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**First Fall Session
October 1, 2019**

FOCUS
ON THE END TIMES
FOTET.ORG

Signs of the Last Days (Mt. 24:4-20)

³ The disciples asked him, what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?

⁴ Jesus answered: Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹ Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and (1) **you** will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁵ So when you see standing in the (2) **holy place** 'the (3) **abomination** that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in (4) **Judea** flee to the mountains. ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the (5) **Sabbath**

I. God is Sending us Signs



A. Signs are for “Watchers” only - Ezekiel 33:6

⁶ If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone's life, that person's life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.

ARE YOU A WATCHMAN?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Persistent in Prayer | Dan. 9:3 | 4. Studying the Signs | Mt. 16:1-3 |
| 2. Pure in Heart | 1 Tim. 6:14 | 5. Warning Others | Ezek. 33:6 |
| 3. Looking for Jesus | 2 Tim. 4:8 | | |

B. The world won't recognize the Signs - Dan. 12:10; Math. 24:37-39

C. Purpose of Signs: To let us know we are getting closer to the return of Jesus!

D. Israel is the **CENTERPIECE** of last-day Signs - Attitudes of the International Community toward Israel are the **most reliable** barometers to assess where we stand in the end times.

Notice Israel isn't mentioned in the sign list of Math. 24:4-20 = It's hidden throughout

Popular Signs

- Wars
- Famine
- Earthquakes
- Natural Disasters
- People getting worse

5 Clues About Israel

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Vs. 9 | International hatred of Israel |
| 2. Vs. 15 | “Holy Place” = Temple Mount/Jerusalem |
| 3. Vs. 15 | “Abomination” - Temple |
| 4. Vs. 16 | “Judea” = West Bank |
| 5. Vs. 20 | “Sabbath” - Only observed in Israel |

II. A warning from Jesus - Don't misread the Signs

A. Jesus first gave a warning (VS. 4) ***“Don't be misled by the wrong signs”***

B. Why so much confusion today?

C. Churches and pastors have stopped explaining the Signs and warning the church

1. Paul taught Signs, Seasons, and how the Rapture fits in - 1 Thess. 4:17-5:3

*17 Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord. 1 About the times and the seasons: Brothers, **you do not need anything to be written to you.** 2 For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, “Peace and security,” then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains come on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

2. Millions are misled and sidetracked watching the **wrong signs**

3. Prophecy websites tend to equate the BAZAR and BAD NEWS as special Signs

D. While these topics are **NOT FOUND** in Bible prophecy, they represent some of the most popular prophetic topics on the internet today:

Wrong Signs

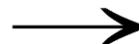
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putin/Russia = Gog/Magog • Pope/Roman Catholicism • China/Kings of the East • European Union/Brexit • New World Order • Revived Roman Empire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google, Facebook, Spying on us • Bar Codes/Microchips • Artificial Intelligence • Global Economy/Cryptocurrency • Nephilim, Aliens • New Technology |
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III. Major Passages Describing Signs (Many other passages not listed below)

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olivet Discourse: Mt. 24-25; Lk. 21; Mk 13 • Revelation 6-19 - The Tribulation Period • Isa. 24-27 - Isaiah's "Little Apocalypse" • Ezekiel 36-48 - 13 Chapters/End Times • Daniel 2, 7-12 - Israel, Antichrist, Empires | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Thess. 4-5 • 2 Thess. 2 • 1 Timothy 4:1-5 • 2 Timothy 3:1-7 • 2 Peter 3 |
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IV. Living in the Era of Signs

1917



2019

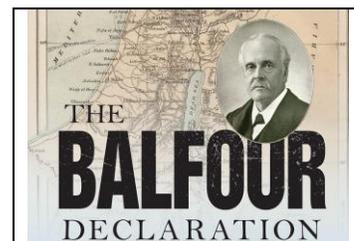
A. Consider 100 years ago - No signs!

At the beginning of the 20th century, there was not a single, tangible, sign that indicated we were drawing close to the season of the Lord's return and that we were about to be thrust into the whirlwind of the end times

Looking back, no one could see what was coming!

