

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**SERMON – The Promise of His Coming Again Part 4**  
**What Will Be the Sign of His Coming?**  
**Scripture: Matt 24:3-14**  
**03/26/2006**

**Matt 24:3-8 3 The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age**

**3** Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" **4** And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. **5** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the beginning of sorrows.  
*(Mark 13:3-13; Luke 21:17-19)*

**Another key difference between the Rapture and His second coming**

<b>RAPTURE</b>	<b>SECOND COMING</b>
<p>Not proceeded by detailed signs or warnings</p> <p>The rapture will occur swiftly and without warning. Those that are not saved at that time will not have a chance to become saved and avoid the tribulation. No last-minute conversions.</p> <p><i>1 Cor 15:51-53 but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. NKJV</i></p>	<p>Proceeded by specific detailed signs.</p> <p>Matt 4:4 –14</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many coming in the name of the Lord</li> <li>2. Many will be deceived</li> <li>3. Wars and rumors of wars.</li> <li>4. Nations against nations</li> <li>5. Kingdoms against Kingdoms</li> <li>6. Famines</li> <li>7. Pestilences</li> <li>8. Earthquakes in various places.</li> </ol>

These things are only the prelude to His coming. The beginning of sorrow. I believe that the rapture will take place during the times of these events. More specifically between verse 8 and verse nine, or at any time during this period.

The events in verses 4 – 8 are to let us know that the end or rather the tribulation is near, but not to occur just yet. The church has to be taken out of the world before the tribulation.  
*Matt 24:6-7 and Mark 13:6 ... for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. NKJV*

Gospel Luke is also very clear on this timing.  
*Luke 21:9 9 But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." NKJV*

The passage of scripture *Matt 24 4 – 14* is a warning. Just as God allowed Noah to warn the people for through preaching for 120 years, His holy word is crying out a warning to the world today.

The warning is for Christians and Non- Christians alike.

There are only two camps the camp of the receivers of Jesus Christ and the camp of the non-receivers of Jesus Christ. Being a believer is not enough for the devil is a believer.

There are receivers in the camp of the non-receivers and non-receivers in the camp of the receivers. When Jesus comes, He will separate. Be sure of what side He will separate you.

For the non-Christian it is there to warn them that the end is soon coming and they better get right with God in a hurry.

When recently the news programs and the authorities warned that hurricane Katrina was approaching there was a significant delay in the response. The local government was warned by the weather bureau but they delayed in giving evacuation orders. As the storm got closer, they began to act but for many it was too late. The signs were all around them constantly warning the area but they delayed in un-belief, defiance, out of ignorance or just stubbornness.

So, it is today for the unbeliever. God is warning, through His word, in pointing out events that signify the end is approaching. I am not trying to be a dooms day prophet but I am trying to preach the word of God.

How many of you believe that Noah was called a doom's day prophet? After 120 years I am sure that there were scoffers in the days of Noah.

Let's look at these signs mentioned in our text.

*Matt 4:4 –14*

**1. Many coming in the name of the Lord** – I did a quick research on people who claimed to be Jesus Christ. I stopped counting at 25. the most interesting point I noticed is that of that 25, I could find were 19 were alive in the past 50 years. Occasionally we hear of someone claiming to be Christ and that does not include those that present themselves as Christ-like figures. That number is too large for me to count.

**2. Many will be deceived** – This goes hand in hand with the number of those who claimed to be Christ. They all had followers ranging from a few to those numbering in the thousands or more.

- Jim Jones – at least 914 of them died in Jonestown in 1978
- Marshall Applewhite – Heaven's Gate – 39 committed suicide to go to heaven in 1997
- Chandra Mohan, also called Osho and Acharya Rajneesh – Attracted 200,000 devotees, many from Europe and the United States.
- Sun Myung Moon –Multiple thousands

**3. Wars and rumors of wars.** - In wars involving Israel alone there has been at least 10 since 1948 and 12 more in the middle east. More in Europe and Africa over 50.

