

# Convicting Reasons Why Jesus is Coming Soon *from Jesus Himself!*



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## It occurred during the “Passion Week!”

- It all began with a Sunday *triumphal entry*.
- Then the temple was cleansed – for the second time.
- Apostasy was reaching its peak.
- Plans to kill Jesus were quickly moving forward.
- Then, in one of the boldest moves of His ministry, Jesus faced the Jewish leaders right on their own turf, the temple, and condemned them to damnation! They seemed powerless.



“Never before had such a scene  
been witnessed.” (DA 610)

## **This was Christ's last chance to address that Jewish body before Calvary.**

“Jesus stood calmly before them, with the dignity of a king. As one invested with the authority of heaven, He looked unflinchingly upon His adversaries, who had rejected and despised His teachings, and who thirsted for His life. They had assailed Him in great numbers, but their schemes to ensnare and condemn Him had been in vain.



(continued)

“Challenge after challenge He had met, presenting the pure, bright truth in contrast to the darkness and errors of the priests and Pharisees.... Yet another work remained for Christ to do. Another purpose was still to be accomplished. The character of the priests, rulers, and Pharisees must be more fully exposed.” (DA 610, 610)

- We don't know how long this discourse lasted, but large numbers of people were there, watching and listening. People who needed to hear His indictment were present.
- Jesus pronounced seven curses on those leaders. The Bible calls them “woes” (*ouai*).
- Though Jesus had already said that the Jewish nation would cease to be His special people (Matt. 21:43), this became the “legal decree” that no hope now existed.
- Their probation as a nation had closed.

What follows the end of a probation?

What is the terminal event that God has set in His prophetic clock?



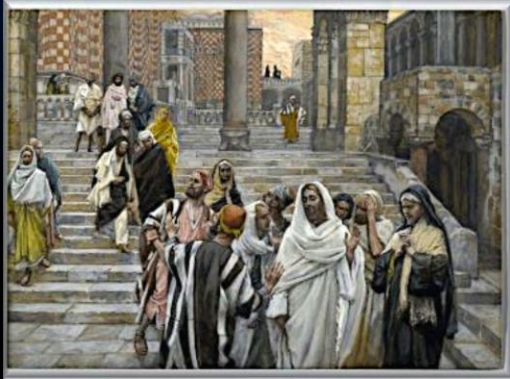
It is desolation – utter destruction  
(part of God's warning when time ends).

At the end, nothing is left! Following His horrific judicial pronouncement, Jesus gave an extremely important prophecy about that end-time period.

The “preface” to all this were His last words:

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”* (Matt. 23:37-38)





This is now where Christ's special end-time story begins. The time is tense for all those who were witnesses to what happened, undoubtedly for the disciples also.

Christ was a victor, but he didn't vaunt the silencing of those Jewish leaders. It was a mission supremely executed. Right and wrong were profoundly delineated.

As they left the precincts of the temple, the disciples awkwardly pointed out to Jesus the wonders of that temple structure. (Matt. 24:1)

Jesus, as if not listening, began to describe the extent of that desolation! Remember – this is the outcome of apostasy and one of the key elements of all apocalyptic prophecy!

*“And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”* (Matt. 24:2) They were silenced.

They made their way to the Mount of Olives, where He began to outline the events and timing of the end.





There were only four disciples that evening who went with Jesus: Peter, James, John and Andrew. But isn't it interesting that it was Matthew, Mark and Luke who wrote about what Jesus said. The four disciples must have transmitted that event with excitement and intensity.

As they sat upon the Mount of Olives, they earnestly asked Jesus three questions:

*“Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”* (Matt. 24:3)

## THREE QUESTIONS:

1. “When” shall these things be?  
(a timing question)
2. “What” shall be the sign of thy coming?  
(an event-driven question)
3. “What” shall be the sign of the end of the world? (an event-driven question)

Jesus is about to answer each of these questions! You will be stunned to know that He focuses mostly on the “when” question!

Jesus didn't answer their questions immediately – He first gave warnings!