B. Consider 40 years ago (1979) Iranian revolution

C. The First Sign



1. **The Balfour Declaration - Nov. 2, 1917**
2. End of WWI - Allies divided up Germany's territory and the Ottoman Empire
3. Ottoman Empire controlled the Middle East and Holy Land
4. The Romans had renamed the Holy Land, Palestine, after the Philistines, after the last Jewish revolt 132-135 AD when they permanently evicted all Jews
5. Great Britain was allotted control over Palestine - 1917
6. Lord Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary and a Christian, declared it was the intension of the British government to establish Palestine as "a national home for the Jewish people"
7. F. B. Meyer - A Leading Evangelical in England at the time, recognized the prophetic significance of the Balfour Declaration
8. Meyer sent a letter to the Evangelical leaders of England to gather in London December 13, 2017 to discuss the prophetic implications of the Declaration,

He wrote, "The signs of the times point toward the close of the church age and the return of Jesus can be expected at any moment."
9. Two days before they met, on Dec. 11, 1917, General Edmund Allenby walked through the Jaffa Gate and liberated Jerusalem after 400 years of Turkish rule
10. These events marked the beginning of the end times

V. Two Broad Categories for Signs: Specific (Straight Line) and Trending (Fluctuating)

A. Trending Prophecies and their Limitations

1. These are the most popular signs - They're easy & listed out by Jesus - Mt. 24:5-7
2. However, they are quite limited for determining the closeness of the Tribulation
3. Trending signs intermittently occur on an increasing trend line as the Tribulation approaches
4. While trending signs can be observed to be increasing in frequency and intensity, their **peak conditions remain a mystery**. Here's why:



- a. Past track performance of these trends are somewhat unreliable
- b. Determining the peaking point of these trends is unreliable
- c. As trending signs intensify, it's unknown if they've reached their peak or just some percentage of it. This is because we don't have enough information to compare today's trending signs to their status as when they will appear in the Tribulation. Example: **Only 2 earthquakes in the Tribulation**

5. Without certainty in the percentages or peak, our guesstimates are unreliable since trending signs won't reach their peak until Jesus' return at the end of the Tribulation

B. Specific Prophecies are **MOST** reliable in gauging our proximity to the Tribulation. They have a beginning and a measurable increase toward their peak

Specific Prophecies 	Trending Prophecies 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth of Israel - 1948 • Unification of Jerusalem - 1967 • Rising urgency to build the Temple • Rise of Islam, Religion of the Beast • *Rise of Turkey, Head of Islamic Beast • Alignment of the Nations of prophecy • Rise of Iran, Israel's arch enemy • Decline of Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • False Prophets • False Messiahs • Famines • Natural Disasters • Earthquakes • Pestilence • Rampant Sin • Apostacy

VI. Israel, The Most Important Sign



A. Israel is God's prophetic time clock

B. There are 100's of end time prophecies in the Bible. They all require one thing...

The existence of a reborn and legally recognized nation of Israel.

14 SIGNS ABOUT ISRAEL



- The State of Israel would be born in one day (1948) - Isa. 66:7-8
- Jerusalem will be unified under Israel's control (1967) - Lk. 21:24
- Jewish people will return ("Aliya") from all over the world (64 Times) Ezek. 11:17
- The desert will blossom, and the land will be restored - Ezek. 36:33-35
- Israel will become wealthy and the envy of nations - Isa. 2:7-8
- Israel will have a powerful military - Ezek. 37:10; Zech. 12:4-8
- The Lord will safeguard Israel in her wars - Zech. 12:4-9
- Israel will be surrounded by hostile neighbors - Ezek. 28:24-25; 36:3; Zech. 12:6
- Jerusalem will intoxicate her neighbors and be a center of controversy - Zech. 12:2
- The West Bank & E. Jerusalem will be trouble zones and under assault - Mt. 24:15-16
- The international community will become burdened trying to change the borders of Israel & they will attempt to move part of it away to another people - Zech. 12:3
- Anti-Semitism will rise, Israel will be hated by the nations and suffer scorn and slander - Ezek. 36:6-7; Mt. 24:9
- Israel will build their Temple but be forced to share the Temple Mount - Rev. 11:1-2
- For peace, the nations will demand Israel divide her land - Joel 3:2-3

Israel will have the kind of wealth that could trigger a world war!

VII. Converging Prophetic Signs in the Last Days



A. Two Bookends

- 1. Birth of Israel = Mega-Sign
- 2. Convergence of Signs = Mega-Sign

B. The list of signs Jesus gave, and all others, now on stage together

C. We no longer see just a random sign here or there! Signs are everywhere!!

D. Events and Signs are converging so fast, and in such detail, that it’s difficult to keep up the pace with all the prophetic Signs now unfolding simultaneously

“The end will come in like a rush, like a flood” (Dan. 9:26)



E. Signs of Social Disfunction (2 Tim 3:1-4) Rampant sin and general deterioration

Know that in the last days perilous times will come: ² 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.

VIII. Signs are like Birth Pains - Mt. 24:8

⁸ *All these signs are the beginning of birth pains.*

A. Like Contractions, Signs will Increase closer to the Lord's return

1. Frequency = More and more Signs coming closer together
2. Intensity = The Signs grow more severe
3. Duration - The pain and discomfort stays longer



B. We are seeing this “trifecta-effect” in Signs today!

Just when you think it can't get any worse!

Anyone else dizzy by how quickly some things went from being unthinkable to unquestionable? Just in the last few years?
Although the most recent demands of the world are more radical than ever, people seem to be embracing them more quickly than ever.

Moving from the Unthinkable to the Unquestionable

4 Examples

1. The Rise and Acceptance of the LGBTQ Revolution - Lk. 17:28-30

Same-sex marriage; Pride parades; Drag Queen story hour; Teaching LGBTQ history

2. The War on Gender Distinctions - Deut. 22:5

Until recently, Transgenderism was considered beyond the fringe. Now there's the Michelle Obama Transgender Guide touting gender-neutral bathrooms, gender change that's easier than a tonsillectomy and boys in girl's locker rooms... What could go wrong?

3. The “Athaliah Spirit” of Baby-Killing (2 Kings 11:1)

America has killed 60 million babies and Planned Parenthood keeps selling baby parts; Virginia's Governor promotes infanticide & NY City cheers new later-term abortion law

4. The War on Christian America - Isa. 5:20

Anti-God forces have declared war on Christian America and seek to push Christian beliefs and values from the public square. They hate Trump, America and YOU

Nations of Prophecy - Headlines

A snapshot of how current event headlines interweave and race toward the fulfillment of Bible prophecy

1. Israel Surrounded by Enemy Nations – Prophesied 15 Times!

The IDF Operating 360 Degrees against Iranian threat - War with Hamas/Hezbollah inevitable!
Iran now in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq - Iranian General Soleimani now the principle leader of Iraq

2. Rise of Turkey – Head of the Islamic Beast - Headlines

Turkish Newspaper Close To Pres. Erdogan Calls To Form Joint Islamic Army To Fight Israel

Turkey President Erdogan: 'Liberate Jerusalem' from the Jews

President Erdogan tells his citizens that Muslims need to assert dominance over Jerusalem

Erdogan makes a Declaration To The Entire Islamic World: We Will Gather Together Kurds And Arabs, And All Of The Muslim World, And Invade Jerusalem, And Create An Islamic Empire

Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoglu stressed Jerusalem belongs to the Muslims and not to the Jews

Turkish Governor declares that Turkey's forces would soon march into Jerusalem

3. Decline and Fall of Europe to Islam - Headlines

Pope Francis speaks favorably of Islam - Says the Quran and the Bible are co-equal

EU court removes Hamas from terrorist list. Germany refuses to classify Hezbollah as terrorist.

EU Countries flooded with refugees now flooded with dangerous “No-Go” Zones

France/EU, defy Trump with \$15 Billion bail out Iran in loan guarantees - Sept. 2019

EU Governments redefine “Hate” speech - Enforce “Islamophobia” laws to silence opposition