# Signs Before the Rapture: Examining the Times



Discover Jesus' prophetic words in Matthew 24 and other Scriptures to discern the signs pointing to His soon return.





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#### Introduction

Understanding the Times: The Bible invites believers to be watchful and discerning about the signs that precede Jesus' return. In *Matthew 24*, Jesus provides a profound discourse on the end times, cautioning His followers to remain vigilant as events unfold. These prophetic Scriptures are not meant to confuse but to prepare and encourage us in faith.

Studying these signs helps us recognize God's hand at work throughout history and today. Important indicators include natural disasters, wars, moral decay, and a surge in false teachings. Jesus tells us to stay alert because, though the exact time is unknown, the coming of the Son of Man is certain and imminent.

Why This Matters: Recognizing these signs not only strengthens our personal faith, but it also compels us to live holy lives, share the Gospel, and encourage others. The Scriptures remind us that amid uncertainty, God's promises remain secure, and His return will bring eternal hope for those who believe.

This 7-day plan will guide you through key biblical passages about the end times, focusing on Jesus' teachings and other prophetic books. Each day invites reflection and prayer to deepen your understanding and readiness for His coming. Let us embark on this journey together, encouraging one another to stay faithful and hopeful as we anticipate our blessed hope.















#### Your Verse

Matthew 24:3-14 (NIV) - Jesus describes signs like war, famine, and false prophets as precursors to the end.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Luke 21:10–11 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places.'
- Mark 13:7 'When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed.'







#### Devotional: Stand Firm Amidst Signs of the End

In this passage, Jesus speaks directly about the tumultuous events that will precede His return. The disciples asked Him for signs, and He did not shy away from describing wars, famines, earthquakes, persecution, and false teachers. These signs are not random; they signal the unfolding of God's plan.

*Notice the repeated call to not be alarmed or deceived.* Even as the world faces chaos, Jesus urges believers to remain steadfast. This reminds us that faith is our anchor amid storms.

Moreover, Jesus emphasizes the need for perseverance: 'the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.' As we consider these signs today, we must ask: Are we living in alertness and faithfulness, ready for His coming?







# Reflect and Apply

	How do Jesus' warnings challenge your understanding of current world events?
2.	What does it mean to 'stand firm to the end' in your daily walk?
	In what ways can you avoid being alarmed or deceived by false teachings today?







#### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time when you felt God's peace during a troubling event.
2.	List modern events that align with the signs Jesus mentioned.
3.	Reflect on how you can strengthen your faith for perseverance.







# Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, help me remain vigilant as I watch for Your return. Teach me to stand firm amidst the turmoil and not be deceived or disheartened by the signs around me. Increase my faith and endurance to persevere until You come. May I live faithfully, encouraging others to look to You with hope. *Come quickly, Lord!*















#### Your Verse

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV) - Paul describes the grim moral state of the last days.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 1:28–32 'They have become filled with every kind of wickedness.'
- Revelation 6:12–14 'A great earthquake shook the earth...' signs in the heavens occur.







#### Devotional: Trusting God Amid Moral Decline

The New Testament writers give vivid descriptions of the moral and spiritual decline that will mark the final days. Paul warns Timothy about people becoming lovers of themselves, proud, and disobedient. This decay reflects a world increasingly distant from God's standard.

However, amid this chaos, God remains sovereign. The events unfolding are not outside His control but part of a divine plan moving toward ultimate restoration.

Understanding this helps us to interpret global turmoil not as random chaos, but as signs showing that God's timeline is advancing. We can trust the Lord even when the world seems out of control, knowing He will make all things right.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	How does knowing God's sovereignty affect your response to global chaos?
2.	What are some ways you can uphold godly values in a society moving away from them?
3.	In what ways can moral decay challenge your faith, and how can you overcome it?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Record your thoughts on God's control over world events.
2.	Describe how cultural values today align or conflict with biblical teachings.
3.	Write a prayer asking God to help you be a light in a dark world.







#### Prayer for Today







# Day 3: <u>A</u> Deception and False Prophets









Day 3: 🛕 Deception and False Prophets

#### Your Verse

Matthew 24:24 (NIV) – 'For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 2 Peter 2:1 'False teachers will secretly introduce destructive heresies.'
- 1 John 4:1 'Test the spirits to see whether they are from God.'







Day 3: <u>A</u> Deception and False Prophets

#### Devotional: Guarding Against Deception

Jesus warns that deception will be widespread in the last days, with false messiahs and prophets performing signs to mislead many.

**Such deception threatens to shake the faith of even sincere believers.** The Bible instructs us to be discerning and test teachings carefully by comparing them to God's Word.

This day reminds us to nurture a deep knowledge of Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so that we are not swayed by counterfeit voices. Staying grounded in truth equips us to recognize and reject error.







Day 3:  $\bigwedge$  Deception and False Prophets

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How can you cultivate discernment to identify false teachings?
	Are there beliefs or ideas you've encountered that need testing against Scripture?
3.	What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping you recognize truth?







Day 3: 🛕 Deception and False Prophets

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time you encountered a teaching that tested your faith.
2.	List ways to strengthen your understanding of God's Word.
3.	Pray for discernment to navigate spiritual deception.