*“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.”*

(Matt. 24:4)

- He embellished this several times by talking about “false christs.” (vs 5 on)
- That not only referred to people who try to be like a Messiah or call themselves “Christ,” but it referred to anyone who has “truth” that is at variance with His Word, the Bible.

Later Paul would give a similar warning:

*“Let no man deceive you by any means:”*

(II Thess. 2:3 – KJV)

The Book of Revelation tells us in over fifty places that at the end Satan would mimic many things that God is trying to teach or do! *And it's always* attached to some falsehood!

Many “experiences” could become deceptive challenges, unless we know Bible truths correctly, including the prophecies!

“Christ had foretold that deceivers would arise.... He had warned the disciples that the church would be in more danger from this evil than from the persecution of her enemies. Again and again Paul warned the believers against these false teachers. This peril, above all others, they must guard against; for by receiving false teachers, they would open the door to errors by which the enemy would dim the spiritual perceptions and shake the confidence of those” who had faith in the gospel. (AA 473.3-474.0)

Jesus gave another warning: “Be careful how you ‘interpret’ the meaning of ‘**wars.**’”

- *“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is **not yet.**” (Matt. 24:6)*
- It is so tempting to think that the end is near from the horrific conflicts we see around us. But Jesus said “be careful.”
- By themselves wars are not a sign.



## Jesus' cautions weren't finished yet!

Over and over He advised us to “Watch.” That is an imperative! **If we are to watch, there must be something we can see, observe, something so clear that this command can be followed!**

- We're about to uncover exactly what He meant. But first, it is important to note that this is not the only place that this Divine request comes to us!
- Revelation 3:3 – *“If you don't watch, I will come as a thief”* (meaning: if you watch you will not be surprised). There's a similar reference in Revelation 16:15.

- Paul has amazing insight regarding all this:

*“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.”*

(continued)

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*“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”* (1 Thess. 5:2-6)

- Paul’s qualifier: If you “know,” He will not come as a thief!

There are things we can know. They are found right here in Matthew and in the book of Daniel. We can know the details so well, His coming won’t be as a thief!

There are other warnings, but Jesus is now ready to answer one of their questions:

1. The disciples had asked: “**What will be the sign of the end of the world?**” Answer:  
*“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”* (Matt. 24:14)

**Warning!**

**What does Jesus really mean?**

When the gospel goes to all the world, we know that that occurs at the time of the **Loud Cry**.  
**Everyone will then make an eternal decision!**



Then the whole world will be divided into two camps: 1. Wheat / Tares 2. Sheep / Goats  
3. Righteous / Sinful 4. Purified / Wicked  
5. Right hand / Left hand

What does the Bible say as to how we will know when this occurs?

**IT DOESN'T !**

That is going to be during the final “cry” of the “two witnesses” noted in Revelation 11. What does it say about those witnesses? They are filled with the Holy Spirit!

There will be no use for databases then – monthly evangelism reports, progress in baptisms, what country is yet in spiritual darkness!

God will lead and drive us forward. We will not know when this work will be finished. We will be driven by sharing the convicting truths that must come to every heart. **THUS:**



The gospel to all the world will not be an anticipatory sign that we can preach to others as an end-time warning to “get ready!”

This is when everyone responds to the Spirit’s convicting truths. That is the key issue!

The whole world will hear earth’s most dramatic and urgent presentation of the gospel, tied to end-time prophecies.

Ellen G. White noted: Those final movements will be rapid! (9T11)

# Have you ever analyzed in depth the “First Angel’s Message of Revelation 14?”

(God’s end-time messengers)

- That “Angel” cries with a “*loud voice,*” “*the hour of His judgment has come*” !!!
- What “*hour*” has arrived that is suddenly giving stunning urgency to our message? It is related to Revelation 4!
- We must know the prophecies so that final message is not only convicting, but people sense that a decision for Jesus Christ is an urgent matter. “**Don’t delay!**”

This is the time that a wonderful Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled that Joel gave and Peter quoted in Acts 2:19-20:



*“And it shall come to pass afterward [when God’s people will be specially favored], that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”* (Joel 2:28)

Did you notice that the “pouring out of the Holy Spirit” is on all flesh – all mankind! For those not receiving visions/dreams, etc., it is so strong that they “are brought to a decision!”

