IF THE PEOPLE who worked in the Twin Towers had known on September 10, 2001, what was about to happen, would they have gone to work on the 11th? If you were about to cross a field, but someone told you it was full of mines and poisonous snakes, wouldn’t you be glad for the warning? You can be glad that the biggest event in Earth’s history will only come after many signs. Jesus is coming! And He has given us a whole series of signals so we can know His coming is near.

Thoughts to Remember:

• Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled…I will come again” (John 14:1-3). The disciples answered, “And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age” (Matthew 24:3)? Jesus listed more than 20 signs of His return in the Bible. We’ll look at 15 of these signs.

• False christs and false prophets. “For false christs and false prophets shall arise,” Jesus told us in Matthew 24:5, 11, 24. Recently, in several countries, people have followed after one person or another who called himself Christ. We also see an explosion of interest in the occult, astrology, and New Age movements.

• International conflict. Ability to destroy the earth. Fragile peace agreements. “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars…For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24:6, 7). Jesus is talking about war on a global scale. World War I had 20 million casualties. World War II had 50 million. But the 20th and 21st centuries have been the bloodiest of all: Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and many others. Jesus predicted this explosion of conflict: “...And on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21:25). Thermonuclear warfare is new in history. Never before have humans had the capability to destroy ourselves completely. God tells us He is coming to “destroy those who destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18). Political leaders sign meaningless peace agreements around the world. If peace even comes after such agreements, it is shaky and temporary at best. “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them… and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

• Famines. Pestilences. Earthquakes. Natural disasters. “There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:6, 7). About 57 million people die from lack of food each year. Of the world’s population of 6 billion, 60 percent are malnourished and 20 percent are starving. Forty million people worldwide live with AIDS—not counting SARS, mad cow, cholera, influenza, hepatitis, malaria, smallpox, and other diseases. In the last 90 years, 60 percent are malnourished and 20 percent are starving. Forty million people worldwide live with AIDS—not counting SARS, mad cow, cholera, influenza, hepatitis, malaria, smallpox, and other diseases. In the last 90 years,
The “take-home” message for you . . .

A. Environmental pollution.
   - Millions who harmed to God in Europe, millions who harmed to God in China.

B. Moral decay.
   - Attitude of skepticism. Love of pleasure.

C. Rising crime and violence.
   - Economic uncertainty.

D. The “end” is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

E. The Gospel taken to the whole world.
   - If you long to live in the world’s best, just bow your head and pray right now. Ask God into your heart. If you long to live in the world’s best, just bow your head and pray right now. Ask God into your heart.

F. The world is in turmoil. And for some, our own lives are in turmoil too. Every time we lay a hand on God’s work, every time we lay a hand on God’s work, we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus!” When we read accounts of disasters, small children with distended bellies in starvation, acts of terrorism, we long for Him to come quickly. But are we paying attention to the signs of His coming? Do you see how close it is? Are you ready? Jesus can help you with the turmoil in your life today, and that’s good news. But the best news of all is that He’s coming soon to put an end to stress, heartache, and suffering. He has a better world for you—a world of peace and perfect safety.

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