

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 25**Lesson 25: “Are You Ready?”**

Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming. Are You Ready for Jesus to Coming? This is a very serious question that has eternal consequences. This lesson will educate and prepare you to be ready for the great coming of our God, Jesus Christ, the blessed hope. It will also reveal to you how close we are to the end of time when Jesus returns.

The Bible gives us undeniable signs to look for just before He comes so we will not be caught by surprise or unaware. In these last days listen to what the Word of God is saying to you. Study God’s word daily and watch for the signs of His coming, pray unceasingly to God and be ready spiritually when Jesus returns. Like labor pains of a pregnant woman when the pain gets closer and closer together and more intense the sooner you know that the baby is coming. The signs of Jesus second coming are the same. When we see the signs of Jesus second coming come closer and closer together with more intensity in this last days we know according to the Bible that Jesus is coming. As you study this lesson, sincerely reflect on your relationship with Jesus Christ. Do you really know Him? When He comes again will He recognize you as His faithful child? Are you ready for Jesus to come?

1. Does the Bible reveal the exact time and date of the second return of Jesus Christ?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:30, 36, 42; Matthew 25:13

Write Bible Answer: _____

So according to the Bible, nobody can predict the exact date and time that Jesus is coming. So regardless what a tabloid newspaper says, nobody knows the exact date and time of the second coming of Jesus Christ. But the key message in Matthew 25:13 is that Jesus teaches us to “watch” for His second coming. In the Greek, “watch” mean to “keep awake.” In other words, you must be wide awake, vigilant and ready for the great anticipated event outcome.

2. Why does Jesus instruct us to “watch” for His second coming and what state of mind should we have?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:37 - 46; Luke 21:34 – 36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 8; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Peter 1:13; 1 Peter 4:7; Romans 13:11 – 13; Hebrews 10:36 – 37

Write Bible Answer: _____

In Matthew 24:37 – 44, Jesus compares the last days like the days of Noah. Noah preached for 120 years! The only people were saved from the world-wide flood was Noah and his family. Only a total of 8 people out of millions was saved on the Ark in which God commanded Noah to build. Friend, listen. Millions of people rejected the message of Noah. They ignored him and continued everyday life like NOTHING was going to happen. They went on with daily life up to the day the flood came. They were caught UNAWARE and millions perished. Jesus message to us here is what? To be ready for Jesus to come and do not be caught unaware. Luke 21:34 – 43 re-emphasizes that you must be aware and watch for the second coming of Jesus and pray that you will be able to stand when Jesus comes. You should also be found “doing” the will and ministry of Jesus Christ. You can not go on with normal life like nothing is going to happen, drunk with the cares of this world.

God commands us to be sober. “Sober” in Greek means to “abstain from wine.” In a spiritual sense the wine is the cares, lies, entertainment, amusements, education, and sins of this world. Also it is false apostate church doctrine and worship.

First Timothy 2:4 lets us know that Jesus desires “all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” He gives us His Holy word to enlighten us so we will not be caught sleeping or in darkness when He comes. That is why Jesus instructs us to “watch” and “be sober”. Those who are not faithfully living within the truths of God will be surprised and overtaken by the second coming of Christ. But, the second coming of Christ will not be a surprise for those faithful living within the will of God. They will not be idly waiting for Christ’s return but actively growing into the fullness of Christ. They will also see the urgency of telling others about the gift of salvation, the truths of God, and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

3. Even though we do not know the exact time and date of the second coming of Christ, does the Bible give us specific signs that we can “watch” for to know that Christ’s second coming is near?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:32, 33

Write Bible Answer: _____

Matthew 24:33 reveals that the Bible gives us specific signs that we can “watch” for to know that Christ’s second coming is near. Let us take a few moments and examine some of these signs that Bible is talking about. You will see for yourself how these signs can undeniably apply to current events and trends in our generation. You will see how amazingly close we are to the second coming of Christ.

4. What are some signs that we can “watch” for in these last days to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ is coming very soon?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:1 – 8;

Write Bible Answer: _____

“What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” This was the disciples question and the question for many today. Notice that Jesus warns us to first look out for deceptions as a major sign. Many will claim the name of Christ, calling themselves Christians, but their word and actions are deceptive in nature leading people away from Christ.

In Matthew 24:6 – 7 Jesus reveals that there will be wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Verse 8 says that “All these are the beginning of sorrows.” “Sorrows” in the original Greek is referring to the labor pain associated in child birth. Before a baby is brought into this world, the mother's uterus goes through phase of contractions. The first phase is painful but not has intense. But as each phase of labor progress, the pain get more intense and the contractions get closer and closer together. In the “pushing” phase the pain at it peak intensity and the contraction are very frequent. Then a last the baby is here! Some estimate that the labor pain the “pushing” phase is like breaking 21 bones in the body at the same time. Ouch, that's painful! So in other words verse 8 reveals that the wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes are the “beginning of labor pain.”

But like labor pains as we get closer and closer to the end of time these things will happen more simultaneously, and increase with more frequency and intensity. Just look at the morning and evening news or read the newspaper and you'll see the fulfillment of this prophecy.

“Labor Pains”: Frequency and More Intense

Wars

Today you will probably find war and conflict on almost every continent of the world. Also we cannot forget about the losing battle of the war on drugs and crime.

Famines

Now, let's briefly talk about famines as a sign of the second coming of Christ. Now famines occur when men, women and/or children starve to death because of the lack of food or the production of food due the result of change in the weather pattern or war. Famines are especially fatal to babies. According to a Time magazine article did you know that approximately 40,000 babies die every day because of famine? In Africa, and in other parts of the world such as North Korea millions are suffering or dying as a result of severe famine in the land.

Pestilences / Diseases

Now the Bible talks about pestilences as being a sign to watch for in the last days. Now pestilences are an outbreak of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, West Nile Disease, SARS, Malaria, Mad Cow disease, heart disease, cancers, plus more. All of these fatal diseases currently exist today and they are killing people at an alarming rate. Did you know according to the BBC news that there are now more than 40 million people infected with HIV/AIDS virus world wide? According to UN Population Fund HIV is attacking our youth. They say that someone between the ages of 15 and 24 in the world is infected with the HIV virus the causes AIDS every 14 seconds. AIDS is one of the most fatal diseases of the 21st century. Matter of fact in the past two years approximately 3 million people have died as a result of AIDS each year. Officials say by the year 2020 the total number of AIDS related deaths could climb to 68 million! AIDS is not the only pestilence or disease that is killing at an alarming rate, according to Nature magazine, 2003, Malaria is killing African child every 30 seconds. Now there are other disease such as Mad cow, SARS, and West Nile diseases that are proven to be very fatal and can spread rapidly. What about heart disease the number one killer in America, obesity, and all forms of cancer, there are killing millions of people in our day. In *Isaiah 24:4* is says “that the people of the earth do languish” “Languish” in the Hebrew means to be sick or feeble. In *Isaiah 24:5* reveals why, “because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.”

Earthquakes

Now the Bible also talks about in Matthew 24:7 that there will be earthquakes in diverse places. And we really do not have to speak much on this subject in detail, because all you have to do is turn on the evening news. There are major earthquakes that are frequently taking place and lives in various parts of this earth. Matter of fact earthquake have increased significantly even in our lifetime. Here is a link to a BBC article of the history of the earth most deadly earthquakes and you will see that they have become more frequent and intense [<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-12717980>]

5. How do you know you are in the midst of sorrows...the intensity of the labor pains?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: [1. **Increased & intense persecution**] Matthew 24:9 – 10 and 15 - 22; Matthew 10:17 – 22; 2 Timothy 3:12; Revelation 13:11 – 15; [2. **Increased deception and false prophecies**] Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24; 1 Timothy 4:1,2; 2 Corinthians 11:14,15; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 [3. **Increased Sin & Selfishness**] Matthew 24:12; 2 Timothy 3:1- 5, 13 [4. **Scoffers and mockers**] 2 Peter 3:3, 4; Jude 1:18 [6. **Earth and Inhabits (animals & humans) Languishing worst and worst**] Isaiah 24:4 – 5; Hosea 4:1 – 6 [5. **Everlasting Gospel given world-wide**] Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6

Write Bible Answer:

According to the Bible there are five major last days signs that will increase with intensity and frequency as we get closer to the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Here are the following: 1) Persecution 2) Deception and false prophecies 3) Sin & Selfishness 4) Scoffers and mockers 5) Everlasting Gospel given world-wide.

