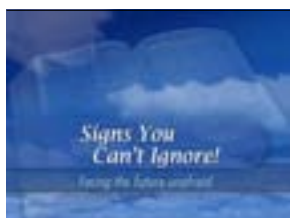


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1

Facing the Future Unafraid



2

One beautiful summer day, a father and his nine-year-old daughter were swimming in the ocean. They'd been splashing in the waves for a while when suddenly the tide began to go out with considerable force. It quickly took the little girl some distance away.

Her father couldn't reach her. She'd need help if she was to get back to the shore.

Fortunately, instead of panicking, the father called out, "Float and swim quietly; don't be afraid. I'll be back to get you."

Then he hurried away to find a boat.

When the father got back to the spot with a boat and some rescuers, his heart sank. His daughter wasn't there. She'd been swept far out to sea.

But when they finally reached her, the girl was floating calmly around as her father had instructed.



3

Later she was asked how she managed to remain so calm all alone, far out in the ocean. She answered, "I just did what Dad told me to do. I knew he'd come back, and I wasn't afraid."

That courageous little girl's hope had kept her alive; it enabled her to survive and be rescued.

The great hope which keeps our faith as Christians is the hope that our heavenly Father is about ready to rescue this planet on the verge of destruction.



4

(Video: 10 Sec.) Recently a famous scientist stated his fear the world might not last another thousand years. He says that man-made pollution of our earth's atmosphere will cause temperatures to rise around the world,

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5

**creating deadly heat waves on earth and flooding the continents as the polar ice caps melt.
But others think the world will end in a different way.**



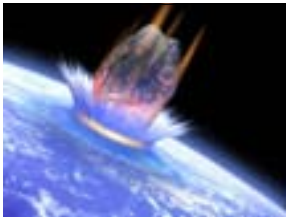
6

(Video: 5 sec) Some say we will destroy ourselves in a nuclear war.



7

Others say we'll run out of food and other resources as world population continues to explode.



8

Still others say we may be wiped out as a huge comet or asteroid collides with earth.



9

**And then there are those who think someday aliens from another planet will arrive and destroy us all.
Most of us, of course, have plenty of other things to worry about.**



10

We struggle with just trying to make a living or to get along with others, or with sickness and grief and death.



11

**For many of us, maybe most of us, life isn't easy.
It's so hard sometimes that we may find ourselves often wishing the world WOULD end!
Surely life wasn't made to be so full of pain and hunger and weariness and stress. We want a better world!**



12

Well, my friend, there is good news! This world IS going to end. And there IS a better world coming!

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13

Nearly all of us would like to know how and when the world will end.
Will it end in our lifetime-or a thousand or ten thousand years from now?



14

And who is right about HOW it will end?
There's no shortage of prophets making their predictions.



15

But the problem is finding prophets whose predictions are accurate – prophets whose prophecies really come true!



16

(Video: 15 sec.)But do you know that there IS someone whose prophecies have all come true-every last one of them?

Someone who can tell us exactly how the world is going to end-and whether it's going to end soon or last for thousands of more years?

It should be no surprise to learn that the one who made this world-the one who was there as it began-is also the one who knows when it will end.

And friends, Jesus Christ, the God of creation, through His Word, can take us into the future. He is a reliable Guide. Who could know more about the END of the world than the one who BEGAN it?



17

The Bible tells us about an interesting event in the life of Jesus Christ.
One day the disciples took Him aside and showed Him the building of the temple, which had just been rebuilt by the Roman government.

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18

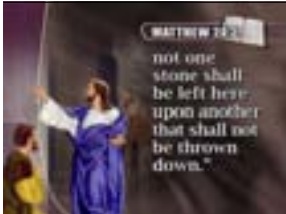
It was one of the prize buildings in the entire Roman Empire—a beautiful showpiece!
After looking at the building, Jesus made a startling statement to His disciples. He said,



19

(Text: Matthew 24:2)

“...Do you not see all these things? Assuredly I say to you,



20

not one stone shall be left here upon another that shall not be thrown down.”
Matthew 24:2.



21

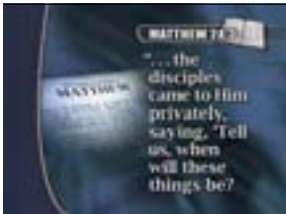
This was the greatest building in the Jewish nation, and Jesus predicted it would be utterly destroyed.



