

Signs of Christ's Coming, Part 3

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 24.
- B. Jesus predicted the Great Tribulation.
- C. We are in an interim time period between the coming of Messiah and the end.
- D. There are five "birth pangs" before the end.

II. Deception. This is characterized by the coming of Antichrist.

III. Dissension.

- A. This time will be characterized by wars and rumors of wars.
- B. The Antichrist will make a final push during the end. (Daniel 11)
- C. There will be a world war that will be mind-boggling. (Zechariah 14)
- D. The opening of the seals mark the great war. (Revelation 6, 9, 13)

IV. Devastation.

- A. There will be famines and earthquakes.
- B. They will come in large doses in many places at the same time.
- C. When God takes back the restraint all evil will be let loose. (Revelation 6:6, 9, 11:13, 14:20, 18:8)

V. Desecration.

- A. The holy people of God will be treated in an unholy way.
- B. The Jews will be in on this persecution. (Mark 13:9, Revelation 11, Ezekiel 28)
- C. The world will set itself up against Christ causing great martyrdom. (Revelation 6, 7:9, 9:20-21, 13:7, 17, 16:6)

VI. Defection.

- A. The pressure is so great that some who have superficially identified with Christ will betray real believers. (1 John 2:19, John 8:31)
- B. The person who belongs to Christ will stay with him. (Hebrews 3:12)
- C. We will defect because the price is too high. (Mark 13:12, Luke 21:16)

D. Some defect because the price is too high, some because of deception, and some because they choose iniquity. (2 Timothy 3)

E. The saved do not defect. (Matthew 10:22, Revelation 2:10, Luke 21:19, Revelation 7)

V. Declaration.

A. An angel will evangelize in one final sweep. (Revelation 14:6)

B. The gospel that rewards righteousness and judges sinners will be proclaimed.

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who identifies the end time birth pangs with contemporary events?

2. What distinguishes the birth pangs from horrific events that have already occurred since then? Explain.

3. What is the value of understanding the general character of the times before the end?