This is the time when the whole earth is drawn into those two camps. The Spirit brings convicting decisions.

- How can this happen?
- The entire world has received a knowledge of truth so completely that they now make a decision for or against God.

Again – the gospel to all the world cannot be an anticipatory warning sign.

We won't know when the last “convicting truth” comes to all the hearts of mankind during the final period of the Latter Rain.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the Ten Commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said. “It is done.” (*Story of Redemption*, 402)

Question: Will we know before the angel reports to Jesus that the work is done?  
Certainly not! That means it is not a sign with which we can warn others.



Query number two of the disciples:

What would be the “*sign*” of your coming?

Let’s analyze several texts:



At the transfiguration: “A bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said ...”

(Matt. 17:5; cf. Mark 9:7, Luke 9:34)

God’s presence is associated with a cloud in numerous references and Biblical texts.

There “*came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.*” (Luke 9:35)  
Same concept.

“*While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*” (Acts 1:9)

The cloud received and then “contained” His presence; the cloud is a “vehicle” to move His presence!

When we ascend up into heaven, we will be caught up into a cloud (Rev. 11:12), where Jesus is waiting to personally meet us!!!

Could the “cloud” be a sign?

*“And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.” (Luke 12:54)*

Interesting! Do you think a cloud “rising from the east” might ever be a sign?

*“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven ... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”* (Matt. 24:27, 30)

The clouds are the sign of the arrival of Jesus.

Jesus announced to the apostate leaders in Jerusalem and to that repugnant high priest, Caiaphas, the warning sign:

*“But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you [that is a Divine decree], Hereafter shall ye see [something obvious that can be seen] the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power [apparently on a throne – He will present as a king!], and coming in the clouds of heaven.”*

(Matt. 26:63-64)

The “clouds” are the sign!

*“Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.”* (Rev. 1:7)

In describing what this all might be like: “Soon our eyes were drawn to the East, for a small black cloud had appeared about half as large as a man’s hand, which we all knew was the Sign of the Son of Man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, lighter, and brighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud.”  
(Broadside 1, 4-6-1846)



But – there is, again, a problem question that we must address!

If the “*gospel to all the world*” is not a sign we can preach about in anticipation and the cloud is not a sign of anticipation (i.e., **He will already be here!**):

There is only one question left that Jesus has not yet answered. “When shall these *things be?*”

The only thing we have yet to hear Jesus on is a timing prophecy. Not the “*day and hour*” issue!!! But something else very interesting.

One area that is really a seminar study is what Jesus said in Matthew 24:15:

If you want to know the rest of the story, go to Daniel where it talks about the *“abomination that leads to desolation.”*

But here in Matthew 24 He has something very important yet to share!

*“When will these things be?”*

the disciples asked.

Jesus now responds:

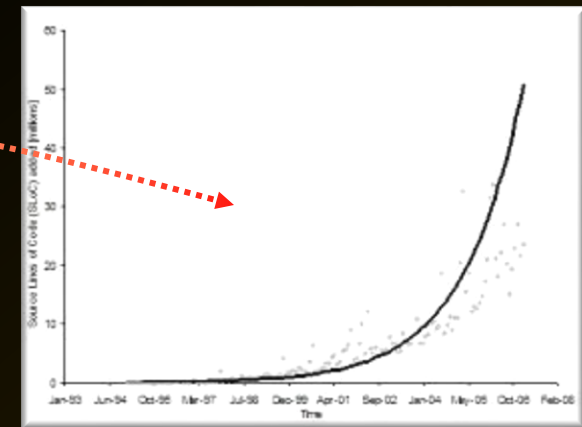
*“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: [that represents war – but now attached to other events!] and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”* (Matt. 24:7-8)

Wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes and, in Luke, devastating events in the sky!