22

The disciples were shocked!

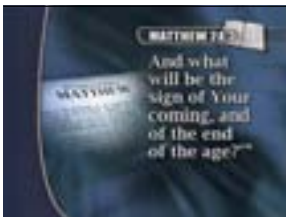
And as they went up to the Mount of Olives, they asked Jesus the question that all of us would have asked:



23

(Text: Matthew 24:3)

“...And the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be?



24

And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?”
Matthew 24:3.



25

You see, the disciples felt that if this building were to be destroyed, it had to be in connection with the coming of Christ and the end of the world.

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26

But in the book of Matthew, the 24th chapter, we find that Jesus spoke about two different events.



27

One of them was the second coming of Jesus – His return to this earth in glory and His establishment of an everlasting kingdom here on Planet Earth.



28

(Video: 6 Sec.) The other one, however, was one that would be seen by many of the people alive at that time. It was the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and of the temple.

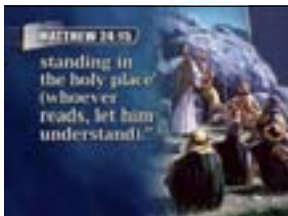
Now Jesus proceeded to tell the disciples what was going to happen to the temple.



29

(Text: Matthew 24:15-16)

He said, in Matthew 24:15, 16, “Therefore when you shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet,



30

standing in the Holy Place’ (whoever reads, let Him understand).



31

Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”



32

Daniel had predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed. But now Jesus reminds His disciples that the prophet Daniel’s warnings would soon be fulfilled.

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33

(Text: Matthew 24:17-18)

He said in Matthew 24:17,18: "Let him who is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house."



34

And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes."



35

In other words, He told them to flee for their lives, because when they saw the armies encircling the city of Jerusalem, the destruction was imminent.

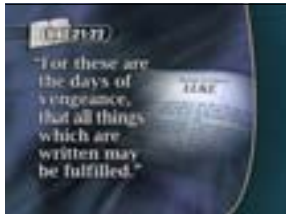


36

(Text: Luke 21:20)

In Luke 21: 20, Jesus said: "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know its desolation is near."

Then He went on to tell them that wherever they were when they saw those armies, they needed to flee.



37

(Text: Luke 21:22, 24)

"For these are the days of vengeance that all things that are written may be fulfilled."



38

"They will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations."



39

And Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled." Luke 21:22, 24



40

"In the year A.D. 66, approximately 33 years after Jesus gave this prediction, the Roman armies, under Cestius, the Roman Governor of Syria, came to put down a

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41

rebellion that had broken out in Jerusalem. As they laid siege against the city, however, the city withstood the ravages of the Roman army,



42

and finally, the Roman armies withdrew, despairing of actually being able to take the city."
(See Eusebius, Church History, book 3, chap. 5)



43

(Video: 6 sec) Those who had followed the instruction given by Jesus escaped the destruction of the city of Jerusalem, and were not killed when the city was taken by the Roman army.



44

Approximately 1,100,000 were killed in the terrible siege. They failed to follow Jesus' instructions to flee the city when the Roman army withdrew in A.D. 66.

Here is a striking lesson on the importance of studying the prophecies and heeding the signs of the times. Those who believed Christ and watched for the signs He foretold were saved, while the unbelieving perished.

So it will be at the end of the world—the watchful believers will be delivered, while the careless and unbelieving will perish.



45

(Video: 5 sec) What about the magnificent temple? Titus, the Roman general in charge of taking the City of Jerusalem, had given orders to save the temple, but one of his soldiers threw a lighted torch through a door,



46

and the temple became a flaming inferno!
Not one stone was left upon another.

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47

Jesus predictions to His disciples 40 years before the destruction of Jerusalem were fulfilled exactly.

Will we ignore the signs that Jesus gave us concerning the end of the world, or will we heed the warnings and be ready for what lies ahead?

**How will we know when the end of the world is very near?
JESUS GIVES US CLEAR SIGNS.**



48

Let's take a look at some of these signs of our times! In Matthew 24:7, Christ said,



49

(Text: Matthew 24:7)

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.