**4. Nations against nations**

**5. Kingdoms against Kingdoms**

The difference between a nation and a kingdom.

**Nation - b:** a community of people composed of one or more nationalities and possessing a more or less **defined territory and government.** USA, China, Russia

**Kingdom - 2:** a politically organized community or major territorial unit having a **monarchical form** of government headed by a king, queen. Many countries in the Middle East are often called kingdoms. (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and others.)

**6. Famines** – We are reminded of famines in Africa all the time.

**7. Pestilences** – Most recent, Mad Cow diseases and the Bird Flu. Could **Coronavirus** (COVID-19) be one?

**8. Earthquakes** in various places. – 1990 – 1996 = 114,530 earthquakes – 77,079 Deaths

2000 – 2005 = 935,597 earthquakes – 423,425 Deaths

(Nearly 550% increase)

IN 2005 there were earthquakes on 10 different continents

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0197840.html>

Some other events to take notice of that point to the end times.

- 1. Iran's nuclear program**
- 2. Global weather changes**
- 3. China's growing economic and military might**
- 4. Infectious diseases (Bird Flu) Coronavirus (COVID-19)**
- 5. The supply of oil -**
- 6. Global terrorism**
- 7. Political Unrest in Israel**
- 8. Nation ID initiatives (Nationalism)**
- 9. Apostasy in the Church**

I also mentioned that this information is to warn Christian that Jesus is coming for us at the rapture soon. When He comes, I want Him to find me working for Him. The opportunity to serve Him is running out for some people.

We don't have time to focus on what others are doing we must be focusing on what Christ expects us to do. None of us are perfect or without fault. But as we continue to labor faithfully, He will supply us with what we need.

Don't you want to hear him say well done? Don't you want to look upon His face with joy and not shame? Don't you want to receive from Jesus all the crowns and rewards He has for you?

It is something to look forward to. I want to look into His face, not with a prideful look but with a sincere desire to be with Him. I want to bow at His feet and give Him glory and praise because I know I could not make it by myself.

### **Verse 9 mentions**

*9 "Then they will deliver you **up to tribulation** and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

This verse begins with "then" Then refers often to something preceding after something else has started. The phrase "up to tribulation" signifies a time of trouble. The time of Jacob's trouble

*Jer 30:7* 7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it. NKJV

It would be interesting to study *Jer. chapter 30* for and insight into God's feelings toward Israel.

In this world we will have tribulation but we will not be in the tribulation of the world.

*John 16:33* 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

KJV

Jesus is faithful.

*Heb 13:5* For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." NKJV

If Jesus were to leave us here to go through the tribulation then He in fact would have forsaken us. We have already established that Jesus is truth and there is do deceit in Him so we are to have confidence that He will do what He said he would do in:

*John 14:27-28* 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you. NKJV

The Old Testament writer spoke of the Lords faithfulness

*Ps 37:28* 28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, NKJV

Are you glad to know that we have a savior we can depend on?

I know I have a long way to go to be like the Lord. I don't know how long the journey will be but I know that it is not as long as it was. One day the Lord spoke to my heart and told me that I better get about the Father's business. I was a long time Christian doing what I though was good in the name of Christ. And it was, but God made it clear that my service did not end there.

Too many Christians are doing the bare minimum, just enough to get by or enough to ease their conscious. This attitude is often the result of knowing God and wanting to be in His good favor but also wanting to satisfy our own desires.

Along the way we all will stumble or fall but we should get right back up brush ourselves off and start moving toward Him again. I want you to do the same.

You will find that you will falter less and less if we keep Christ in our sights. Let us keep looking for His return with anticipation and joy.

**Message Scriptures:** **Matt 24:3-8, Mark 13:3-13; Luke 21:17-19, 1 Cor 15:51-53, Matt 4:4 –14, Matt 24:6-7, Mark 13:6, Matt 24 4 – 14, Matt 4:4 –14, Jer 30:7, John 16:33, Heb 13:5, John 14:27-28, Ps 37:28**

End