How do we analyze this?

How do we know what this really means?

- The “beginning of sorrows” actually means the onset of travail or “birth pangs” (*archê odinôn*).
- How do birth pangs come? They get more frequent and more severe.
- That is actually a mathematical curve, called an exponential curve.
- This is an example of such a curve:
- Jesus said that when those things begin to come in this type of curve, it means that the end is near!

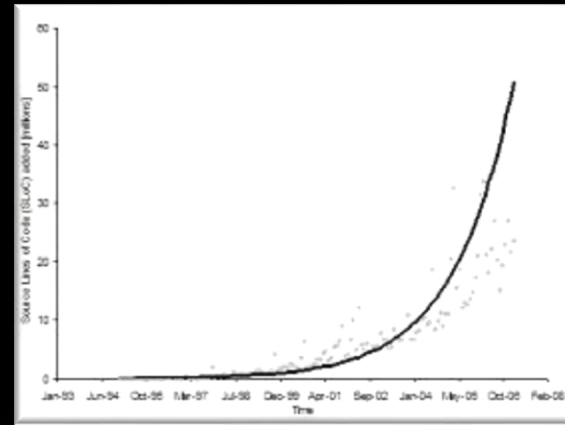


In an exponential curve, there is a point in time that is reached where it can be mathematically determined that the trend will keep going. The baby will come, the economy will collapse, oil prices will continue to rise, etc.

Are calamities following this pattern now?

Ellen G. White said this would be a sign that the end is near: “These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.”

(*Counsels on Health*, 461; cf. RH, November 17, 1910)



She is also saying, it will come  
as an exponential curve!

What was that list of things we were to watch for in a collective exponential curve?

1. Wars
2. Famines
3. Pestilences
4. Earthquakes
5. Celestial disasters

Is this type of trend being followed anywhere?

**It is** – in the countries of Belgium and Germany!

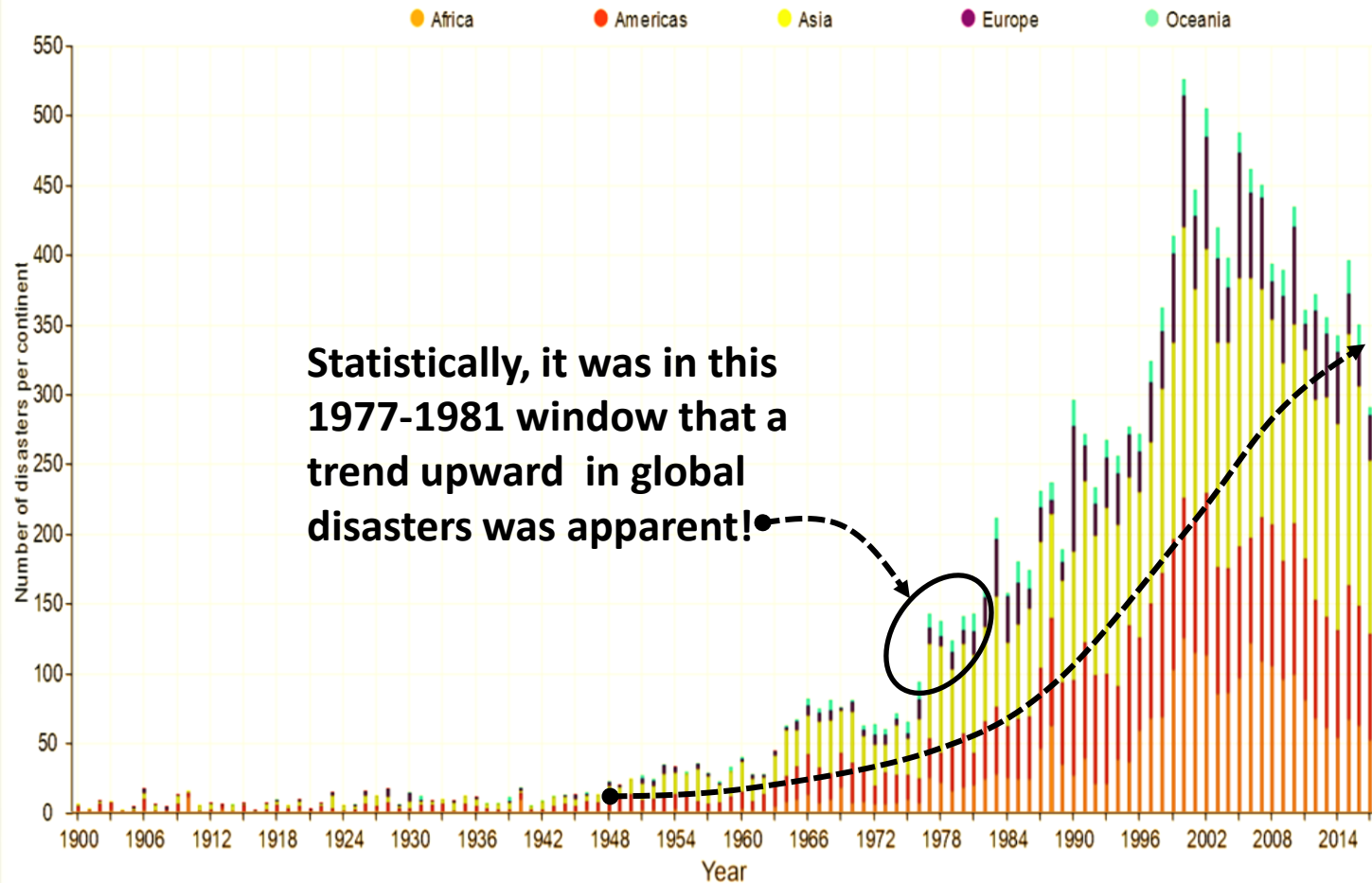
The Center for Research on the  
Epidemiology of Disasters – CRED  
At the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium



They have networked with many international agencies to create a very precise trend database of natural disasters.

This is what they have found:





Source: EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database - Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) - CRED, D. Guha-Sapir - [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be), Brussels, Belgium

It was in 1978<sub>±</sub> that the trend began fulfilling Christ's prophecy regarding these disasters.

We have verified this data with the Catholic University of Louvain and Munich Re Reinsurance Company in Germany.

There is **now** an ongoing upward trend, with these issues becoming more frequent and more severe.

Exactly what Jesus told us to “*watch for*”!

Please note carefully these next few thoughts!

Jesus said that when one sees all these things coming together, as when a fig tree puts forth all its leaves, His coming is “*even at the doors.*”

This is further clarified in Luke’s record:

*“And when these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads [don’t just raise your eyebrows or your eyes! – lift up your heads!]; for your redemption draweth nigh.”* (Luke 21:28)

This may be one of the most pointed warnings from Jesus!

“When things begin to collectively begin, I’m about ready to come.”

But – that’s not all. There’s more!

Did you notice that Jesus included two very important things in this warning?

- He used the words “*when*” and “*begin*.” So there is a clock.
- He used the word “*things*.” So there are events.

*“And when these things begin to  
come to pass ...”* (Luke 21:28)

That is absolutely amazing.  
Jesus has given us so much information!

## Jesus had another warning!

Once these things begin to occur, all will happen in one generation! Many may want to resist this thought, but it's in the Bible:

*“Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.”*

(Matt. 24:34; cf. Mark 13:30)

*“Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.”*

(Luke 21:32)

You might be thinking, that referred to the day when Jesus was talking with the disciples! This, however, is a dual prophecy!

This is how scholars understand these verses:

“No matter what ‘generation’ it refers to, when these things begin to come to pass collectively, some end is in sight!”

What “end” was in sight for the Jewish people? The destruction of that amazing temple. For us, what end is in sight? Christ’s coming.

