

# THE COMING OF THE LORD

## The Rapture

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

The Rapture could happen at anytime - Jesus instructs us to always be prepared. But we are given a set of criteria for the commencement of the Tribulation, and because the church will be resurrected prior to that period, as more of these key events come to pass, the Rapture too becomes increasingly imminent.

In Matthew 24, the disciples ask Jesus, “What will be the signs of the end of the age?” Jesus replies,

“ See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, **but that is not yet the end.**

**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.**

”

#### 1 WORLD WAR

The phrase “nation rising against nation...” refers to ALL nations engaged in war. History has seen two world wars so far, and like birth pangs, when we see countries positioning themselves for a third world war, it marks the beginning of a far more painful time than ever before.

#### 2 FAMINE

Famine has always been around, but with the deadly mix of conflict, COVID-19 and the climate crisis from 2020 onwards, world hunger has taken a sharp rise. The number of undernourished grew by 161 million people in 2020 alone.

#### 3 EARTHQUAKES

There are thousands of earthquakes around the globe each year but their frequency remained fairly stable over the past two decades. A notable rise in intensity or frequency would therefore be an alert for greater things to come.

#### 4 APOSTASY IN THE CHURCH

As described in the letter to the Laodicean Church, the final state of the church before the church age ends is that of apostasy - a reliance on self, wealth, false doctrines and idolatry.

#### 5 ISRAEL ENTER THEIR LAND

Ezekiel 20:33 says that Israel will be regathered from where they were scattered and re-enter their land. This was achieved in 1948 when the state of Israel was formed.

#### 6 10 KINGS

Daniel 7 describes ten horns representing 10 kings who will rule the entire world. Currently, there are around 200 countries, each with their own government. It will therefore be interesting to see how regions will combine under 10 distinct leaders.

#### 7 COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

Daniel 9:27 states the Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel to permit temple sacrifices - a promise he breaks midway through the Tribulation. Currently, the Jews have no temple and have stopped sacrifices.

#### 8 ELIJAH RETURNS

Malachi 4:5 tells us that the prophet Elijah will return to Israel prior to **the great and terrible day of the Lord**, i.e. the start of the Tribulation. Elijah never experienced physical death and will return to continue his ministry and to motivate Israel to pursue the Law.

1914



WW1



WW2



ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION  
ON 14 MAY 1948



ISRAEL RECLAIMS JERUSALEM  
ON 7 JUNE 1967

1948

1967