

A detailed topographical map of the Mediterranean region, showing the Italian Peninsula, the Balkans, and the North African coast. The map uses color to represent elevation, with greens for lower elevations and browns for higher elevations. The sea is depicted in shades of blue. The title 'SIGNS OF THE END' is overlaid in a large, gold, serif font.

# SIGNS OF THE END

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**A Place in the Wilderness**

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Scripture quotations are from the  
American Standard Version of the Bible (1901)  
unless otherwise noted.

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What is meant by the terms “end” or “endtime?” By the “end,” in a general sense, I mean the last few years of this age before the Lord's return. More specifically, I mean the last seven years of this age as prophesied by Daniel.<sup>1</sup>

Over the years, many have prophesied that the end was imminent, with some even declaring that certain events would happen on particular dates. Some have stated that the end was already upon us. All of these assertions have, of course, proven false.

Satan has, no doubt, been instigating such statements and using them for his own purpose: the conditioning of humanity with many false prophecies to deceive mankind when the reality comes. These have led humanity to generally disregard warnings about the end. Like the boy who cried wolf, after many false declarations of woe, further declarations are dismissed as false.

However, with vision and understanding comes the assurance that certain events must happen before the end comes, because the Bible predicts them. At least nine great events must occur before or at the time of the end. Of these,

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<sup>1</sup> Dan. 9:27

two have happened, three are happening, and four are yet to come.

### ***The First Sign—Israel***

The first great sign was Israel becoming a nation. Israel must be a nation before the Lord returns because when He does come back, it will be to Israel,<sup>1</sup> to save the Jewish people. Without the nation of Israel, the Lord cannot return.

After being dispersed and forsaken for millennia, somehow—by divine intervention—Israel came back into being in 1948. The three great earthly powers at that time—Great Britain, Russia, and the United States—in a mysterious confluence of interests, agreed to recognize and support the formation of the nation of Israel.

Although Israel was immediately attacked by the surrounding Arab nations, who sought to obliterate the fledgling nation, it survived and flourished. How could such a thing happen? It was because this was God's doing, and no power on Earth can undo what God does. This was the first clear sign of the Lord's second coming.

### ***The Second Sign—Jerusalem***

The second great sign was the return of Jerusalem into the hands of the Jews. In order for the end to come and the Lord return, Jerusalem must be a part of Israel. Jerusalem will be given over to the nations for the last three and a half

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Zech. 12:1–9

years of this age,<sup>1</sup> and so it must be in Israel's hands to be given over. Furthermore, when Christ returns, He will save Jerusalem from invading armies.<sup>2</sup>

This sign occurred in 1967. As Arabs massed to invade Israel, she preemptively struck, obliterating the forces poised to destroy her. In the process, Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria, the Sinai from Egypt, and the west bank of the Jordan River from Jordan. Most importantly, Israel also took East Jerusalem from Jordan's control. What a great sign! Jerusalem was Israel's once again after about 1900 years.

At that time, the sense of the Lord's second coming was palpable to Christians. But, this was but the second of nine signs of His coming. His return was yet many years off: to us, a lifetime or more; to Him, but a brief hour or two.

### ***The Third Sign—The Falling Away***

The next three signs are related, and are currently occurring. The first of these—the third great sign—is called the falling away. The apostle Paul speaks of this falling away or apostasy from the faith in this way:<sup>3</sup> *Now we beseech you, brethren, touching the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him; to the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet*

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. 11:2

<sup>2</sup> Zech. 12:1–5

<sup>3</sup> 1 Thes. 2:1–3

*be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand; let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition . . .*

Many who profess to be Christian actually are not. As the end nears, these are falling away from the faith. We can see this happening now. In many so-called Christian gatherings—gatherings that profess Christ—abominable things are allowed and even encouraged: homosexuality, abortion, politics, and the like. The Scriptures are often disregarded. Many leaders twist them to their benefit or to the benefit of the evil ideologies they follow. This will increase and get worse.

All of these are a fulfillment of the apostle Paul's word. It is by this that God is separating what is true from what is false, the wheat from the tares.<sup>1</sup>

### ***The Fourth Sign—Difficult Times***

The fourth sign is mentioned by the apostle Paul in his second epistle to Timothy:<sup>2</sup> *But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no*

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<sup>1</sup> Matt. 13:30

<sup>2</sup> 2 Tim. 2:1–5

*lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof: from these also turn away.*

All of what Paul declared can now be plainly seen. The Earth is filled with evil and violence of all kinds. Politicians, business leaders, and much of the populace are not only evil, but boast and revel in that evil. They even attempt to force others to accept their evil and sinful ways. They are full of conceit and spite, and deny the Lord who created them.

### ***The Fifth Sign—The Restraining One***

The fifth great sign is the removal of the restraining One. The apostle Paul said:<sup>1</sup> *And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season. For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only there is one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.*

Throughout the centuries evil has been restrained by the Spirit, who has limited evil, and kept it from advancing beyond a certain point. The tide of evil could only rise so high, and then was turned back. However, as the end approaches, the Spirit in His restraining power will withdraw, allowing evil a free course on Earth.

