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Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



This is a time of uncertainty. Leaders and citizens alike are focused on events currently unfolding. The recent changes in our world, the lawlessness, the increase of natural disasters, all point to an upcoming, worldwide crisis. People realize something big is about to happen. We are on the very edge of eternity.

How does the Bible describe conditions just before the return of Jesus?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Luke 21:25-27

'And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of _ perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; (26) men's hearts failing them from ___ and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (27) Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Luke 21:25-27

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of **nations**, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; (26) men's hearts failing them from **fear** and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (27) Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



We are seeing these signs happen. It is only God's hand that restrains the full power of Satan from being unleashed on this earth, but little by little God's protection is being withdrawn from a world that has become like it was before the flood of Noah's day. How does the Bible describe that time?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Genesis 6:5,6,11 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was

great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only ___ continually. (6) And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (11)...The earth also was before God, and the earth was filled with

Genesis 6:5,6,11

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (11)...The earth also was **corrupt** before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



God's commandments, the rule of life He had given man, had been ignored and disregarded. Every possible sin was the result. Open, daring wickedness, perversion of justice, oppression, immorality, intemperance, cruelty, crime, and bloodshed was so widespread that God could no longer bear with it. The same sins exist today. Pleasure-loving, indulgent, ungrateful, money-hungry humans have forgotten God. Anarchy, rioting, and crime prevail. Soon, Jesus will return. Will His coming be a surprise to most people?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

1 Thessalonians 5:2,3 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (3) For when they __ and _____!" then _ upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman And they shall not escape.

Next verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

1 Thessalonians 5:2,3

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (3) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief. (5) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let us not _ do, but let us and be

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief. (5) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Those who don't see the signs of rapidly fulfilling prophecy will be found unprepared for Jesus' coming, just as when a thief breaks into a house in the night. Things are going to get very difficult in this world.

What assurance do we have of survival?



Daniel 12:1

...And there shall be a time of **trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time, and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.



Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* After the comments Jesus had made about the temple, they were fearful. He had said to the Jewish leaders, "Your house is left to you desolate"; and, about the temple, "not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."



The temple was the pride and joy of the Jewish nation. It was built of massive marble stones of purest white, and was a structure of dazzling splendor. Both Romans and Jews had contributed to the wealth, labor, and architectural skill used in its construction, which took forty years. Part of its walls had even withstood the siege of Babylon. It was hard to imagine those mighty walls being overthrown, and the magnificent temple becoming a heap of ruins.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



But the Jewish nation, steeped in apostasy, had rejected God's warnings and finally their Messiah—the Gift of heaven, the One to whom all their ceremonies pointed. In person He came to their temple; He taught and blessed and healed, but the people were blind with pride and unbelief. Looking ahead in time. Jesus saw the doom that was to result from their stubbornly rejecting all appeals. More than a million were to perish in the upcoming siege and slaughter, as their temple and entire city reaped the terrible harvest they had sown.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



the fate of the people He loved and wanted so desperately to save. Jerusalem was a symbol of the rebellious world, refusing to believe, rushing on to destruction and judgment. Jesus died to bring salvation to all, but He saw that few would accept it. The Jews rejected Christ; the modern Christian world would reject His

Jesus' heart, full of pity and love, broke over

heaven and earth. How did Jesus describe the signs of His coming and the end of the world?

law, the foundation of His government in

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Matthew 24:4,5,24 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one _____ you. (5) For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will _____ many." (24) for false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to , if possible,

Matthew 24:4,5; 24

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." (24) for false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even the elect

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



What Satan couldn't accomplish by destruction, he would attempt to do by counterfeit. Jesus foretold that before His coming, the world would be flooded with deception: false prophets, false apostles, false teachers, false doctrines, and even false christs. If possible, even God's chosen ones would be deceived. Does anyone know the exact time when Jesus will return?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Matthew 24:36

"But of that day and hour **no one** knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only..."

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Many have set dates and tried to predict the specific time of Christ's coming. Of course, all have been wrong. Jesus said no one knows the day or the hour. However, Jesus said when we see the signs He described, we would know that the kingdom of God was near. What signs did Jesus point out?



Matthew 24:6

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.



