

## The Future Comes Quickly

Matthew 24:32-42

Seven signs that Jesus will return in our lifetime:

### 1. Rebirth of Israel

*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup>Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup>I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”* —Matthew 24:32-34

May 15, 1948, David Ben Gurion announced the new state in Palestine will be called Israel.

*“Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.”* —Isaiah 66:8

### 2. Birth of Nuclear Warfare

*“This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.”* —Zechariah 14:12

### 3. Knowledge Explosion

*“But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”* —Daniel 12:4

### 4. Second Exodus

*“So then, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ <sup>8</sup>but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”* —Jeremiah 23:7-8

There is a world wide movement to help Jews in their 2<sup>nd</sup> Exodus back to Israel.

An internet search for “Support Jews return Israel” yields 4 1/2 million hits.

## 5. Jerusalem Freed from Gentile Rule

*“They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”*

—Luke 21:24

During the 6-Day War, June 5-10, 1967, Israel gains control of the Golan Heights, the West Bank (*including East Jerusalem*), and the Sinai Peninsula.

One sign of the fig tree sprouting leaves is the end of the Gentile rule of Jerusalem.

## 6. International Television

*“For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.”*

—Revelations 11:9

The two Witnesses will be seen at one time by every people, tribe, language, and nation.

## 7. Deception

*“Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”*

—Matthew 24:4-5

- Secular humanism—no right/wrong
- New age—refers Christian terminology to Eastern mysticism
- Neo-environmentalism--worship mother earth.

**Conclusion:** We may be the terminal generation.

*“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

—2 Peter 3:9

*“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”*

—Matthew 24:42

Memory Verse:

*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup>Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.”*

—Matthew 24:32-33