

# Appearing Leader's Notes – Discussion 1

## *A Planet in Upheaval*

---



As Shawn mentioned, throughout history, men and women have been fascinated by the end of the world. A plethora of books and movies have been produced dealing with this topic—each one with its own twist and turn.

But today, I wish to not look at man's opinions of what we believe might happen and how it will occur, but rather to look at the one true Source that tells us what will take place when Jesus returns. Today we look to the Bible for answers about the Second Coming. What does Scripture say about the signs of His coming and when it will occur?

---

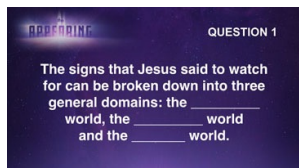


Since Adam and Eve's fall in the Garden of Eden (you can read the story in Genesis 3), the history of humanity tells of natural catastrophes, epidemics and global controversies. The imprint of sin mars the beautiful landscape of this earth, and the loving relationships God intended for the human race have been replaced by things such as hate, racism, power struggles and a lack of compassion for one another.

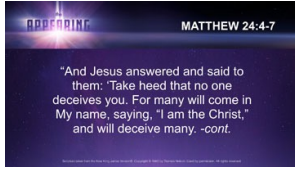
Jesus predicted in **Matthew 24** that in end times, this sinful reality would continue to plague the human race and that these catastrophes and struggles would be a sign of His soon return. But what are the specific signs we should look for?

Please open study guide number **1. A Planet in Upheaval**

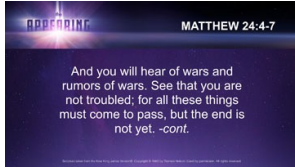
---



1. **QUESTION #1** reads:  
The signs that Jesus said to watch for can be broken down into three general domains: the \_\_\_\_\_ world, the \_\_\_\_\_ world and the \_\_\_\_\_ world.
-



We find the answer in **Matthew 24:4-7**:  
“And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. **-cont.**”



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. **-cont.**

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

### ANSWER #1

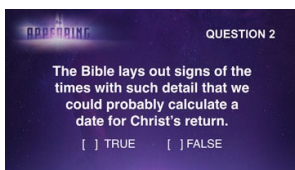
The signs listed in **Matthew 24** can be divided into:

- a. The religious world
- b. The political world
- c. The natural world



Jesus said that when we saw these signs occurring, we could be sure that His soon coming was near. “How near is it?” you might ask. Is it possible to determine or calculate with precision the exact date of Christ’s return? Does the Bible reveal the date and hour?

2 Let’s look at **QUESTION #2**:



The Bible lays out signs of the times with such detail that we could probably calculate a date for Christ’s return.

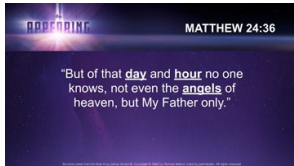
What do you think, **True** or **False**?

---

The answer is found in **Matthew 24:36**. I've got it here on the screen.

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

Notice that neither the **day** nor the **hour** is given to us. And not just us, but the **angels** don't know, either!



### ANSWER #2

You can mark the statement as False and fill in the blanks with these words:

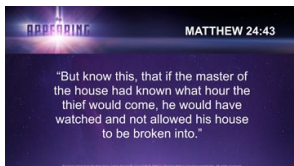
a. **Day** b. **Hour** c. **Angels**

It appears Christ warned us of the signs to come but did not give us the exact time of His appearing. Why do you suppose that might be? I believe God is looking for true, sincere relationships.

---

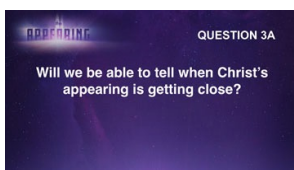
**Matthew 24:43** says:

“But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.”



It's easy to prepare when you know the exact hour and date, but it's much more difficult and sincere when we keep ourselves prepared at all times, even if we don't know when it will happen.

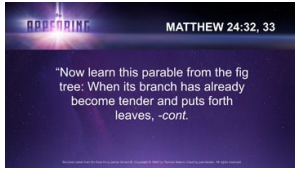
You're probably thinking, “If God does not reveal the time, then how can we know when it is near?” Good question.



3A

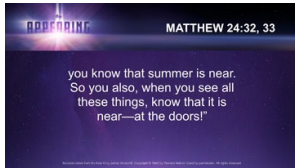
**QUESTION #3A** in your study guide asks the same thing: Will we be able to tell when Christ's appearing is getting close?

---



Let's read **Matthew 24:32, 33** together:

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, **-cont.**



you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!”

### ANSWER #3A

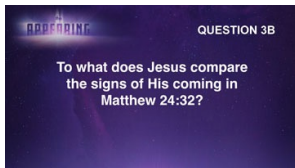
The answer is **Yes**.

### 3B QUESTION #3B

To what does Jesus compare the signs of His coming in **Matthew 24:32**?

### ANSWER #3B

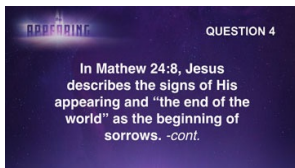
The answer, as we learned in the verse, is “leaves on a fig tree.”



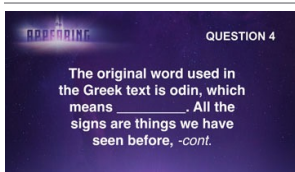
Just like the fig tree, when we see the telltale signs as outlined in Question #1, we can be sure that Jesus' coming is right around the corner.

