

Teaser

The people of New Orleans learned a terrible lesson. The warning was given. “Hurricane Katrina is coming!” Many listened and found higher ground. Others stayed where they were—and died. Now another warning has been sounded. Christ will soon return. The warning flags are flying. Will we pay attention? Or look the other way? I’m Frank Eiklor. And this is MORE THAN TALK.

Intro

We have better evidence than the Hubble telescope that the universe and our world are coming to an end. Jesus spoke often of His return to earth and gave us specific signals to watch for before He comes. We’re about to look at 12 signals that should warn us that today—everyday—is the time to make sure that our lives are right with God.

CHRIST'S RETURN: WARNING FLAGS ARE FLYING!

Watch the Middle East

Jesus Christ told His followers that incredible signs would take place before His triumphant return. We will not pretend to know more than others nor to have the answers to mysteries yet to be revealed (such as the identity of the future anti-Christ, the identity of all the nations who will one day invade Israel, the parts Europe and China may play in the final days, etc.).

What we will do is to look carefully at Jesus' warnings and prophecies that He tied to His return, and some of the events unfolding before our eyes. Only the Father knows the day and the hour of "THE END" of time (Revelation 10:6 God time shall be no more"). But Scripture encourages us not to be ignorant of the times and the seasons that God will reveal to encourage His children to hold tightly to His Word and His will, while holding only lightly to the material things of earth. Let's take a look at some of the signs now happening in our world. I shall only briefly cover each point and leave it to you (and those you teach) to explore each of these realities more fully.

Warning Flag #1—THE PHYSICAL REBIRTH OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Following Rome's bloody conquest of Israel (70 A.D.), there was no Jewish nation for some 1900 years. However, God had promised to return His Chosen People to His Chosen Land. Skeptics scoffed for centuries. Yet the doubters died, while God's promises lived on. In 1948, only three years after the Holocaust, a miracle took place. Israel was restored as a nation, in partial fulfillment of God's future plan (the acknowledging of Yeshuah as Messiah is yet to come).

Study carefully Ezekiel 37:1-14; the valley of dry bones. I shall only list a few of the verses.

Ezekiel 37:11-14

"Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off... Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the LORD God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and you shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then you shall know that I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord."

Warning Flag #2—JERUSALEM AGAIN THE UNDIVIDED CAPITAL OF ISRAEL (and the world’s determination to divide the city)

From 70 A.D. until the 20th century, Jerusalem virtually disappeared from human history. It was never the capital of any Arab country and was revered only by religious Jews, some of whom never left their ancient city, choosing poverty and suffering rather than to desert the City of David.

That all changed in the 1948 rebirth of Israel. Even then, the city of Jerusalem was divided between Jewish and Arab armies. Then came 1967 when Nasser of Egypt vowed to erase Israel from the map. The Jews struck first and hard—and took all of Jerusalem in the battles that followed. Gentile rule over Jerusalem was finished!

Will God again allow the city to be divided? No one knows for sure. Jesus is the only solution for “shalom”—“peace”—in the hearts of Jews and Arabs and in the land itself. But there is an amazing verse that Jesus spoke concerning Jerusalem being back in Jewish hands before His second coming to earth.

Luke 21:24

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down (trampled on) of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24)

CHRIST'S RETURN: WARNING FLAGS ARE FLYING! High Tech and The Low Road.

Warning Flag # 3—THE DISINTEGRATION OF MORALITY.

Like Rome of old, the Western world is rotting from within. Little children can be prevented from prayer in schools, while their parents are encouraged to give them “health-aiding” drugs at an early age. Marriage is “old-fashioned”. Any and all forms of sex are here or on the way. Abortion is Satan’s fool-proof method of birth control. Lying, cheating, hating, killing—even children suing their parents! It will get worse—as Scripture indicates.

2 Timothy 3:1-4

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...” (2 Timothy 3:13) “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, (will go from bad to worse), deceiving, and being deceived.”

Warning Flag # 4—UNENDING FAMINES, VIOLENCE, WARS AND PLAGUES

During the “Age of Enlightenment”, so-called brilliant men and women said that by the year 2000 the world would see the end of famines, violence, wars and disease. Technology would triumph. The “God is dead” theory was alive and high-tech would soon be off to the races.

But high tech has hit a wall. It cannot change the hearts of men and thus can only take us to the wrong places at a higher rate of speed. Once again, Jesus’ words are for the wise—and those seeking to be wise by humbling themselves, confessing their sins, and trusting in the living Savior of men.

Matthew 24:6-8

“And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in divers (various) places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

Warning Flag # 5—STEADY INCREASE IN KILLER EARTHQUAKES

God has blessed man with incredible genius. We stand in awe as we watch men and women in a room full of computers and high-tech instruments guiding and landing spacecraft on distant planets. At that moment, we appear invincible. But then a mammoth tornado comes—or a terrifying hurricane—or rains that flood whole regions and never listen to our shouts to

“Stop!”—or the shake that removes from under our feet any confidence or pride we carry, and leaves us numb with hardly enough breath to even utter the paralyzing word—
“EARTHQUAKE!”. And man is helpless in the face of it all!

Once again, the Creator of this planet, Jesus Christ, said even the earthquakes would still be here—and terrible—to announce His return and the end of man’s futile and godless attempt to direct his own ways.

Mark 13:8

“...*There shall be earthquakes in various places...*” There shall be—and there are!

THE RETURN OF CHRIST: WARNING FLAGS ARE FLYING! They Laugh No More!!

Many times unbelievers and skeptics have said, “You Christians are so simple-minded and foolish. You take everything by faith. We only believe in facts”. However, they are really the ones who are foolish and ignorant of the facts.

The Bible is a book of facts. The book of Genesis and the order of creation are facts. Sin and its terrible results are facts that can be seen. Archaeological finds prove again and again the historical trustworthiness of the Bible. Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection are facts that stand the test of time. And prophetic promises and warnings concerning the future are great indications that the Bible is indeed the Word of the living God.

Jesus spoke in detail concerning certain signs that would precede His return to rule the earth. Other scriptures also speak of events that will take place before the end of time. Thus far, we have looked at five signals that will take place prior to Christ’s return. Let’s continue.

Warning Flag # 6—EZEKIEL’S VISION OF A LAST DAY’S INVASION OF ISRAEL

Once again, skeptics laughed at the possibility of Israel being invaded from the north in the last days. They did not believe there would even be an Israel after the destruction of Jerusalem and Israel by the Romans in 70 AD.

Only the believer in the Word of God could hold to the truth of the Ezekiel vision in chapters 38 and 39 of the prophet’s book. Israel would indeed be resurrected as a nation (Ezekiel 37) and a great attempt to annihilate the Jewish nation and people would follow in the “latter days”. Christians argue about the identity of “Gog”, “Magog”, “Meshech” and “Tubal”—but all agree they have one purpose—to conquer Israel and reap the spoils.

Only recently, there was a giant “Soviet Union” to Israel’s north who armed Israel’s enemies in wars fought by Arab leaders to erase Israel from the map. Soviet leaders vowed never to release millions of Jews held against their wills in the vast Soviet Empire. It is as if God heard the Communist leaders say, “As long as there is a Soviet Union, no Jews will leave”. It appears that the sovereign God of history then said, “Then there will be no Soviet Union. Let my people go!”

Today millions of Jews have left Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union—great numbers going to Israel. Most of the new countries now out of the Soviet orbit are Islamic. I am not predicting “who” or “when”. But watch the Mideast as the pot is already beginning to boil. An invasion will take place and the nations—and Israel—will see visibly the awesome hand of God. Armies will be destroyed and strong men will tremble. Israel will be delivered—and their rebellion against God will be broken forever. Study carefully chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel. And keep your spiritual eyes open even while you share the love of God with Jew, Arab and all.

Ezekiel 38:14-16

“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the LORD God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou and many people with thee... And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified before their eyes.

Warning Flag #7—A THREATENED NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST

How skeptics must have laughed for centuries at the Apostle Peter’s description of the end of the world. The sky passing away with a great noise? Earth’s elements evaporating through unimaginable heat? Earth itself dissolved?

They laugh no more. Now God’s description of how He will destroy the old earth and create a new one makes perfect sense. The splitting of the atom turned many skeptics into believers. After all, look what man himself is capable of doing with the atom and hydrogen bombs. Now the fear is that nuclear weapons are being placed in the hands of madmen who wish to annihilate their enemies. The world fears and trembles over this threat of nuclear destruction. A desperate cry is building for some great leader who can guarantee the world peace and prosperity by controlling governments, economies and weapons.

2 Peter 3:9-11

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST: WARNING FLAGS ARE FLYING! A Call For The Wrong Superman

Warning Flag #8—A CALL FOR A CHARISMATIC LEADER

How often you hear the words, “There are no great leaders today. Our world is ready to explode. We need a great leader who can bring us all together.”

Since the world wants peace and prosperity in order to better enjoy their lives of sin, they do not choose Jesus. However, they will approve of a leader who is coming on the scene with a golden tongue and the heart of a devil. Christ had warned the religious leaders that though they would not receive Him coming in His Father’s name, they would receive another coming in his own name.

