



SIGNS OF THE END OF TIMES

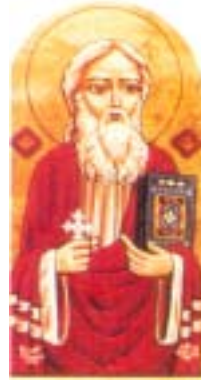
Written by: Dr. Samy George
St John Khome Church, Birmingham, AL

In the 2002 Youth Winter Conference in Destin, Florida (Water, Wind, and Faith) a Mighty Arrow asked, **"WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF THE END OF TIMES THAT HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED?"**

Before this question may be answered we ought to define what is **'THE DAY OF THE LORD'** (II Peter 2 and Joel 2:31), **OR THE DAY WHEN THE LORD CHRIST RETURNS** means. There are two schools of interpretations of the events of this day. All Orthodox, Catholic, and many Protestant Churches believe that this is the day the Lord Christ comes on the clouds, the dead will rise and along with the alive will meet the Lord for the final or general judgment. The world will end on this Second Coming of the Lord Christ, the new heaven and the new earth will be established and life will continue eternally: with the Lord Christ for the elect, and without Him in hell for the damned.

The second school that some Protestant Churches ascribes to is the so-called millennium. It is a teaching that started with the Judaizers at the time of the Apostles, and holds that when the Lord Christ returns He will reign on earth with His disciples for one thousand years. It is based on the literalistic interpretation of the Holy Book of Revelation 20. We reject the idea of an earthly millennium.

The subject of the End of Time spans the Holy Bible from the Holy Book of Genesis to the Holy Book of Revelation. The early books of the Old Testament (OT) occasionally prophesied of the end of times. Such prophecies increase in the Holy Books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The final Holy Books of the O.T., known as the Minor Prophets, all include something about the end of time. The Lord Christ main prophecy about the end time is found in the Holy Gospel of St Matthew 24, the Holy Gospel of St Mark 13, and in the Holy Gospel of St Luke 21 while being on the Mount of Olives the week just before His Crucifixion. On the Mount of Olives, the Lord Christ



St Matthew

gave a brief summary of the events that would lead to His return. But later He revealed to St John detailed prophecy documented in the last Holy Book of the Holy Bible, the Holy Book of Revelation.

Before the day of the second coming of the Lord Christ, there will be two distinct periods: a period with signs and conditions of an approaching end or of the 'beginning of sorrows', and a period of 'great tribulation' (St Matthew 24:21) immediately preceding the second coming of the Lord Christ, or the 'latter days' as it is called in the Holy Book of Daniel 10: 24.

SIGNS OF AN APPROACHING END:

1. Wars, revolutions, famine, and earthquakes. (St Matthew 24: 6-8 and Revelation 6) These signs have been occurring since the time of the Lord Christ.
2. The preaching of the Holy Gospel to all nations. (St Matthew 24: 14) This sign is already fulfilled with the explosion of communication.
3. A mass apostasy or falling away from the true Christian or Orthodox faith led by false teachers. (St Matthew 24: 4-5) This prophecy is also happening now, for many churches have been spreading the seeds of apostasy.
4. Mass persecution of the Christians. (St Matthew 24: 9-13 and Revelation 6: 9-11) Attacks from Muslims, Buddhists, and atheists against Christians occur presently in many nations; but in the next period of 'great tribulation' Christians will be hated by **all** nations.
5. The appearance of many false prophets and charismatic Christian leaders. (St Luke 21: 8-9) This prophecy has been occurring regularly.
6. Explosion in travel, communication, and knowledge. *"But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."* (Daniel 12:



St John

1-4) The expression ‘many shall run to and fro’ indicates the increase traveling. It is evident that travel, communication, and knowledge have been greatly accelerating recently.

7. Man will have the capability of annihilating human life from the face of the earth. From the verse, “*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened,*” (St Matthew 24: 22-22) we may conclude that this condition was only made possible with the development of nuclear weapons.
8. The return of Israel to the Lord Christ. (Romans 11: 25-26) This prophecy is not fulfilled yet and may be in the period ‘of great tribulation.’
9. Days parallel to Noah’s days: The Lord Jesus Christ compared the lawlessness of Noah’s days to the end times; and this resembles the description of our day. (St Matthew 24: 37-39)



Daniel

Therefore all the signs of the approaching end are fulfilled, except for the questionable timing of Item 8 above. However, these signs by themselves are not enough to determine the arrival of the period ‘of great tribulation,’ but may indicate that conditions are ready for it.

SIGNS OF THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DAY OF THE LORD:

The following signs did not occur for they belong in the second period. How long is this period? The Man clothed in linen told the Prophet Daniel “*that it should be for a year, two years, a half year.*” (Daniel 7: 25) This period equals 3 ½ years

1. The returning on earth of the Prophets Elijah and Enoch

in the last days, “*And I will give power to My two witnesses and they will prophecy one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*” (Revelation 11). This period is also 3 ½ years.

2. The control of Jerusalem by Gentiles or non-Israelites: “*Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*” (St Luke 21: 24) This is the abomination of desolation spoken of by the Prophet Daniel. The Holy Book of Revelation 11: 1-2 declares, “*And do not measure the court which is outside the Temple, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the Holy City for forty-two months.*” Forty-two months also equals 3 ½ years.
3. The appearance of the Beast and of the Antichrist or the man of sin (2 Thessalonians) and their occupation of the Temple area.

4. Intense persecution of the Christians by all nations. (St Matthew 24: 9-13) Also, “*And Satan will make war with the rest of the offspring of the Woman because some of them are sheltered from Satan’s persecution for a time, and times, and half a time.*” Biblical scholars interpret that this means three and half (3 ½) years, since in biblical language ‘a time’ is a year.

5. (Revelation 12: 14) God protects the 144,000 who have the seal of God on their forehead and the great innumerable multitude clothed with white robes.
6. The powers of heavens will be shaken. (St Matthew 24: 29, St Luke 21: 25-28 & the sixth seal in the Holy Book of Revelation 6: 12-17)
7. The seven plagues and destructive war that God strikes the earth with, each announced with a trumpet blast in the Holy Book of Revelation 8 to 9:10. A third of the trees and all green grass are burned up. A third of the sea turns to blood. A third of the rivers and springs are poisoned. Light from the sun, moon, and stars are obscured. Warfare broke for five months with deadly



- locust-like weapons, probably chemical or biological.
8. The ten kings of the New Roman Empire (probably the European Union) will give their power to the beast. (Revelation 17: 12-14 & the Fourth Empire of Daniel 7) This is probably the king of the North, against which the king of the South (probably Moslems) will push or attack. (Daniel 11: 40)
 9. A massive army of two hundred million (Gog and Magog) will cross the river Euphrates and kill a third of mankind. (Revelation 9: 13-16) They gather the kings of the world in Armageddon or Megiddo, 55 miles north of Jerusalem. Babylon the Great is

destroyed, and God destroys the great army. The beast and the false prophet are captured and burned in the lake of fire along with the devil.

10. The resurrection of the Prophets Elijah and Enoch after 3 ½ days of their execution.
11. Finally, the last trumpet announcing the return of the Lord Christ.

Hopefully, I satisfied some of the Mighty Arrow interest and will get the readers to search the Holy Books of the Holy Bible.

Who's Packing Your Parachute?

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a

fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory — he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute.