

MESSAGE #2 – Christ’s return is imminent.

- Imminent. This means it could happen at any time. No prophetic events must take place first. Mk. 13:32-37. The “sudden coming” of the Lord at an unknown time is to be distinguished from His “Second Coming,” when Jesus comes openly on the clouds in power and glory after many prophesied tribulation era events have taken place (Matt. 24:29-30). There is an unknown period of time between the Lord’s sudden coming for believers and His Second Coming in glory.
- We must “watch” since the Lord will come suddenly at an unknown time. To “watch” means to remain vigilant, awake and attentive to spiritual realities, looking for the Master’s return. It includes taking appropriate action in order to be prepared for the Lord’s return. The Lord warns us that if we do not watch, then we may suffer loss at His coming
- Signs that the Lord’s return is just on the horizon, soon to arrive. As disciples, we are responsible to discern the signs of the time. The Jews in Jesus’ day did not discern the times and Jesus found fault with them for this failure. Matt. 16:1-3.

Some of the “signs of the time.”

◇ Israel reborn 1948 – the fig tree sign. Matt. 24:32-34. The parable of the fig tree is detailed in the booklet handout, *The Return of Jesus is Near – Now Learn the Parable of the Fig Tree*. Perhaps 10 OT prophecies were fulfilled in 1948. (See <http://watchmanbiblestudy.com/Articles/1948PropheciesFulfilled.htm>) The sign of the fig tree indicates that the Lord is “at the doors.”

◇ Preparations for a rebuilt temple (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4). The preparations for the temple are virtually complete. All that is needed is a place on the temple mount.

◇ Apostasy in the Christian church. 2 Thess. 2:3 (Note also that much of the church is not even tuned into Bible prophecy as a subject.)

◇ Middle East changes. The rise of radical Islam and the drive for a revived Islamic caliphate. A coherent Biblical thesis of a revived Islamic Empire, instead of a revived Roman Empire, came out in 2012.¹ It demonstrates that an Islamic Empire is meant by the legs and the ten toes of the stature in Dan. 2, as well as the fourth beast of Dan. 7. Dan. 12:4 indicates that the prophecies in the book of Daniel would be sealed up until the time of the end, when the knowledge of the prophecies would then be made known. The unrest in the Middle East is setting the stage for the end-time wars in Dan. 11:40ff..

◇ Dramatic increase in lawlessness, ungodliness, immorality, homosexuality, demonic activity (2 Thess. 2:7; 2 Tim. 3:1-5). The mass murders, the child killers, the bizarre crimes, demonic and occult themes in movies, TV and books all indicate a surge in demonic activity as we race towards the final spiritual conflict of the end.

¹ See “*Mideast Beast: The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Antichrist*,” by Joel Richardson. Also, a book connecting Islam and the antichrist is due out in 2015 by the well-known preacher, Dr. Michael Yossef. It is entitled, “*Jesus, Jihad and Peace: A Prophetic Vision for the Middle East*.”