This demonic personality will arrive to lead a new world order. He will be the anti-Christ himself whose rule will first appear powerful and then turn hellishly violent. Christians argue: “Will the Church be here—or gone—when anti-Christ comes?” I shall not join the argument but continue to teach Christians, “Live as if Jesus will return tomorrow—and prepare your soul as if there is great suffering ahead.”

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

Warning Flag #9—THE CALL FOR A REBUILT TEMPLE

With their temple destroyed in 70AD, pious Jews have prayed for—and prepared for—the day when they would again construct their temple on the original site. Today Muslims control the Temple Mount and vow there will never be another Jewish temple. Yet Scripture indicates that God will allow the Jews to rebuild their temple and that it will be the place the false Christ will enter to declare himself to be God. Watch the Mideast carefully. Perceptive hearts will see certain signals that will be warnings that our Lord’s return grows nearer and nearer.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

We forget too easy—and too soon—the shocking things that ought to awaken us to seek God and His righteousness. Giant banking companies are collapsing in the United States. Our government—already buried in debt—making more guarantees in loans to try to avoid a financial catastrophe. Many thousands of people losing their homes. Gas and oil prices causing a frightening price increase in other fields of commerce like air travel and food.

Many experts say that if the present course continues, there is calamity ahead—not only for the USA but also for the world. And the fear of nuclear and environmental destruction is spreading worldwide as poverty, wars and disease grow like a terrible cancer.

“Peace and prosperity!” is what the masses cry for. And if Satan himself can deliver “peace and prosperity”, the world’s leaders will one day (soon?) choose him.

God warned us in advance what signs would precede the end of time. Jesus gave specific signs that would tell His followers that His return was near. We are looking at 12 of those prophetic signs of the times. This is not the hour for Christ’s followers to cower in fear, but to get our priorities straight and share the good news of salvation and a glorious future with all who will listen.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST: WARNING FLAGS ARE FLYING! Time To Get Your Priorities Straight

Thus far, we have looked at nine signals that will take place prior to Christ's return.

- # 1—THE PHYSICAL REBIRTH OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL**
- # 2—JERUSALEM AGAIN THE UNDIVIDED CAPITAL OF ISRAEL**
- # 3—THE DISINTEGRATION OF MORALITY**
- #4—UNENDING FAMINES, VIOLENCE, WARS AND PLAGUES**
- #5—STEADY INCREASE IN KILLER EARTHQUAKES**
- #6—EZEKIEL'S VISION OF A LAST DAY'S INVASION OF ISRAEL**
- #7—A THREATENED NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST**
- #8—A CALL FOR A CHARISMATIC LEADER**
- #9—THE CALL FOR A REBUILT TEMPLE**

Warning Flag # 10—A TRAVEL AND EDUCATION EXPLOSION

The prophet Daniel received incredible visions concerning the last days of planet Earth. One interesting word from God is that man's knowledge would greatly increase even while his spiritual eyesight would be reduced to near blindness. Look at what the centuries have brought.

From camels to cars. From paths in the deserts to planes in the skies. From splitting logs to splitting atoms. From times with limits to technologies without limits.

Yet while we are discovering new planets, we cannot uncover the secrets to true happiness and peace. Man is lost—terribly, hopelessly lost from the Creator who made him. That Creator is Jesus Christ. So man will grow intellectually smarter even while remaining spiritually stupid.

Daniel 12:4

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." 2 Timothy 3:7 "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Warning Flag #11—A CULT AND DEMONIC EXPLOSION

I had to see it to believe it. He was another in a long list of false messiahs saying, "I am the Christ!" This one was on my television screen: a short, balding man, perhaps in his sixties, from Brazil. He was proud of his number—666—and he was surrounded by young and beautiful women. Here we go again!

Jesus said many would come in His name and deceive the hearts of the simple, sinful and proud. Eastern mysticism and meditation is a big thing in the gullible West. And one day a "world leader" will appear on the scene with the persuasion of a god and the heart of a devil.

Jesus warns His children to know the Scriptures, live in obedience to the Father's will, and stay alert to the signs of the times.

Matthew 24:24, 25

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.” 1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...”

Warning Flag #12—WORLD EVANGELISM

It would be easy to think that with so much evil taking place, surely Christ's followers would be stopped in their tracks. But the opposite is true. An increase in evil and suffering makes many people hungry for life that only God can give. What often appears as the “devils time” just as often turns out to be God's “harvest time” as great multitudes cry out for mercy and forgiveness. That brings us to the final signal in our study—that the world will be fully evangelized before Christ signals “The End.” We have the privilege of hastening that day by obeying our Lord's “Go ye” command to carry His gospel to all the world. Let the Holy Spirit use your life to bring His life to others. The Day of Celebration is growing nearer!

Matthew 24:14

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”