

# Jesus Warned This Would Happen in the Last Days

By System Import | Sermon | March 14, 2026

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There is a palpable shift in the atmosphere of our world today. You can feel it when you turn on the news, when you scroll through social media, or even when you engage in simple conversations at the grocery store. It is a sense of acceleration, a feeling that the tectonic plates of history are shifting beneath our feet. We are witnessing a convergence of events—political, environmental, social, and spiritual—that seems unprecedented in human history. For the person without God, this creates a deep, gnawing anxiety, a fear of the unknown. But for the student of Scripture, this is not a cause for panic; it is a cause for preparation. It is the realization that the calendar of heaven is turning a page. And before we dive in, if this message is already stirring something in you, hit the subscribe button and stay connected to God's Word daily, because we are living in the very times Jesus spoke about with such urgency.

Two thousand years ago, sitting on the Mount of Olives, looking over the city of Jerusalem, Jesus gave His disciples a roadmap for the end of the age. He didn't give this to scare them; He gave it to prepare them. He knew that the generations leading up to His return would face pressures and deceptions unlike any other. He wanted His people to be the only ones in the room who weren't confused. He wanted us to be the ones who could look at the chaos and say, "I know what this is. My King told me this would happen." The Olivet Discourse, recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, is not just ancient history; it is tomorrow's newspaper. It is the ultimate survival guide for the believer in the Last Days.

Many Christians today are asleep. They are lulled into complacency by the comforts of modern life, or they are paralyzed by the fear of the headlines. But Jesus called us to be "watchmen." He called us to be awake, alert, and sober-minded. The warnings He gave were specific, they were detailed, and they are unfolding right before our eyes. But here is the good news: mixed in with the warnings of trouble are the promises of triumph. The darker the night gets, the brighter the Morning Star shines. We are not just waiting for the end of the world; we are waiting for the beginning of the Kingdom. Today, we are going to walk through the seven specific warnings Jesus gave about the Last Days. We are going to decode the signs of the times, not to predict a date, but to prepare our hearts. We are going to discover how to stand firm when everything else is shaking.

### Number 1: The Age of Deception - The Rise of Counterfeit Truth

The very first thing Jesus said when His disciples asked Him about the sign of His coming was a warning. He didn't start with wars, or earthquakes, or famines. He started with the mind. In Matthew 24:4, Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you." This is the primary marker of the Last Days: a global, pervasive, and sophisticated spirit of deception. Jesus warned that "many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many." But this

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deception goes far deeper than just people claiming to be Jesus. It is an assault on the very concept of Truth itself.

We are living in the age of "my truth" versus "The Truth." We are seeing a spiritual deception that is so subtle, it can mislead even the elect if that were possible. It is the rise of a "form of godliness" that denies its power 2 Timothy 3:5. It is the emergence of "feel-good" gospels that promise salvation without repentance, heaven without holiness, and a crown without a cross. Jesus warned that the spiritual landscape of the end times would be a minefield of false teachings. We see this today in the deconstruction of the faith, where biblical absolutes are being traded for cultural relevance. We see it in the rise of ideologies that call evil good and good evil.

The deception of the Last Days is not always obvious. The enemy doesn't usually show up with horns and a pitchfork; he shows up as an "angel of light" 2 Corinthians 11:14. He uses religious language. He uses humanitarian causes. He uses the guise of "love" and "tolerance" to dismantle the authority of God's Word. Jesus warned us because He knew that if the enemy could get us to doubt the Truth, he could lead us anywhere. The only antidote to this deception is a radical commitment to the Bible. We cannot rely on our feelings, our culture, or even popular Christian influencers. We must be like the Bereans, searching the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so. The first step in surviving the Last Days is to love the Truth more than you love being accepted.

## Number 2: The Love of Many Will Grow Cold - The Death of Empathy

Jesus gave a chilling prophecy about the spiritual climate of the human heart in the Last Days. In Matthew 24:12, He said, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold." This is perhaps the most heartbreaking sign we see today. The word for "love" here is agape—the deep, godly, sacrificial love. Jesus isn't just talking about romantic love; He is talking about the glue that holds society, families, and the church together. He says that as lawlessness increases, love decreases.