How long is a generation? There are different ways to view this. The most common:

*“And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years ... until your carcasses be wasted.”*  
(Num. 14:33)

*“And the LORD’S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.”* (Num. 32:13)

Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed in 70 A.D. – 40 years after Jesus gave this prophecy!



“During the **entire forty years** in the wilderness, the people were reminded every week of the sacred obligation of the Sabbath by the miracle of the manna. Yet, even this did not lead them to obedience.... there was great laxness in the observance of the fourth commandment.... And this is enumerated among the reasons for the exclusion of **the first generation from the Promised Land.**” (PP 409)

Jeremiah preached for one generation, warning that Judah would fall to Babylon. Exactly 40 years later Nebuchadnezzar attacked, and the first captives were taken.

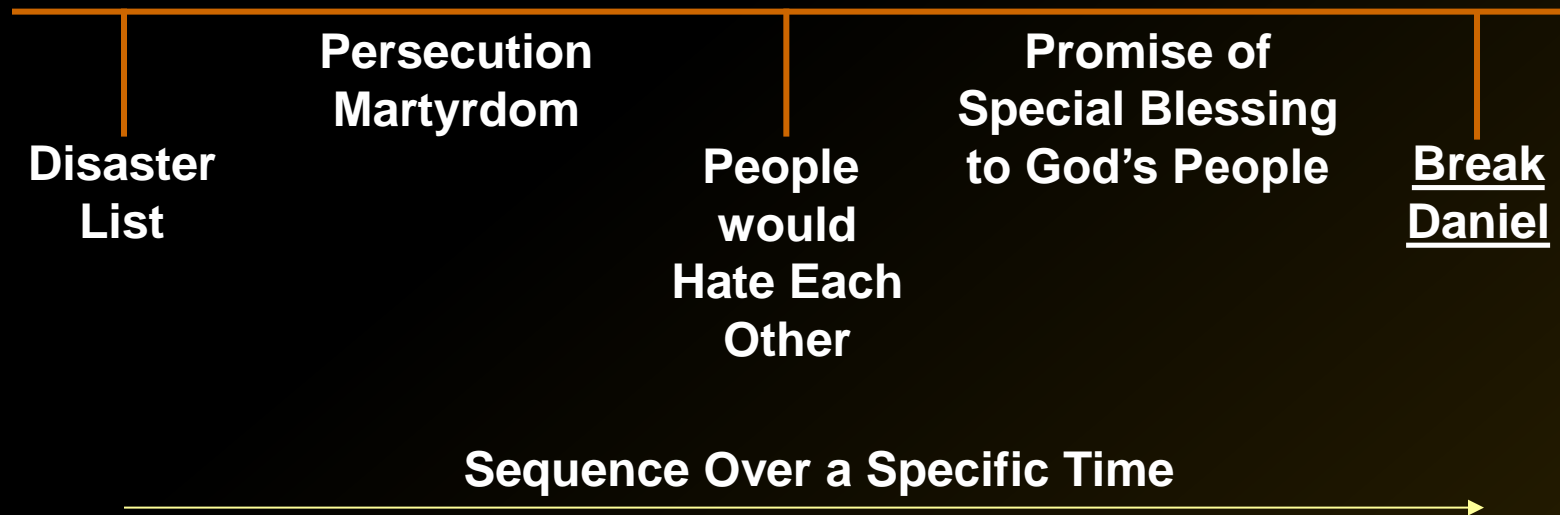
If these conclusions are correct, and they are, then one generation from ~1977–1981 our redemption will be *“even at the doors”!*

Date setting? Absolutely not! This does not give the day or the hour of His coming – nor even the year! Jesus made it clear, however, that we are to know when it is at the doors!

