

AND THAT'S WHY...

Christians do not panic when society falls apart around them. They are not dismayed when evils are exposed as never before. (1 Corinthians 4:5) They are not surprised when "faith" becomes outdated. (Luke 18:8)

They know these troubles are paving the way for a bright new world. They know that these are the very things that will prove that

JESUS HAS COME AGAIN!

A STARTLING FACT

Christians agree that the signs of Christ's coming are everywhere around us. They rejoice in this fact. They can't wait for the actual return of Christ. Because of these signs they are sure it will be soon.

The signs of His coming are given in Matthew 24, in answer to His disciple's question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming?" (Matthew 24:3)

But language scholarship has shown a startling fact. Experts on the Greek agree that the word here translated coming is the Greek word "parousia." And it means "presence."

PROVE IT YOURSELF....

Matthew 24:3

Interlinear English Translation of Greek Text

Καθημένου δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους Ἰβλίου, προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ τῶν ἐλαιῶν, προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ κατ' ἴδιαν λέγοντες· Εἰπέ ἡμῖν, πότε ταῦτα ἔσται; καὶ τί τὸ σημεῖον τῆς σῆς παρουσίας καὶ τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Βλέπετε, μὴ τις ὑμᾶς πλανήσῃ, ὅτι πολλοὶ γὰρ ἔλευσονται ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι μου, λέγοντες· Ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ Χριστός; καὶ πολλοὺς πλανήσονται. Ἐπιλήθετε δὲ ἀκοῦναι πολέμους, δεσφύσετε δὲ ἀκοῦναι πολέμους, δεσφύσετε. Ἐπιλήθετε δὲ ἀκοῦναι πολέμους, δεσφύσετε.

Another proof is a comparison of Matthew 24:37 with Luke 17:26

Matthew 24:37 } = { Luke 17:26
 "But as the days of Noah were," } = { "As it was in the days of Noah,"
 so shall also the parousia of the Son of man be." } = { so shall it be in the days of the Son of man."

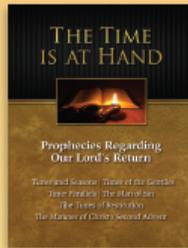
If Noah was present in the "days of Noah," then Jesus must be present in the "days of the Son of Man." That's the Scriptural definition for parousia . . . a period of time when a person is actually present.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

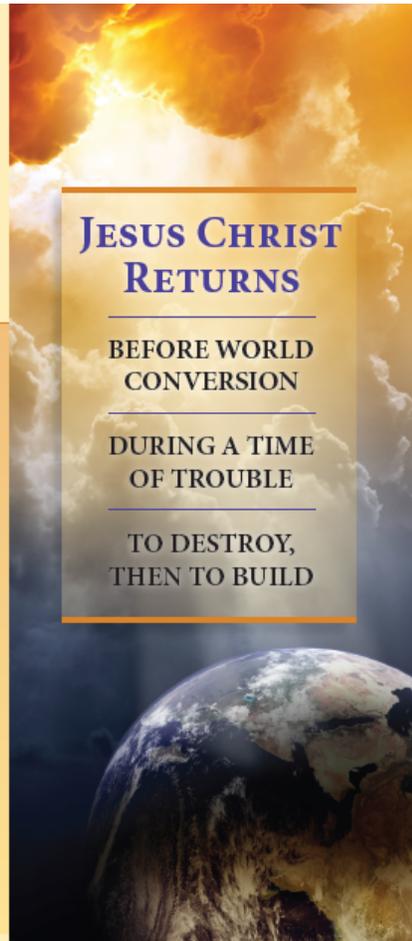
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JESUS CHRIST RETURNS

BEFORE WORLD CONVERSION

DURING A TIME OF TROUBLE

TO DESTROY, THEN TO BUILD

WHEN DOES JESUS COME?

Christians have long believed that Jesus would come again. He promised he would. He always keeps His promises. But when?