Despite the fact that these signs have always existed, never in the history of mankind have they been so prolific. Jesus predicted that when we saw an increase in intensity and frequency of false Christs, wars, national strife, famines, pestilences and earthquakes, we could know that time is short and that His coming is near!

### 4 QUESTION #4 paints the picture this way:



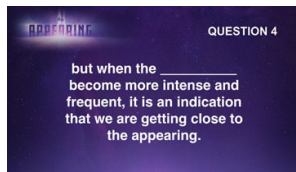
In **Mathew 24:8**, Jesus describes the signs of His appearing and “the end of the world” as the beginning of sorrows.



The original word used in the Greek text is *odin*, which means **birth pains**. All the signs are things we have seen before,

---

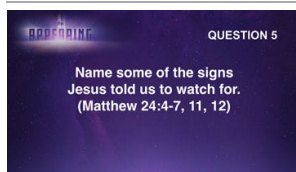
but when the **contractions** become more intense and frequent, it is an indication that we are getting close to the appearing.



**ANSWER #4**

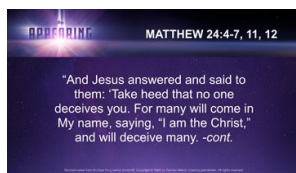
- a. Birth pains
- b. Contractions

It's like a woman giving birth. The harder and more frequent the contractions, the closer the delivery time is. These "contractions" or "signs" occurring on the earth are what help us determine when the end will be.

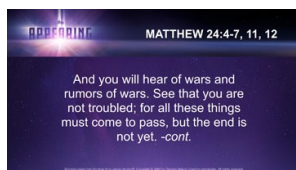


5 Let's look at **QUESTION #5** to find some of these signs.

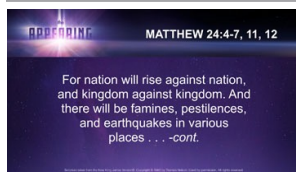
Name some of the signs Jesus told us to watch for.



"And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many. **-cont.**



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. **-cont.**



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

---

---

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

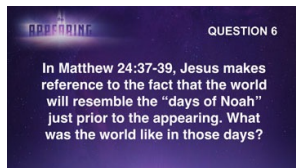
### ANSWER #5

Here are some possible answers:

- a. Increased **war**
- b. Increased **corrupt religion**
- c. Increased **famine**
- d. Increased **pestilence**
- e. Increased **earthquakes**
- f. Etc.



Does all of this sound familiar? It's as if Jesus was peering through time and reading out of our current history. The things He said would take place before His coming are happening before our very eyes. Never before have these signs been so intense and frequent.



6 **QUESTION #6** reads:

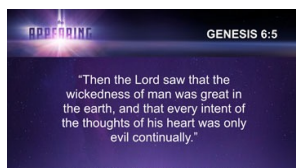
In **Matthew 24:37-39**, Jesus makes reference to the fact that the world will resemble the “days of Noah” just prior to the appearing. What was the world like in those days?

Let's look for the answer in **Genesis 6:5**:

“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.”

### ANSWER #6

Man's wickedness was great, and his thoughts were evil continually.

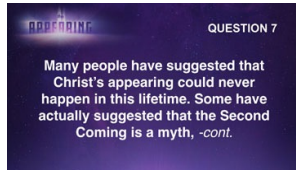


Scripture reveals that the world had gone astray, so God had to destroy everything with a flood. Only eight people survived. (**1 Peter 3:20**; **2 Peter 2:5**)

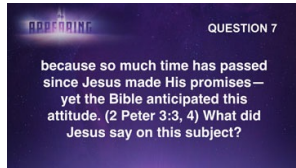
As in today's world, those living prior to the flood thought destruction would never come. They had a false sense of security simply because it seemed so far-fetched. Some people today feel the same way.

---

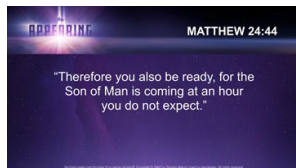




7 Here's **QUESTION #7:**  
Many people have suggested that Christ's appearing could never happen in this lifetime. Some have actually suggested that the Second Coming is a myth, -cont.



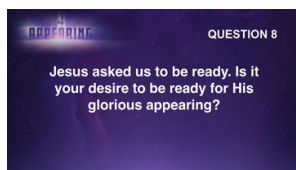
because so much time has passed since Jesus made His promises—yet the Bible anticipated this attitude. (2 **Peter 3:3, 4**) What did Jesus say on this subject?



**Matthew 24:44** says:  
“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**ANSWER #7**

Be ready at any time, because Jesus will come when most of the world doesn't expect Him. God wants us to be ready. Life is too short and none of us here on earth knows exactly when our time will be up. We must live every day as if Jesus could come that day.

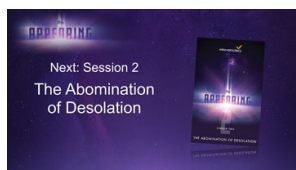


8 **QUESTION #8:**  
Jesus asked us to be ready. Is it your desire to be ready for His glorious appearing?

**ANSWER #8**

(Personal answer.)

Let's pray together.



Tomorrow, we'll be looking at one of the most astonishing prophecies in the Bible—one that decisively proves that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the long-awaited Messiah! I can't wait to share that with you. Also, it's also not too late to bring a friend.

Thanks for coming, and see you tomorrow!



September 2018.

©2018 Voice of Prophecy. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to use these presenter's notes and presentation graphics for public presentation only. Please get written permission from the Voice of Prophecy prior to using this material for any other purpose.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.