This will test the hearts of men: only men of good and godly heart will stand in the way as evil advances. In such circumstances, evil men, empowered by the evil one, will

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Thes. 2:6–7



depart from the truth, as seen in the third sign. Men will be corrupted to the uttermost.

Even now, the restraining Spirit has withdrawn Himself—if not totally, then to a very great degree. The abundant, pervasive, and unchecked fraud in certain recent elections is a clear example of evil running rampant without restraint.

### ***The Sixth Sign—Ten Nations***

These next four signs—six through nine—are yet to come. The sixth sign is the formation of a ten-nation union or empire, which will arise around the Mediterranean. The scripture is clear: in various places<sup>1</sup> it prophesies of a ten-nation empire, over which the Antichrist will rule. It will be a latter-day Roman Empire centered around the Mediterranean and having Rome as its capital.

This has not yet occurred, but Great Britain leaving the European Union may be the start of the EU's demise. Eventually, many more nations will leave, including Italy and Greece. From all these nations around the Mediterranean, the ten-nation union will arise.

### ***The Seventh Sign—The Antichrist***

The seventh sign is the appearance of the Antichrist. Nearly all Christians are aware that in the endtime there will

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<sup>1</sup> Dan. 7:7–8, 20–21, 24; Rev. 13:1; 17:3, 12

be one particularly evil person who is called the Antichrist.<sup>1</sup> He will arise from the midst of this ten-nation confederacy. At first, he will not be prominent, for he is called a *little* horn,<sup>2</sup> and not one of the ten leaders of the ten nations. In fact, it may not at first be in any way obvious that he is the coming Antichrist.

He must arise before the last seven years of this age because it is he that will sign the seven-year pact with Israel.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, he must have been around for some time in political circles before the end comes.

### ***The Eighth Sign—The Temple Mount Cleared***

The eighth sign is the removal of the Islamic religious structures currently occupying the Temple Mount—the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. The Temple Mount is the site where the third Jewish Temple must be built. Consequently, it must be cleared. The darkness of Islam must be removed from the Temple Mount.

My understanding is that the Temple will be rebuilt on the site currently occupied by the Al-Aqsa Mosque. As a consequence, the mosque must be cleared away. I believe this will happen in the not-too-distant future.

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<sup>1</sup> Nowhere in Scripture is he called the Antichrist, but over the years he has come to be so named. Scripturally, he is referred to as the beast, the little horn, and other names.

<sup>2</sup> Dan. 7:8; 8:9

<sup>3</sup> Dan. 9:27

Al-Aqsa will be razed and burnt to the ground. It will probably be destroyed from above in some unexpected way, for it is nearly impossible for this to occur by land because of the massive ground security surrounding that site.

### ***The Ninth Sign—The Pact***

The ninth and final sign will be the signing of the pact<sup>1</sup> between the Antichrist and Israel. This pact will mark the final seven years of this age for Israel and, in fact, for the whole Earth.

The pact will be between the Antichrist and Israel, and may include other nations as well, such as the Arab nations. When this pact comes into being, we will know that the end is at hand.

All of these signs must occur before the end. So, do not be shaken that the end is at hand, or misled that it is imminent. All these signs must happen first.

### ***Rebuilding the Temple***

You may wonder why I have omitted the rebuilding of the Temple as one of the great signs of the Lord's return. It is because I believe the Temple will be rebuilt during the beginning of those last seven years.

This is not obvious from Scripture, but it seems to be implied. It is said of the last seven years that in the middle

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<sup>1</sup> Dan. 9:27

of it the Antichrist will take away the sacrifice and oblation.<sup>1</sup> Why would this be mentioned in relation to the seven-year pact? It seems to imply that the pact must *allow* the sacrifice and oblation to begin.

However, before the Temple can be built, the altar must be set up and sacrifices offered to God. This was the order of things in Ezra's day.<sup>2</sup>

So then, if the pact allows the sacrifices and oblations to begin, it means that the altar with its sacrifices has not yet been set up. If that is the case, it then means that the Temple has not yet been built.

### *What Next*

Based upon where we now are, the next great sign of the Lord's coming will be the formation of the ten-nation confederacy arising from around the Mediterranean. While there may be many smaller indications of the Lord's return, this ten-nation confederacy must come into being. Once it is in existence, and the Antichrist has arisen from its midst, the end could come rapidly.



As we look for the signs of the end, we must not neglect our current Christian life. We must spend our time in prayer, in fellowship, and in pouring out to others what God has

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<sup>1</sup> Dan. 9:27

<sup>2</sup> Ezra 3:2–6

given us. Through these, we will mature into what the Lord desires, and it is this maturity in life in the believers that will, in fact, bring the Lord back.

All these signs are in the Lord's hands, and He can move quickly to accomplish them. What is not easy for the Lord is to gain us, to gain our hearts and minds. For this, He needs our day-by-day cooperation, allowing Him to do all that is in His heart within us. Giving the Lord such a free way allows Him to move quickly on the Earth for His return.