50

And there will be famines, pestilence, and earthquakes in various places." Matthew 24:8.

The twentieth century was the bloodiest century in mankind's history.



51

(Video: 20 sec) World War I saw 20 million people sacrificed on the altar of war. World War II witnessed the destruction of 50 million people.

Though everyone thought that the violence and hatred would end, we still have wars.

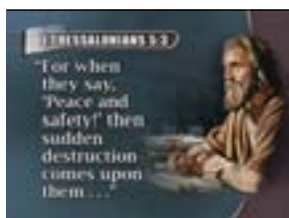
It seems that the world has gone mad. This is one of the signs of the times.



52

The nations are talking peace but preparing for war. Another Bible prophecy concerning peace and preparation reads:

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53

(Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:3)

“For when they say ‘peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them.”

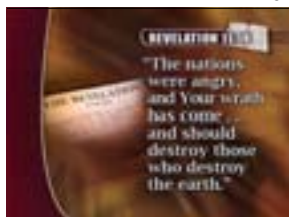
1 Thessalonians 5:3.

We talk about peace, but there is no peace! Everyone wants peace! But it is just talk!



54

The Bible says that in the last moments of this earth, man will have the ability to destroy the earth.



55

(Text: Revelation 11:18)

“The nations were angry and your wrath has come. . . . And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” Revelation 11:18. Never before have men had the ability to destroy the actual matter out of which the earth is made.



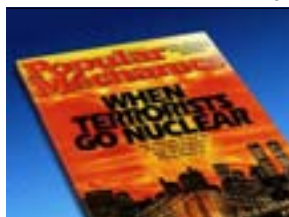
56

With the invention of the nuclear bomb, man now has that ability to destroy the earth itself.



57

Terrorists have now found a way to buy or steal some of these once well protected nuclear weapons. Some of these deadly devices are already missing and in the hands of someone waiting to sell them or use them.



58

A well respected magazine pointed out that information on how to make a nuclear bomb is available in most major libraries around the world. Its as near as a click on a computer.



59

(Video: 5 sec) Who has them and what will they do one of these days soon? No bigger than a suitcase, they can be planted anywhere, and one of them could destroy one of the worlds major cities.

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The Lord said there would be disasters of every kind in the last days.

60



(Text: Matthew 24:7)
“... There will be famines ...”
(Matthew 24:7)

61



And there ARE famines in many parts of the earth.

62



(Video: 4 sec.) It is estimated that 57 million people will starve in this one year. That is 156,000 who will die each day from starvation.

63



(Video: 3 sec.) Of the billions of people on planet earth, 60 percent are malnourished, and 20 percent will end up starving. Jesus said that there would be famines as one of the signs of the end.

64



(Video: 5 sec) Informed sources tell us that when population outpaces food production, then worldwide famine, starvation, epidemics and food wars are inevitable. How will we feed added billions, when two-thirds of the world's population are hungry now?

65



(Text: Luke 21:25)
Jesus described earth's last-hour dilemma by saying that there would be “...upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity...”
Luke 21:25.

66



Jesus said that there would be pestilence:

67

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68

(Text: Matthew 24:7)

“There will be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”

The word pestilence today means, according to the dictionary, the same as a plague or strange disease.



69

There are many plagues in spite of what modern medicine is doing.



70

(Video: 10 sec) AIDS, malaria, pneumonia, TB, ebola disease, syphilis, gonorrhea and cholera.



71

The World Health Organization now estimates that we have 40 million cases of H.I.V.

Whole nations will be wiped out if something is not done to stop it.



72

Another sign of the times is found in our environmental pollution.

The Bible had predicted that the world would grow old. In Isaiah 51:6, God said,



73

(Text: Isaiah 51:6)

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look on the earth beneath.



74

For the heavens will vanish away like smoke and the earth will grow old like a garment.”

What better description could be given to the sky and the earth as they totter to the end!



75

The sky over many of our large cities is filled with poisonous chemicals that we breathe in through our lungs.

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Signs posted in many cities warn about the danger of the polluted air.

76



(Video: 5 sec) In many places the water is no longer safe to drink, because of all the dangerous substances in it.

