

Countdown of Time

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Will this be
the end of the world?

Countdown of Time

“Ten, nine, eight, seven...” Thousands held their breath as Lt. Col. John Glenn counted down the seconds to blast off on the clear morning of Feb. 20, 1962.

“Six, five, four, three, two, one, zero. Lift off.”

The prophetic countdown to the end of this world as we know it has also begun. Although the Bible tells us that we can't know the exact day or hour of Christ's coming, we are required to watch and be ready. Matthew 25:13 says, *“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”*

Jesus told the parable of the fig tree in
Luke 21:29-30.

*“And he spake to them a parable;
Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;
When they now shoot forth, ye see and
know of your own selves that summer is
now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when
ye see these things come to pass, know ye
that the kingdom of God is nigh at
hand.”*

In the Savior’s conversation with the
disciples on Mount Olivet, He
mentioned certain events to precede His
coming.

10 - Earthquakes

Earthquakes in divers places are listed
by Jesus in the signs of His coming.

(Matt. 24:7) The great Lisbon
earthquake of 1755 is mentioned in
Revelation 6:12.

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake...”

Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles. In Africa the shock was almost as severe as in Europe.

True to prophecy earthquakes continue to become more frequent as time progresses.

According to the National earthquake information Center of the

U.S. Geological survey, recorded earthquakes over 6.0 on the Richter scale have progressively increased.

In 1890-1899 there was only one. By 1940-1970 the number had risen to 13. And in 2000-2008 alone the number was already 1,387.

9 – The Dark Day

Jesus also stated in Matt. 24:29,
“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light...”

And in the book of Rev. 6:12 we read,
“and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.”

This took place on the Dark Day of May
19, 1780.

"Almost, if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and, as yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind in nature's diversified range of events during the last century, stands the dark day of May 19, 1780, a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England, which brought intense alarm and distress to multitudes of minds, as well as dismay to the brute creation, the fowls fleeing, bewildered, to their roosts, and the birds to their nests, and the cattle returning to their stalls."—Our First Century.

The Bible had foretold this

thousands of years before in Joel 2:31.
*“The sun shall be turned, into darkness,
and the moon into blood before the great
and the terrible day of the LORD come.*

8 – Stars Falling

“The stars shall fall from heaven”

Matt. 24:29 (Also Rev. 6:13)

*“Extensive and magnificent showers of
shooting stars have been known to occur
at various places in modern times; but
the most universal and wonderful which
has ever been recorded is that of the 13th
of November, 1833, the whole
firmament, over all the United States,
being then for hours in fiery commotion.
As a fig tree covered with green fruit
being all*

violently shaken sends the fruit in directions, so from one center in the sky, the stars fell in showers in every direction.

(Story of the Seer of Patmos, pg.124).

Estimates range from 30,000 to 60,000 meteorites per hour.

7 – Wars and Rumors of Wars

Matt. 24:6 says, “*And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars...*”

Somewhere around 180 million people have been killed in one 20th century atrocity or another—a far larger toll than for any other century in human history. Prophecy has again been fulfilled. Matt. 24:7 continues, “*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:*

6 – Famines

“And there shall be famines”

Matt.24:7 According to the United Nations World Food Organization, at least 850 million people on this planet are in some stage of malnutrition. Nearly one out of every six people goes to bed hungry. Over five million people die every year for lack of proper nourishment. Droughts, floods, famine and other natural disasters contribute to world hunger. Every day almost 16,000 children die of hunger related causes—one child almost every five seconds.

5 – Pestilences and Disease

We are told in Matt. 24:7 that there would be pestilence in the last days.

It seems every day there is a new disease in the news. Many fear AIDS, cancer, and new forms of influenza like the bird flu and the swine flu and another global pandemic. More and more diseases show up daily that are resistant to treatment, and millions of people die of disease every year.

4 – Iniquity Abounds as in the days of Noah

Jesus told his disciples that right before He came back it would be like it was in the days of Noah. Matt. 24:37-39 *“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking,*

marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Gen. 6:5 tells us that before the flood not only was there excess in food, drink and pleasure seeking but that “*GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*”

We can see this in the rise of spiritualism and the occult. TV and movies saturate minds with horrific scenes that are anything but lovely. Occult books like Harry Potter, have become

food for children's minds and crime rates continue to rise. *"Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."* Matt. 24:12

3- False Prophets

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matt.24:4, 5

Three times Christ warns His disciples to beware of false prophets and false Christs.

Matt. 24:11 says, *"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."* And again in Matt. 24:23, 24 *"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall*

arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

We see this being fulfilled with the followers of Jim Jones and many other self-proclaimed Christs and those that prophesy falsehoods. The only way to know the truth is through the study of the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 states, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

2 – As in the Days of Lot - Perilous Times

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.” Luke 17:28,29

We know from the story of Lot that Sodom was a wicked city. It wasn't even safe for visitors, and homosexuality was rampant. (Genesis 19:1-24; Jude 1:7) Also *“This was the iniquity of... Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her... neither did she strengthen the*

hand of the poor and needy.” Eze.6:49
Obviously, great sin was brought on by idleness. In an age of prepackaged foods, jet planes, and automatic washing machines, idleness again abounds.

Times are perilous.

There are school shootings, bank robberies, serial killers and even rape.

Worse yet is the fact that evil is being called good and good evil.

Paul told us in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 that this would not just describe the world at large, but also the professed Christian world.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers,

*disobedient to parents, unthankful,
unholy, without natural affection,
trucebreakers, false accusers,
incontinent, fierce, despisers of those
that are good, traitors, heady,
highminded, lovers of pleasures more
than lovers of God; having a form of
godliness, but denying the power thereof:
from such turn away.”*

1–The Gospel to All the World

Matt. 24:14 states, “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*”

This is the last sign given, and Peter tells us what we are really waiting for.

“Knowing this first, that there, shall come in the last days scoffers

... saying, Where is the promise of his coming?... all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise... but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:3,4,9)

Jesus is waiting for YOU. He loves YOU and wants YOU to give your heart to Him! So now “*...knowing the time... it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*” (Rom. 13:11)

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

Who can we believe? Is the world really about to come to an end? Need an answer you can count on?

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 2 Peter 1:19

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