

THE KINGDOM IS COMING SOON

Jesus' coming [presence] is imminent

- The coming of the Lord has drawn near; He is right at the door. (Jas. 5:7-8)
- Stay on the alert; the Master might come during any "watch." (Mk. 13:32-37)
- Be always on the alert and be always ready so as not to suffer loss; you do not know which day or hour the Son of Man is coming. (Matt. 24:42-44)

Jesus is coming soon with His Kingdom

The Lord expects us to discern the signs of the season (Matt.16:1-3).

Signs of the approach of the end of this age:

- **Israel.** It's "rebirth" in 1948 and the return of many Jews to the land is the fulfillment of prophecy and the greatest sign that Christ and His Kingdom is near (Ez. 36:24; Matt. 24:32-34; Lk. 21:29-31).
- **The alignment of nations.** A revived Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40-44; 7:7-8). A confederacy of nations that attacks Israel in "the latter years" (Ez. 38, 39).
- **Moral degeneracy of society** as prophesied in 2 Tim. 3:1-5. The "mystery of lawlessness" at work, including a dramatic increase in occult themes in movies and books (2 Thess. 2:7-9).
- **Apostasy** in the church (2 Thess. 2:3) and the rise of Babylon, the great harlot (Rev. 17).
- **"Birth pangs"** of the end of the age: wars, famines, earthquakes (Matt. 24:7-8; Mk. 13:8).

Preparing for Christ's return

- **"eagerly awaiting Him"** "so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those eagerly awaiting Him." (Heb. 9:28) "those who are (eagerly, constantly, and patiently) waiting for and expecting Him" (AMP) "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil. 3:20)
- **"looking for the blessed hope"** "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." (Tit. 2:11-13)
- **"this hope fixed on Him"** "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we shall see him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 Jn. 3:2-3)
- **"looking for . . . the day of God"** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless. (2 Pet. 3:9-14)
- **"loved His appearing"** "in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. . . . for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me." (2 Tim. 4:8-10)