

THE PUZZLING STATEMENTS OF JESUS
Part 4 - Signs of the End of the Age
Matthew 24:1-24:14

People hold some extreme views about the second coming of Christ and the End of the Age, but what does the Bible actually say?

PART A - THE FOUR SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE

1. In the End of the Age there will be a great spiritual deception. (V4-5)

Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming I am the Christ, and will deceive many (Matthew 24:4-5)

I am the way, the truth and the Life nobody comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)

2. The second sign of the End of the Age is great political unrest. (V6-7)

You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and Kingdom against Kingdom ... (Matthew 24:6-7)

3. The third sign of the End of the Age is great natural disasters. (V7)

... There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains (Matthew 24:7b-8)

4. The fourth sign of the End of the Age is great religious persecution. (V9)

Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me (Matthew 24:9)

PART B - HOW DOES JESUS SEE THE CHURCH RESPONDING IN THE END TIMES? (V10-14)

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:10-14)

1. There will be many who will turn away from the faith.

At that time many will turn away from the faith (Matthew 24:10a)

2. There will be those who will turn against the Faith.

...and will betray and hate each other (Matthew 24:10b)

3. There will be those who twist the Faith.

... and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people (Matthew 24:11)

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teaching comes through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. (1 Timothy 4:1-20)

4. There will be those who will tune out the faith.

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12)

5. There will be those who will trust the faith.

But he who stands firm to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13)

6. There are those who will tell the faith.

... and this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14)

WHAT NOW?

1) There have always been wars, natural disasters, and religious persecution and so on. so it's important for us to understand that our world will not improve. The world is moving in a downward trend, not an upward one.

2) Heaven will not come gradually through the improvement of this earth. Heaven is a whole new place altogether.

3) We ought to live like the those Jesus describes in vv 13-14

a) *But he who stands firm to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:13)*

b) *and this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14)*