

Signs of 'The Time'

Are we living in the last days? Could Jesus return at any moment? Short answer: Yes! But first-century Christians thought they were living in the 'last days,' too! So what makes today any different? Short answer: 2000 years! Better answer: There are prophetic hints that the end is near...

Prophecy warning! What we *don't* know...Prophecy clues: Signs of "The Time"

- The state of the world
- The state of the church
- The existence of the nation of Israel

Prophecy purpose: Be ready!

1 Thess 4.18 – Comfort

1 Thess 5.11 – Encourage

1 Thess. 5.4-5, 8 – Faith, Hope, and Love!

1 Jn. 2.28 – Abide

2 Tim. 4.1-2a – Tell others!



1. Bible prophecy is not a scary thing, nor is it difficult to understand. We don't know *everything*, but we know *enough!* Time to 'exercise your prophecy muscles'! Read over Ezekiel 36-37. What is Ezekiel prophesying about Israel's future? What parts of this prophecy seem to have begun to be fulfilled? What parts of this prophecy are not yet being fulfilled? When do you think they will be fulfilled?
2. Read Daniel's famous "seventy weeks" prophecy in Daniel 9.24-27. In Daniel's prophecy, the reference to "weeks" (literally "sevens") is to years (e.g., one "week" = seven years). In his book *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, Bible scholar Harold Hoehner showed that Daniel's "69 weeks" culminated on the *day* of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem! All that is left is that final 'week' of years, and v27 tells about that coming time. Read Matt. 24.15-22. After Jesus cites Daniel's prophecy, He talks about a terrible time it will usher in. What is this time period called?
3. A 'common denominator' in biblical prophecy is the existence of the nation of Israel. Promises of a Jewish kingdom echo throughout the OT. What did God promise Abram and his descendants (Gen. 15.18; Deut. 30.4-5; Josh. 1.4)? What did He promise David (2 Sam. 7.12-16; Ps. 89.3-4)? What is the promise in Isa. 9.6-7? What is the prophecy in Zechariah 12.10; 13.1; 14.4, 8, 16? What do prophecies like this, in which the nation of Israel is front and center, suggest about Israel's restoration as a nation today, after almost 2000 years?!
4. There are lots of "signs of 'the time'" that biblical prophecies of the last days are about to be realized. How does this make you feel? In addition to being excited, anticipating, and hopeful, what responses do you think God wants us to have? Read the Scripture passages listed on the study sheet under "Prophecy Purpose" on the flip side. Is God's purpose in revealing to us what is coming reflected in the way you live your life?