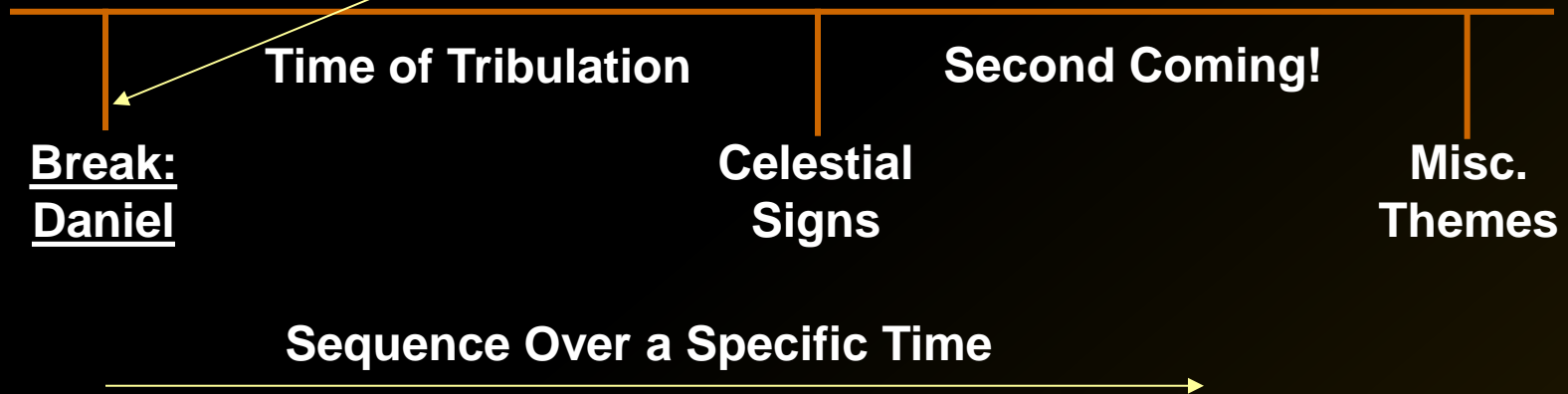
Prejudice must not rule our prophetic study. Only the “exact day and hour” are not known according to Ellen G. White! (RH 11-22-1906)

There's more – so much more  
that Jesus is telling us in Matthew 24!

This is the format He uses in Matthew:



# Matthew's Sequence Continues:



What does Jesus say  
in that Daniel “break?”

*“When [a timing word] ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation [a singular event – a sign we can perceive], spoken of by Daniel the prophet [now we know where to look], stand in the holy place [something horrible comes into the church], (whoso readeth, let him understand).”* (Matt. 24:15) Then He warns: “Flee!” (vs 16)

That is stunning! God is very precise, very accurate, very directional and most complete.

It is to Daniel we are to go – and – to a very specific place, for the rest of the story!  
And – Revelation embellishes Daniel.

We are to go to Daniel where he  
talks about the

*“abomination of desolation”*

tied to the

*“transgression of desolation”*

They are found in Daniel 8–12.

Did Ellen G. White have sensitivity regarding this?  
“To the period just prior to the appearing of the Son of man, the prophecies of Scripture point, and here their warnings and threatenings pre-eminently apply. [Now notice what is within that period!] The prophetic periods of Daniel, extending to the very eve of the great consummation, throw a flood of light upon events then to transpire [future]. The book of Revelation is also replete with warning and instruction for the last generation.”

(continued)

(concluded)

“The beloved John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, portrays the fearful and thrilling scenes connected with the close of earth’s history, and presents the duties and dangers of God’s people. None need remain in ignorance, none need be unprepared for the coming of the day of God.” (RH 9-25-1883)



You might be thinking that this is all too much information! I only need to have faith in Jesus. That position assumes that part of the Bible is not important.

Ellen White was so burdened regarding this that she said:

“Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world.”

(5T 716)

That's a timing concern.

Know what time it is!

“He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and [w]e ought not to guess at anything.” (GC 598)

The record of Jesus' discourse on the Mount of Olives is only introductory end-time prophecy!

- Daniel is loaded with prophecies apropos to us!
- The Book of Revelation is filled with stunning messages aimed for right now!

Have we set any dates? No. Can we say that His coming is even at the doors? Yes.



*“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”*

*(Rom. 13:11-12)*

# **The End**

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