77



Atomic wastes have become a real problem to dispose of. The workers in one large atomic factory area are being compensated for the poisoning they have suffered.

78



Where will we be able to get energy and pure water and air? Where will we get food?

79



(Video: 6 sec) With the world's rapid increase in population, man faces serious problems in surviving on Earth!

80



(Text: Luke 21:25)
“...Upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity...”
Luke 21:25

81



The Bible speaks of increasing earthquakes as well.

82



(Text: Matthew 24:7)
“And there will be . . . earthquakes in various places.”
Matthew 24:7.
We have seen a massive acceleration in the number of earthquakes occurring.

83

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84

Each year we have 6,000 major earthquakes in the world.



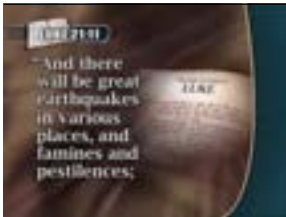
85

(Video: 10 sec) In the last 90 years alone, we have had 1,500,000 fatalities.



86

In the last little while, we have seen earthquakes taking 20,000 to 30,000 lives in one great rumble. Many of you will remember recent earthquakes various countries have experienced.



87

(Text: Luke 21:11, 25)

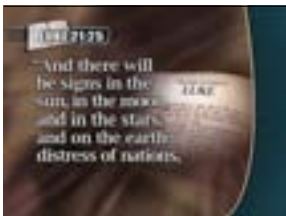
The Bible says, "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences;



88

and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven . .

.



89

and there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, in the stars;



90

and on the earth distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring."
Luke 21:11, 25.



91

(Video: 17 sec) Notice that it says the wind and the waves will be roaring.
All over the world, we have seen some extraordinary weather.

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Typhoons, with attending tidal waves; tornadoes; hurricanes; volcanoes – all of these things are taking a fearful toll in property and lives.



92

The Bible gives us another sign. Moral conditions at the end of time.

Jesus compared conditions on earth in the last days to Sodom and Gomorrah, two of the most sinful cities that ever existed. God finally destroyed them with fire from heaven.



93

(Text: Luke 17:28, 30)

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot;



94

... even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

Luke 17:28-30.



95

(Text: Jude 1:7)

Jude wrote, “...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion.”

Jude 7.



96

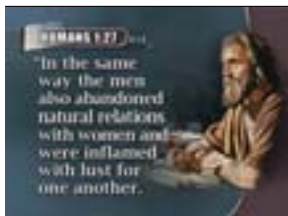
Paul, speaking of the moral conditions that characterized these cities, said,



97

(Text: Romans 1:26, 27)

“...Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.



98

In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.

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99

Men committed indecent acts with other men..."
Romans 1:26, 27.



100

(Text: 2 Timothy 3:2-5)
"People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,



101

without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,



102

treacherous, rash, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—



103

having a form of godliness but denying its power."
2 Timothy 3:2-5



104

(Text: 2 Timothy 3:13)
Could it get worse? Yes, I'm sorry to say, "...Evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."



105

One of the most significant signs that Jesus gave was the coming of false christs and false prophets.
Christ warned about these false christs and false prophets who would appear to deceive the world.



106

(Text: Matthew 24:23-24)
"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is Christ,' or 'There,' do not believe it!"

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107

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive



108

if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:23-24



109

(Text: Matthew 24:26)

"Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert,' do not go out."

Matthew 24:26.

There will be no need to go anywhere, for Jesus said,



110

(Text: Matthew 24:27)

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west,



111

so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Verse 27.



112

(Text: Revelation 1:7)

Again, we are told, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even they who pierced Him..."

Revelation 1:7.



113

We will see Him when He comes! No one will need to tell us when Jesus comes with all His Holy angels!



114

The last and greatest of all the signs that Jesus gave was the Gospel to all the world

Of all the signs this is the only one that hasn't been fulfilled.

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115

(Text: Matthew 24:14)

Matthew 24:14: Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all nations, and THEN THE END WILL COME."



116

In the book of Revelation, we find that God describes this great proclamation.



117

(Text: Revelation 14:6)

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven,



118

having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth.



