

2-4-2026 – 6 Reasons Series

6 Reasons to Anticipate the Return of Jesus. Week 5

1. Jesus said He would return. So no Doubts/it will happen.

- **Matt. 24:30-31** – “And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.”
 - Jesus also said - ³⁶ “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.”
 - Jesus said it will happen like it did w/ **Noah** and the flood:
 - ³⁹ People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.
 - ⁴⁰ “Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.”
 - Jesus: there will **be signs** . . . when the fig tree buds/summer is near.
- 5 more signs – reasons - to believe the Return of Jesus is more near/ever:

2. Wars & Famines & Earthquakes.

- a. **Matt. 24** – disciples asked Jesus about the end times.
- b. **Matt. 24:6-14** - ⁶ And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, **but don’t panic**. Yes, **these things must take place**, but the end won’t follow immediately. ⁷ Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. ⁸ But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.” . . .
¹⁰ And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. ¹¹ And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. ¹² Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

- c. Highlighted by:
- i. First - wars/rumors of war. Nation against Nation.
 - ii. Famines & Earthquakes
 - iii. False Prophets, 2x
 - iv. People turning away from faith, hate growing strong. Sin.
 - v. But **also** – the gospel will be preached in the whole world!
- d. So – “**don’t panic**”/don’t be **alarmed** – “**such things must happen.**”
- i. Distressful events, but a sign of hope for Christians.
 - ii. Don’t get caught up in **anguish**, get caught up w/ **anticipation**.

¹⁵ “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel— let the reader understand—([Matt 24:15](#)).

Jesus points us to Daniel’s Prophecy. ([Dan. 9:24-27](#).)

The **abomination** - an image of the antichrist as he profanes the temple, sets himself up as God, and demands worship ([Matt 24:15](#)). Those who will not bow down to the antichrist will have to **flee**, leaving their property and possessions behind if they are to **escape** death (24:16-20; cf. [Rev 13:15](#)).

3. Prophecy of Daniel 9

Daniel has visions, the Angel Gabriel interprets for him – and us.

²⁶ “The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. ²⁷ He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Covenant: 7-yr Peace treaty that he’ll break. Peace is a **lie**.

This is the anti-Christ. It will make more sense as we work thru Daniel’s other prophecies.

4. Prophecy of Daniel 2

Daniel interprets the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar – “what will happen in days to come.” **Dan. 2:28**

³¹ “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³² The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. ³⁴ While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.”

The meaning:

Head: 1st World Empire – Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom of **Babylon**

- **Marduk** was the **chief god of Babylon** - a golden statue seated on a golden throne before a golden table & golden altar.

2d Kingdom - Chest of Silver w/ 2 arms: The **Medo-Persian Empire** which conquered Babylon in **539 BC**

³⁹ “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰ Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴² As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

3rd Kingdom – of bronze: Greek Empire. In ch. 8, Daniel specifically names Greece, and history proves Greece is the empire that succeeded the Medo-Persian Empire.

Iron – 4th Kingdom – Roman Empire. History again shows the Roman Empire was successor to Greek empire. Described as “Rome’s iron rule”

The 4th kingdom is described as 2 legs. Significant b/c Roman Empire split into 2 political spheres – Latin-speaking West, capital in Rome; Greek-speaking East, capital in Constantinople. Happened in **AD 395**
The Holy Roman Empire fell in AD 476; the Byzantine Empire fell 1453

- **From the Iron legs come the 10 toes.**
 - **Part iron/part clay – partly strong, partly brittle.** Won't remain united. This is a joined kingdom – 10 kingdoms or 10 leaders.
 - **This 5th and Final kingdom has not fully emerged yet.**
 - EU – began w/ 6 countries, now has 27. UK left.
 - Shows us that we're close, but not quite there.

5. Prophecies of Daniel 7-9

Daniel has other Visions which correspond with the early dream – Ch. 7:

- He again sees progression of world empires – Babylon - the Medo-Persian Empire – Greece – & **10 kings that will emerge**
- After the 10 kings (represented by 10 horns), another horn will grow; it will start small, but grow – a new World Leader:
 - Described in **8:23-25** - “a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. ²⁴ He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. ²⁵ He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.”
 - **Anti-Christ . . . a world dictator.**

This has not yet happened, but what is prophesied is 1 world leader, consolidated power. The progressions suggest it will come from Europe.

6. Israel

Deut. 30:3 – “the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.”

- Israel is now a nation & has fortune. People returning.

Ezekiel 36:24 - “For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.”

- **Israel** became a sovereign nation in **1948**. Before that, it was just Palestine – the Roman Empire had tried to wipe out Israel.
 - **More than any other recent event, Israel again being a country is key to knowing we are nearing end times.**
- But it’s not on the immediate horizon yet.
- **Gen 15:18** – description of geographical boundaries of Israel: Mediterr. Sea [W] – Euphrates River [E] – Hamath [N] – Kadesh [S].
 - **Note** – Israel has never owned all the land promised them.
 - But God has kept all other promises to Abraham.
 - Currently, Israel has Lebanon/Syria – N; West Bank of Jordan & Iraq – E; Saudi Arabia – S.
 - Euphrates River is in Iraq; Hamath in Syria.
- Ezekiel [38–39](#) describes major attack on Israel.

¹⁵ You will come from your place in the **far north**, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. ¹⁶ You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.”

 - This attack has not yet occurred. But – N of Israel is Syria – Turkey - Georgia – **far North** – Russia.
 - We can anticipate **war** in the Middle East. **As Jesus said!**
- End times – more near than ever. Not yet - God is waiting for more. That’s our job – **preach the Gospel.**