Wars have always plagued human history, but never on a global scale like we seen in the past century. The 20th century was the bloodiest of all earth's history, with more than 180 million deaths. World War 2 alone had more casualties than any other war in the history of the world.



It is said that at least 50 armed conflicts are taking place at any time today. Satan delights in inciting nations to war against each other, because masses of people are destroyed in the frenzy of hate and bloodshed—unprepared for eternity. And many are left to endure famine and homelessness.

What else will characterize the end times?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be _ in various places.

Matthew 24:7

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Every year, around 9 million people die of hunger. That's more than the death toll of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. World hunger has majorly increased, and the UN reports that the coronavirus pandemic could push millions more into hunger. Global food systems are vulnerable and inadequate. Lockdowns and other containment measures have made the situation much worse.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Animals are suffering as well. The global populations of vertebrates mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles—have declined by 60% since 1970, according to a report released in 2018. The worst-hit regions are Central and South America, which have suffered an 89% decrease in vertebrate populations. Overall, the biodiversity of our planet is experiencing a holocaust, and an estimated 1 million species are at risk of extinction.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The World Wildlife report further states that almost half of marine life found in the oceans in 1970 no longer existed in 2012.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Studies from Australia indicate that so many marine species are either declining or absent from their natural habitat that the oceans "are on the brink of total collapse".

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



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Plastic pollution threatens the health of our oceans. Between 4 and 12 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year—enough to cover every foot of coastline on the planet! A floating garbage island twice the size of Texas aimlessly spins in the Pacific Ocean.



Although we don't always have a tremendous appreciation for insects, 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered. This is a real problem when you consider their importance for plant pollination and how entire ecosystems depend on them for food.



The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 3 billion, or 29 percent, over the past halfcentury, scientists find. The president of the National Audubon Society calls it "a full-blown crisis".



In addition to habitat loss, pesticides may have taken a toll. Besides rare birds, new studies reveal steep losses even among such traditionally abundant birds as robins and sparrows.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Many people are harmed by the air they breathe. Some 91% of the world's population live where the air quality doesn't meet World Health Organization standards. Worldwide, 4.2 million people die each year from being exposed to outside air. Smoke from fires is a contributor to bad air quality as well.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Our world's water systems are in such disarray that the United Nations estimates that "by 2025, 1.8 billion people will experience absolute water scarcity, and 2/3 of the world will be living under water-stressed conditions".

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

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Humanity has increasingly exploited the resources of our planet, destroying habitat and damaging fragile ecosystems. 18.7 million acres of forest are destroyed each year. This is the equivalent to losing 27 soccer fields of forest each minute.

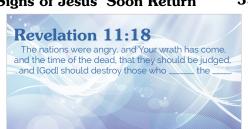
Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Desertification, the process by which agricultural land becomes unable to retain water or regrow plants, is taking place at 30-35 times the historical rate. We are destroying our earth.

What does God think of the destruction of the earth He made for us to inhabit?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Revelation 11:18

The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, ...and [God] should destroy those who destroy the earth.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Pestilences were another sign of the end mentioned by Jesus. Today there are strains of diseases—"superbugs" that are resistant to antibiotics or drug therapy. And there are new diseases for which no cure has been discovered.



Satan is the author of disease and disaster. Outbreaks of pestilence will become more frequent as we near the end. Cities may be reduced to desolation and ruin.

Why does God allow these things to occur?

Isaiah 24:4,5 The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away; the haughty people of the earth languish. (5) The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have _____ the l changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting Next verse: 2 Chronicles 7:13,14

Isaiah 24:4,5

The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away; the haughty people of the earth languish. (5) The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

2 Chronicles 7:13.14

13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, (14) if My people who are called by My name will _____ themselves, and ____ and seek My face, and ____ from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:13,14

When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, (14) if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



God has not promised to bless and protect those who show contempt for His law. He has said He would withdraw His blessings and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same.

Satan has control of all those who God does not specially guard. He favors and prospers some, when it is in his interest to do so, and brings trouble and destruction on the other hand, while leading people to think it is God afflicting them.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Another of the signs Jesus mentioned is an increase in earthquakes in different places. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase of earthquakes with a magnitude of six or greater.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Volcanic unrest, closely related to earthquakes, is also increasing around the world.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



As of July, 2020, there were 26 volcanoes erupting around the world, and 13 showing enhanced activity. More than 100 earthquakes have been reported near or at volcanic peaks. The entire west coast of the United States lies along the seismic zone known as the Ring of Fire, and virtually every other section of the Ring of Fire is roaring to life.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The Big One is the name of an earthquake expected to strike along the southern San Andreas Fault in California in the coming years, and is predicted to be of magnitude 8.0 or greater. The Big One could cause catastrophic damage to human civilization as water and electricity supplies would be impacted, as would roads, buildings and other infrastructure.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Some earthquakes have triggered tsunamis, causing widespread destruction and leaving many people homeless. The 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean was the deadliest in recorded history, taking 230,000 lives in a matter of hours.

Another Biblical prediction of the last days is the increase in knowledge. What does the Bible say about this?

Daniel 12:4

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."



recent years has led to advances in science and technology that have changed our lives forever.



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The vast majority of people in our world's history lived out their lives without the modern conveniences we take for granted—hot, running water, toilets that flush, electricity, modern appliances, motor vehicles, houses with central heat and air conditioning, cell phones, computers, and internet.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



We can see that Daniel's prophecy about knowledge increasing has definitely been fulfilled! With the touch of a button, technology can connect people all over the world. Jets have streamlined travel. Computers have taken over the world. People can't imagine life without the internet. What sign of Jesus' soon coming has technology helped fulfill?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Matthew 24:14 And this _____ of the kingdom will be preached in all the ____ as a witness to all the nations, and then the ___ will come.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



As radio, television, and internet blanket the globe, people have opportunities to hear the truth about God and make decisions for eternity.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Ambassadors for Jesus have gone to the remotest places of the globe, giving their time, talent, and lives, modeling Jesus' example of ministry to others. What is the message to be shared with every living person on earth?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Revelation 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of to preach to those heaven, having the _ who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue,

Revelation 14:6

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The sharing of the gospel all over the globe happens before the end of time. Letting the world know about Jesus, His life, the prophecies that point to important events, the sacredness of the law of God, God's plan to save us, His power to forgive sin and change our lives, is all part of this gospel. What are some other signs that Jesus mentioned would point to His soon coming?

Joel 2:31

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into **blood**, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.



On May 19, 1780, New England experienced a day of darkness. Chickens retired to their roosts, cows came in to be milked, and farmers ceased their work in the fields. The supernatural darkness became so dense that one could not tell the time, except by candlelight.



Fear, anxiety, and awe filled the minds of all. Women stood at the door, looking out on the dark landscape; men came in from the field; schools were dismissed and anxious children returned home. Travelers pulled in at the nearest inn. Terrified people huddled in groups and thought the end of the world had come.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

After midnight, the moon, when it became visible, had the appearance of blood. The extent, duration, and density of this period of darkness had been unequaled since the plague of darkness in the days of Moses.

What did Jesus say would happen to the stars?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

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Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the ____ will ___ from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

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Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



On the night of November 12, 1833, a tempest of falling stars broke over the Earth. The stars showered down so thickly and fast that it looked as though every star in the heavens was falling. When they touched the ground, they burst and drifted away.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The night sky was so bright that people woke thinking their house was on fire. Stars were still falling when the sun arose the next morning. Never before had there been such a sight witnessed.

What about other elements of nature?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Luke 21:25 And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the __ and the __ __ roaring.

Luke 21:25

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Another sign, mentioned in Luke 21:25, is "the sea and the waves roaring". On November 1, 2020, Super Typhoon Goni in the Philippines, was the strongest landfalling tropical cyclone in world recorded history, with sustained winds of 195 mph. Goni killed 31 people, damaged or destroyed 250,000 homes, and caused over \$1 billion in damage,



The number of major hurricanes has more than doubled in the last six years and will continue to increase. In 2020, the Atlantic hurricane season produced more than double the activity of an average season (12 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes).



We have seen violent winds, killer waves, torrential rains, and flash flooding.



A study published in 2016 found that the "frequency of tornado outbreaks (clusters of tornadoes) and the number of extremely powerful tornado events have been increasing over nearly the past half-century".

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The latest fire seasons have been raging with unprecedented ferocity, from the Amazon to the Arctic. The number of fire outbreaks across the globe was up by 13% in April 2020, compared to 2019, which was already a record year for fires, according to researchers. The hottest August through October period in Western U.S. history, combined with severe drought and a oncein-a-generation offshore wind event, conspired to bring about an apocalyptic western U.S. wildfire season.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



In fact, according to a new study, since the mid-1980s, there's been an eightfold increase in annual area burned by $\label{eq:high-severity} \mbox{ wildfires} - \mbox{ fires that kill}$ more than 95% of trees. The fires are burning hotter and more intensely than they used to. The transformation in fire behavior has happened fast, with this exponential increase happening in just one generation over the course of 30 years.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Death Valley, California, hit an astonishing 130 degrees Fahrenheit on August 16, 2020. The observation may be the hottest reliably recorded temperature in world history.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The overall coverage of Arctic sea ice is decreasing. In winters it is now expanding less, and is retreating more in summers. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019, it reached its second-smallest level on record.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



This is a concern because Arctic animals, like polar bears and seals, need the sea-ice cover for hunting ground and habitat. It also helps in keeping the Arctic cool by reflecting sunlight. One study said that by 2050, the ice will be completely melted.

What are some of the signs of the end foretold in Revelation?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Revelation 6:12,13 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. (13) And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

Revelation 6:12,13

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great __ and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. (13) And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of ______, lovers of , boasters, proud, blasphemers, __ parents, ____, unholy, (3) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, (4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of _____ rather than lovers of God.

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In addition to signs in the sun, moon, and stars, Revelation also mentions a great earthquake. The Great Lisbon Earthquake of November 1, 1755 was the most terrible on record. Occurring on the Catholic holiday of All Saints Day, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America, and was felt over an extent of four million square miles. An estimated 90,000 people were killed.

The most extreme violence was experienced in Spain and Portugal. The sea receded, and enormous tsunami waves engulfed the coastlines. Some of the largest mountains in Portugal were shaken from their very foundations. Famous palaces, libraries, and cathedrals collapsed, and fires broke out which raged for three days. Lisbon and surrounding areas were completely destroyed.

What will society be like before Jesus

2 Timothy 3:1-4 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, (4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Sounds like a pretty accurate description of today's world, doesn't it? Unholy, ungodly, unthankful, unloving people, without self-control, loving pleasure more than God...what a sad state of society! "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."*

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Disregard for parental authority and lack of respect for elders is another evidence that we are living in the time of the end. The moral foundations of society are crumbling. Popularity has overpowered purity. There is confusion about sexual roles, sexual orientation, and God's plan of one man being married to one woman for a lifetime. Divorce is on the rise, and children are growing up without the positive role models they so desperately

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



In the religious and the political world, the separation of church and state, fought for and prized by our founding fathers, is disappearing. As Protestants seek state support for church institutions, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America, the supremacy she lost in the Old World. The movement toward enforced Sunday observance is rising a custom which Rome originated, and claims as the sign of her authority.

*Isaiah 59:14

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



The world today faces unprecedented challenges, and as leaders struggle in frustration to place things in order, scientists, lawmakers, environmentalists, and religious leaders will unite on a common point. In order to combat climate change, an Earth Sabbath will be proposed, a day of rest and global reverence for the earth. Soon, international law will require and demand this green sabbath day of worship to be enforced globally. Saving the earth sounds like a good thing. But beneath the surface lurks the age-old struggle between good and evil. The implications of this are foretold in the Bible, and will be explored in depth in this series of studies.

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return



Lawlessness and anarchy are the trademark of today's society. The world is fast becoming ripe for destruction. Great changes are soon to come.

As we see the trend of events, we know that Jesus' coming is just around

How is the present similar to the days of Noah?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the 81

coming of the Son of Man be. (38) For as in the days. before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 24:37-39

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (38) For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.



The final events on earth do not need to be a mystery to us. We can be preparing for what is soon to break on the world as an overwhelming surprise.

What can we hang on to when things are falling apart?



Luke 21:28

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"...Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."



We can cherish the hope of seeing Jesus, Who is coming back to make all things right, to bring an end to sin and pain forever, to re-create the earth as a place of peace and delight for all who love Him.

Will you prepare your heart for that day?

Signs of Jesus' Soon Return

