

Program 61 Teaser

The greatest figure in the history of the world appeared on the scene some 2000 years ago. The world has never been the same. Even the calendar was split—before Christ and after Him. His birth and resurrection were miraculous, factual happenings. Even the manner of His death was prophesied hundreds of years before He was crucified. That's why the Bible is so unique. It is the book of facts—not only about Christ's first coming, but also about His return to earth. He himself warned us to be ready when He comes again. And He gave us signals to watch for that would announce His soon return. What are those signals? You are about to find out. I'm Frank Eiklor. He's Tom Hughes. Get ready for More Than Talk.

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SIGNALS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S RETURN (PART 1)

PAGE 1 Up From The Grave She Arose

We are about to observe some of the incredible signs that Jesus Christ said 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 God knows the day and the hour of "THE END" of time (Revelation 10:6). 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. We shall only briefly cover each point and leave it to you (and those you teach) to explore each of these realities more fully.

Signal # 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). Up from the grave she arose!

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

"Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off! Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I

will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*, says the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:11-14)

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SIGNALS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S RETURN (PART 1)

PAGE 2 Jerusalem, Jerusalem!

Signal # 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.

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

“The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.” (Zechariah 12:1-3)

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SIGNALS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S RETURN (PART 1)

PAGE 3 THE DISINTEGRATION OF MORALITY

Signal # 3 is all around us. The word “morality” has become a joke. 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.

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:13)

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SIGNALS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S RETURN (PART 1)

PAGE 4 High Speed—To The Wrong Places

Signal # 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. Age of “enlightenment?! Ours is more like the age of applesauce!

“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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew 24:6-8)

1 Corinthians 2:6

1 Corinthians 3:19, 20

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SIGNALS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S RETURN (PART 1)

PAGE 5 Shake, Rattle And Roll

Signal # 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.

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Hebrews 12:27-29

Matthew 7:24-29