We are witnessing a pandemic of offense. We live in a "cancel culture" where forgiveness is obsolete and outrage is a virtue. People are quick to anger, slow to listen, and eager to destroy one another over a difference of opinion. The natural affection in families is breaking down. The unity in the church is fracturing over politics and preferences. This "cold love" is a spiritual hypothermia. It happens gradually. It starts with a little bitterness, a little unforgiveness, a little judgment, until the heart is frozen solid.

The connection Jesus makes is vital: "Because of the increase of wickedness" or lawlessness. When we throw out God's laws, we don't get freedom; we get cruelty. Without the restraint of the Holy Spirit, the human heart naturally turns inward and becomes selfish. The "love of self" 2

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Timothy 3:2 replaces the love of God and neighbor. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. The challenge for the believer in the Last Days is to keep a warm heart in a cold world. It is to refuse to let the cynicism of the age extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit within you. We are called to be the ones who still forgive, who still serve, and who still love our enemies, even when it makes no sense to the world around us.

## Number 3: Birth Pains - The Convergence of Chaos

Jesus used a very specific metaphor to describe the physical disturbances of the Last Days: "birth pains." In Matthew 24:6-8, He speaks of "wars and rumors of wars... Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." Why did Jesus choose the image of labor? Because every mother knows two things about labor pains: they increase in frequency and they increase in intensity the closer the baby gets to arriving.

We have always had wars. We have always had earthquakes. Skeptics will say, "This has always happened." But the sign is not just the existence of these things; it is the convergence and the acceleration of them. We are seeing a simultaneous uptick in geopolitical instability, environmental groaning, and social unrest. It feels like the contractions are getting closer together. There is no "breathing room" between crises anymore. One disaster happens, and before we can recover, another one hits.

But the metaphor of birth pains contains a hidden hope. Labor pains are not the pains of death; they are the pains of life. They are painful, yes, but they are productive. They mean that something new is about to be born. The earth is groaning Romans 8:22 because it is ready to be delivered from the curse. The chaos we see is not the world falling apart; it is the pieces falling into place for the return of the King. Jesus warned us so that we would not be terrified. When a woman goes into labor, she doesn't panic and say, "Something is wrong!"; she prepares, because she knows the baby is coming. In the same way, when we see the world shaking, we don't panic. We look up, because our redemption is drawing near.

## Number 4: The Rise of Persecution - The Cost of the Cross

In the West, we have been accustomed to a version of Christianity that is comfortable, respected, and safe. But Jesus warned that in the Last Days, the atmosphere would shift. In Matthew 24:9, He says, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me." For millions of our brothers and sisters around the world, this has always been true. But we are seeing a shift even in historically "Christian" nations. The cultural tide is turning against the biblical worldview.

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The Bible warns that a time is coming when holding to the truth of God's Word will be labeled as "hate speech." Standing for biblical morality will be seen as an act of intolerance. Jesus said we would be "hated by all nations." This is a global animosity toward the name of Jesus and those who truly follow Him. It separates the true disciples from the cultural Christians. When it costs you nothing to be a Christian, everyone is a Christian. When it costs you your reputation, your job, or your freedom, only the true remnant remains.

Jesus warned us of this not to make us fearful, but to make us brave. He wanted us to count the cost. He wanted us to know that our citizenship is in heaven, not here. Persecution, historically, has always purified the church. It burns away the chaff and leaves the gold. If this message inspires you, don't forget to subscribe for more Bible insights every week. We must prepare our hearts now to stand firm. We must decide now that our allegiance to Jesus is non-negotiable, no matter what the culture says. The darkness hates the light, but the light shines brightest in the dark.

## Number 5: The Fig Tree Generation - The Sign of Israel

One of the most specific prophetic keys Jesus gave us is the Parable of the Fig Tree. In Matthew 24:32-34, He says, "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door." Throughout the Bible, the fig tree is often a symbol for the nation of Israel Hosea 9:10, Jeremiah 24.

For nearly 2,000 years, the nation of Israel ceased to exist. The people were scattered to the four winds, the land was desolate, and the "fig tree" was dead. But in 1948, a miracle happened that has no parallel in human history. A nation was reborn in a day Isaiah 66:8. The fig tree began to bud. The Jewish people returned to their land. Jerusalem is once again the center of world attention.

Jesus said that the generation that sees the fig tree blossom "will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." We are the generation that walks in the shadow of this prophecy. The restoration of Israel is God's "super-sign." It is the clock by which we set our prophetic watches. It signifies that we are in the final lap. The fact that Israel is back in the land, surrounded by enemies, just as the prophets Zechariah and Ezekiel predicted, is proof that the Bible is true and that the time is short. We are not waiting for the fig tree to bloom; we are watching it grow.

## Number 6: The Days of Noah - Business as Usual

There is a strange paradox in the Last Days. On one hand, there is chaos and birth pains. On the

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other hand, there is a terrifying normalcy. Jesus said in Matthew 24:37-39, "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away."

The warning here is against distraction. The people in Noah's day weren't necessarily doing "evil" things in this specific list—eating, drinking, and marrying are normal activities. Their sin was that they were so consumed by the affairs of this life that they were oblivious to the judgment coming. They were materialists. They lived as if this world was all there was. They ignored the warnings. They ignored the man building a giant boat in the middle of dry land.

This is a picture of our world today. People are obsessed with entertainment, with their careers, with their next vacation, with acquiring more "stuff." They are spiritually asleep, lulled into a coma by the rhythm of "business as usual." They mock the idea of judgment. They scoff at the return of Christ. Jesus warns us not to get caught in this trap. He warns us not to let the "anxieties of life" and the "dissipation" of the world weigh down our hearts Luke 21:34. We are called to live in the world, but not be of it. We must live with one eye on our daily duties and one eye on the eastern sky.

## Number 7: The Gospel of the Kingdom - The Final Mission

Finally, amidst all the warnings of trouble, deception, and persecution, Jesus gives one glorious sign that marks the very end. Matthew 24:14 declares: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." This is the only sign that is conditional on us. The wars will happen. The earthquakes will happen. The deception will happen. But the preaching of the Gospel is the assignment of the Church.

We are living in the era of the greatest evangelistic acceleration in history. Through the internet, satellite TV, and Bible translation technology, the Gospel is reaching corners of the earth that have been in darkness for thousands of years. The "nations" ethnos - people groups are hearing the name of Jesus. God is holding back the end until the full number of Gentiles has come in Romans 11:25.

This means that our purpose in these Last Days is not just to survive; it is to maximize the harvest. We are the workers in the field at the 11th hour. The urgency of the times should drive us to share our faith like never before. Every person you meet is an eternal soul. Every neighbor, every coworker, every family member. The timeline is ticking down so that mercy can be extended. The delay is not because God is slow; it is because God is patient, "not wanting anyone to perish" 2 Peter 3:9. But the door of the Ark will not stay open forever. The end will come. And our job is to

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make sure as many people as possible are ready for it.

## Conclusion

The warnings of Jesus are not meant to drive us into a bunker; they are meant to drive us to our knees, and then out into the world. We are the generation that sees the fig tree budding. We are the generation witnessing the birth pains.

We have seen the Age of Deception and the need for Truth. We have felt the chill of Love Growing Cold and the need for compassion. We have watched the Birth Pains of global chaos and the rise of Persecution.

We have recognized the Fig Tree of Israel and the distraction of the Days of Noah. And we have received the mandate to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the ends of the earth.

Jesus said, "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" Luke 21:28. Do not look down in fear. Look up in hope. The King is coming. The story does not end in disaster; it ends in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule and reign. Make sure your lamp is full of oil. Make sure your heart is right. And keep watching.

Before you go, make sure to subscribe, like this video, and share it with someone who needs encouragement today. And join us next time as we uncover another powerful truth from God's Word.