

## ARE THESE THE END TIMES?

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Whenever terrible things happen because of a weather event or some other disaster, people will begin to ask, "Does this mean we are in the end times?" The recent Covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine have cause some to wonder about this again. What is the truth about the "end times?"

Though we have been in the "last days" since the first century (Heb. 1:1-2), many religious people see the "end times" as the period just before the second coming of Jesus, involving any number of days, months, or years. It becomes a moving target that can be changed and redefined at will. Most every generation has had those who thought they were living in "the end times."

Let's review some scriptural facts that will help us know the truth about the "end times":

**UNKNOWNABLE.** There is simply no way to know for sure when the end will be. The Bible says the second coming of Jesus will come "as a thief in the night" (2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:2). You can try to predict the most likely time a thief will break into your house, but it would only be a guess. The only one that really knows is the thief, and the only one who truly knows when the end of time will be is God, and He has not revealed that to us (Matt. 25:13).

**LACK OF SIGNS.** Many point out that Jesus said that His coming would be preceded by "wars and rumors of wars...nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" (Matt. 24:6, 7). Don't we see these things today? Yes, but it is not unique to our time. History has witnessed many wars and disasters since the first century.

that generation that they would be able to identify the signs of "those days" leading up to the divine judgment on the city of Jerusalem (vv. 22, 29, 32-34), which was fulfilled in AD 70. Jesus then changed to speaking of a "day and hour no one knows" (v. 36) for which no signs are given (vv. 37-44). That "day" is the final day.

What should we say about modern earthquakes, hurricanes, pandemics, and the rampant immorality and lawlessness of today? Only that these things can and will happen, and we must remain faithful to the Lord. The end of time may come soon or the Lord may wait another thousand years. No one knows when our Savior will return.

**BEING READY.** Even though we don't know when a thief is coming, we still prepare. We need to be watching and preparing for the Lord's coming when He will reward the faithful. Are you ready for that great Day?