Jesus' own disciples wanted to know WHEN? And so they asked Him. "What shall be the sign of thy coming?" (Matthew 24:3)

He answered them. He didn't tell them the year, but He told them what would happen when He came again. He told them there would be **GREAT TRIBULATION** such as never

had been before. (Matthew 24:21, 22) This trouble would be world-wide. It would threaten the destruction of the human race. Jesus said,

"except those days be shortened there should no flesh be saved." This certainly sounds like our day! World Wars have been raging over the past century, and nations have enough nuclear weapons to wipe out all life on earth.

The prophet Daniel foretold the same trouble. He said it would deliver Daniel's people. (Daniel 12:1) Daniel was a Hebrew. His people were the Israelites. This trouble, then would result in . . .



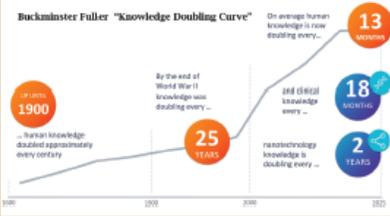
THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

Since 135 A.D. the Jews have been scattered everywhere. They were relentlessly persecuted. . . hunted as "Christ Killers." But their national identity could not be crushed. After 1800 years they have surfaced again. Since 1878 their fortunes have been reversed. Within 70 years they became a nation. Since 1948 their enemies have often united against them. Hopelessly outnumbered, Israel's chances for survival have been negligible. But survive they have. Someone must be protecting them. Could it be that Christ is fighting for them?

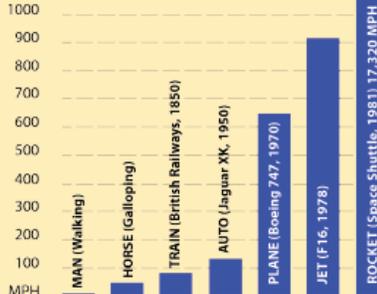
Daniel goes on in his prophecy. He tells us this time of trouble . . . would be in "the time of the end." (Daniel 12:4) Then he says:

"MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO" and "KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED"

Take a look at the graphs below:



Human Speed



We are living in the day when many are running "to and fro." We are living in the day when knowledge is being "increased."

Therefore, We are living in the day of the presence of Jesus Christ!

WHY DOES JESUS COME?

He comes to restore the earth. It certainly needs restoring. Man has depleted its resources. He has polluted the soil. He has contaminated its rivers. He has filled its air with smog and smoke.

Yet this is not the worst. Injustices of centuries have bred deep hatreds in the hearts of people. They flare up all over—in civil rights, in capital-labor disputes, in the hotspots of terrorism. Humankind is a natural resource that desperately needs restoring.

HE MUST DESTROY BEFORE HE CAN BUILD

This is why He comes in a time of trouble. A builder first levels an existing structure. Then he builds. So Christ must first level the superstructure of a crumbling establishment. Then He will build His kingdom.

In Matthew 24:3 his "coming" was linked with the "end of the world" or age. Peter describes another "world" that came to an end. The world of Noah's day (2 Peter 3:5, 6) It was not the earth that was destroyed. It was the wicked society that perished.

So it is when Jesus returns. The anger of the oppressed, the disenchanted and the dispossessed burns into the corrupt social structure around it. The fire has already been ignited. But Jesus guarantees it will not burn out of control. Once the hearts of people have been prepared, and humbled, then He will establish

A KINGDOM OF PEACE

This is the kingdom for which Christians pray. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We pray for a kingdom right here on earth. This is not a prayer for life in heaven. There is such a thing. It is reserved for the footstep followers of Jesus.

The kingdom on the earth is for the rest of all people. Even those who have died. They will all come forth from the graves . . . "those who have done good" . . . and "those who have done evil." (John 5:28, 29)

This kingdom will put an end to war. (Micah 4:3) It will establish complete economic security. (Micah 4:4) It will cure all manner of disease. (Isaiah 35:5, 6) It will even stop death. (Revelation 21:4)