We are living in the midst of perilous times filled with terrorist attacks, terrorism threats, snipers, abusers, school shootings, mall shootings, increased drug addiction, wars, and the list goes on. There is no doubt in anybody's mind that we are living in the midst of dangerous or perilous times. Homeland Security can not guarantee your safety. No one can guarantee your safety and freedom. Your only real safety is in Jesus Christ.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 God is talking directly to those in the church. This scripture reveals that in when we see an increase and frequency of selfishness, covetousness, disobedience, entertainment loving, pride, hardheartedness, rebelliousness, and a form of Godliness in God's church know that we are in the midst of perilous and troublesome times. These things are happening in our churches today. Today there is a great emphasis on church entertainment for the adult and the youth. There is more emphasis on emotionalism than strict obedience to God's word. Churches have become more self-centered instead of God centered. Instead of "what can I do for God," it has become "what can God do for me." Matter fact ***James 3:16*** says it best about selfishness, "16For where envying and strife *is [which is selfishness]*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.] And oh how true it is in this current generation. Yes, there has been evil and selfishness in every generation but what the Bible is talking about here is that it is more intense, worse than it has ever been.

6. What other last day signs are given that have happen in the past couple centuries and will repeat itself at the second coming of Jesus Christ?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Revelation 6:12 – 17; Matthew 24:29-31

Write Bible Answer: _____

What does history reveal?

1 - Great Earthquake: On ***November 1, 1755*** this earth rocked and rumbled from Lisbon, Europe, Africa, America, Greenland, in the West Indies, to Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, and Ireland. It extended of the earthquake was around four million square miles. A large tsunami from that earthquake swept over the coast of Spain and Africa engulfing cities and causing great destruction. This very large earthquake is known as the great Lisbon Earthquake. In more recent years God has warned us with another large 9.1 earthquake that produced a vast tsunami wave that took the lives of over 230,000 people off the coast of the Indian Ocean on ***December 26, 2004***. The shock wave of the earthquake were felt across the earth with the energy of 23,000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs! The shift of mass and the massive release of energy very slightly altered the Earth's rotation. This earthquake touched off tremors 9,000 miles away along the San Andreas fault. It has been reported that that earthquake was felt in all of Europe, Africa, West Indies, and the Americas.

On **March 11, 2011** the 9.0 earthquake that struck Japan was so powerful that it shifted the earth's axis about 6 to 10 inches.

2 - Sun darken / Moon as blood: History records that on May 19, 1780, the sun turned into darkness and the moon appeared to be red as blood. And reports explained that the sun did not become dark that day by an eclipse, but was unexplained. Also it was report that the next evening when the moon became visible it had the appearance of blood. Let's look at a few historical accounts of that day. R.M. Devens of New England in *Our First Century*, p. 89 says that "Almost, if not altogether alone, as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind, . . . stands the dark day of May 19, 1780,--a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England." (EG White, *Great Controversy*, p. 306) Another eye witness of that day, Milo Bostick in *Stone's History of Massachusetts* says, "The moon which was at its full, had the appearance of blood."(Amazing Facts Lesson 8, p. 6).

3 - "Stars"/Meteors fall from the heavens: This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment on November 12 & 13, 1833. The most extensive display of falling stars or meteors fell from the sky about 60,000 per hour. The meteor shower was so large that it was seen from Canada to Mexico. "The whole firmament, over all the United States, being then, for hours, in fiery commotion!" {Great Controversy p. 333.1} This event was known as the great Leonid Meteor Shower of 1833. You can actually read many more accounts of all these extraordinary natural events on the Internet.

God has given these signs specific signs as a warning to us through the years that Jesus is coming again.

7. What is the promise for those who endure until the end?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:13

Write Bible Answer: _____