Day 3: 🛕 Deception and False Prophets

#### Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, grant me wisdom and discernment. Help me recognize false teachings and stand firm in Your truth. Protect my heart from deception and guide me into all righteousness. May Your Word be a lamp to my feet as I navigate this world. Amen. 1















#### Your Verse

Matthew 24:9-10 (NIV) - 'You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death... You will be hated by all nations because of me.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 15:20 'If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.'
- Revelation 2:10 'Be faithful even to the point of death.'







#### Devotional: Faithfulness Through Trials

Jesus prepares His followers for persecution in the last days, marking faithfulness with trials and opposition.

Persecution tests our commitment but also strengthens our dependence on God. Throughout history, believers have endured suffering knowing that triumph awaits beyond this life.

This passage encourages us to embrace endurance, recognizing that faith in Jesus surpasses any temporal hardship. It also calls us to support fellow believers who face these challenges worldwide.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	How have you experienced or witnessed persecution for your faith?
2.	What steps can you take to remain faithful when faced with opposition?
3.	How does the promise of eternal life shape your response to suffering?







# **Journaling Prompts**

	Reflect on a time you were challenged in your faith and how you responded.
	Write prayers of strength and courage for yourself and persecuted believers.
3.	List ways to encourage others facing spiritual trials.







#### Prayer for Today

Lord, give me the courage to remain faithful amid persecution. Strengthen my heart and remind me of the eternal reward You have prepared. Help me to stand firm in love and truth, even when it costs me. Comfort those around the world who suffer for Your name. Amen. 

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#### Your Verse

Matthew 24:14 (NIV) – 'This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Acts 1:8 'You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.'
- Romans 10:18 'Their voice has gone out to all the earth.'







#### Devotional: Committed to Global Witness

Jesus assures His followers that before the end comes, the Gospel will be proclaimed worldwide.

**This mission remains central to the Church today.** Spreading the good news breathes hope into dark places and prepares hearts for Christ's return.

As believers, we are invited to participate actively in this divine task and support those who reach unreached nations. Recognizing God's timing motivates us to share His love with urgency and compassion.







# Reflect and Apply

	How does the global spread of the Gospel affect your view of Jesus' return?
2.	What role do you feel called to play in witnessing to others?
3.	In what ways can you support missions locally and globally?







#### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about steps you can take to share your faith more openly.
2.	Pray for missionaries and workers spreading the Gospel worldwide.
3.	List people in your life who might need to hear the message of hope.







#### Prayer for Today

**Father, thank You for the great commission.** Empower me to be a faithful witness to Your love and truth. Open doors for the Gospel to reach every corner of the earth. Stir my heart to pray, give, and go so that many will be ready for Christ's return. Amen.

















#### Your Verse

Matthew 24:36 (NIV) – 'But about that day or hour no one knows... so keep watch.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:2 'The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.'
- Luke 21:36 'Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen.'







#### Devotional: Living with Expectant Watchfulness

Jesus emphasizes that no one knows the exact time of His return, cautioning believers to remain watchful at all times.

This unknown timing calls us to live with holy expectancy, not complacency. Staying alert means actively pursuing God daily, living righteously, and being prepared spiritually and practically.

Watchfulness involves prayer, study of Scripture, and community encouragement to maintain faithfulness until the moment He comes. It reminds us that readiness is not about predicting dates but maintaining a faithful heart.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What does watchfulness look like in your daily life?
2.	How can prayer help you stay prepared for Christ's return?
3.	Are there areas where complacency has crept into your spiritual walk?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe how you can cultivate a lifestyle of watchfulness.
2.	Write a prayer asking for alertness and spiritual readiness.
3.	Reflect on habits that help or hinder your faithfulness.







#### Prayer for Today

Lord, teach me to live every day with watchful anticipation. Help me to remain alert and faithful, ready for Your return at any moment. Keep my heart pure and my spirit strong through prayer and Your Word. May I not grow weary or distracted but fix my eyes on You. Amen.

















Day 7: 🕭 Hope in the Blessed Hope

#### Your Verse

Titus 2:13 (NIV) – 'While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 'We will be caught up together... to meet the Lord in the air.'
- Revelation 21:4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes.'







Day 7: 🕭 Hope in the Blessed Hope

#### Devotional: Anchored in the Blessed Hope

Our study concludes with a focus on the blessed hope—the joyful promise of Christ's return and the eternal life it brings.

This hope sustains believers through trials, persecutions, and uncertainties. The promise of being united with Jesus forever fills the faithful heart with joy and peace.

Looking forward encourages us to live in holiness, motivated by love and gratitude rather than fear. The rapture and final restoration remind us that God is actively working to redeem all things.

As you finish this study, embrace this hope fully, letting it shape your daily faith journey.







Day 7: 🥕 Hope in the Blessed Hope

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How does the hope of Christ's return affect your everyday choices?
2.	What are you most looking forward to about meeting Jesus?
3.	How can this hope encourage you during challenges or doubts?







Day 7: 🥕 Hope in the Blessed Hope

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write a letter to your future self about living in hope.
2.	List ways your life reflects the anticipation of Jesus' return.
3.	Pray in thanks for the promise of eternal joy and peace.







Day 7: 🕭 Hope in the Blessed Hope

#### Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for the blessed hope of Your return. May this promise fill my heart with joy and keep me faithful until that glorious day. Help me to live with anticipation and holiness, encouraging others with the hope I have in You. Quickly come, Lord, in power and love! Amen.







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