the hull, causing the ship to take on water, tip on its side and, essentially sink. Like the Titanic, it wasn't supposed to sink. They thought, "No, it's safe. It won't sink," but a number of people lost their lives in that tragedy.

But even after the ship had encountered that rock, the people onboard were unaware that they were in danger. And they hadn't yet been told what to do in case of an emergency. When the event occurred, they

were told the ship was dealing with an electrical fault, and so they went on enjoying the cruise while the ship was sinking.

Friend, planet earth is a ship that's sinking. Yes, there's still much that looks wonderful and idyllic, but we must not fool ourselves into thinking we're cruising safely and that tomorrow everything will be just the same as it was today. It will not. The signs tell us Jesus is coming back. The question isn't now, "Is He, or isn't He?" The question is, "What of us? What will we say to Jesus? Are our hearts given to Him to be kept and defended?"



This close to His return, let's bow our heads together and pray.

Our Father, and our God, we approach Your throne of grace with gladness. We ask You tonight to take our hearts and make them Yours. That when this great event occurs, and this world comes to an end, it will be for us the best news ever. We want to be ready. We can only be ready through faith in You. We yield our hearts to You, and ask that You would live Your life in us. Keep us now, we pray, and we thank You in Jesus's name, amen.

THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

Look Up - Your Redemption Draws Near

The signs are not given merely to frighten us. They call us to wake up, look to Christ, and place our faith in God. The presentation closes by asking the personal question that matters most: if Jesus is near, are our hearts given to Him?

“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

Luke 21:28

Put your faith in God.