119

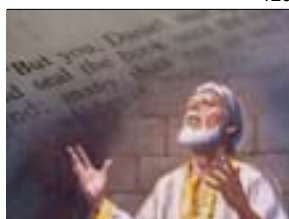
**To every nation, tribe, tongue and people."
Revelation 14:6.**

**Do you realize that you are seeing the fulfillment of this prophecy tonight in this very meeting?
This is a part of the preaching of the everlasting gospel to every creature.**



120

The gospel is being proclaimed by TV, radio, evangelistic meetings, the Internet, private Bible studies, and correspondence courses around the globe.



121

Daniel has said that "knowledge shall increase." In the last crucial days of this world's history, the book of Daniel has been unsealed,

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and that will bring about an increase in knowledge about God's plan for this earth as well as a great increase of knowledge in the scientific world.



122

Time is running out!
The sins that called for the destruction of the world in Noah's time exist today.



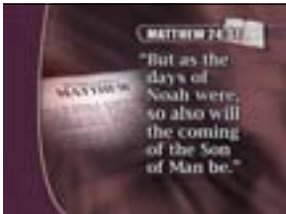
123

Man seems bent on his own destruction, as evidenced by events now taking place.
Jesus compared our day to the days of Noah.



124

The people who lived in Noah's day were busy making a living and doing their daily things with not much time for spiritual things.



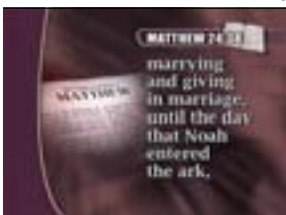
125

(Text: Matthew 24:37-39)
Jesus said in Matthew 24:37-39: "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."



126

For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking,



127

marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark,



128

and did not know until the flood came and took them all away,

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129

so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”



130

Jesus said that His second coming would be as it was in the days of Noah.

People would be having a great time, but no time for God! They would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.



131

The last few grains of sand in the hourglass of time are now trickling through. Soon the Son of God will pierce the star-studded skies, attended by countless angels.

God looks anxiously for that day, not that He may destroy the world, but that He may take His people home. That home is waiting. It's ready!



132

As we look at the signs in the world today, we can certainly see how close we must be to the coming of Jesus. Things now are much as they were the first time Jesus came to this earth.

God gave many signs back then to let the people know what time it was that Jesus would come to earth.



133

(Video: 7 sec) The clock ticked for 4,000 years, and God even sent angels and wise men to let the people know of His coming.



134

(Text: John 1:11)

But sad to say, “He came to His own, and they received Him not.” They were not ready for Him.

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135

Friends, He has given us all these signs which say He is coming soon. Jesus said,



136

(Text: Matthew 24:33-34)

"When you see all these things, know that it is near at the doors!"



137

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place."

Matthew 24:33, 34.



138

Will we receive Him this time-or will He be disappointed again? The hour is late, and the stakes are high. There is not a moment to lose.



139

The steamship Central America had sailed out of New York Harbor and was heading south in the Atlantic toward the Panama Canal when she sprang a leak. Another vessel saw her distress signal and steamed up to help. The captain of the rescue ship sent over a message, "What's amiss?"

The answer came back: "We're in bad repair and going down. Lie by till morning!"

The would-be rescuer could see the steamship listing in the water and replied, "Let me take your passengers on board now."

But night had fallen, and the captain of the Central America didn't want to risk transferring passengers in the dark. He repeated, " Lie by till morning."

The other captain sent another message, insisting action should be taken now.

But he was refused. He had to wait some distance off in the gathering night.

His staff on the bridge could make out the lights of the Central America bobbing in the waves.

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About an hour and a half later, they watched aghast as those lights disappeared.
The ship had gone down, and all on board perished.



140

To wait may result in being eternally lost.
There are times you have to make a decision now.
The captain of the Central America thought there was no problem waiting until morning.
He was tragically mistaken.

The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation." Don't wait.
Don't hesitate. Don't delay.
Why not make your decision for Christ right now?
Won't you lift your heart to God right now and ask Him to help you prepare for Christ's soon coming?

Is there anything in your life which would keep you from being ready for Christ's soon return?
Why not give up that specific thing right now as we pray?

If you are really serious about accepting Christ, will you raise your hand right now saying, "Yes, Lord, I do want to be ready to meet you when you come again."

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