

8 THE CAUSE OF THE CURRENT WORLD CRISIS



There are crises in every sector of society, and every nation is experiencing upheaval. There are wars in the Middle East, battles in Central America, turmoil in Africa, insecurity on the streets, theft, violence, juvenile delinquency, etc. There is also a crisis in the financial world- inflation, the rising cost of living, misery, famine and strikes. Foreign debt threatens to strangle the economies of the Third World.

In nature, we also see crises - earthquakes, floods, drought and tornadoes, widespread freezes and sudden heat waves are more frequent. Families are also going through a crisis. In the USA, there are 6,500 divorces every day, which is more than a million a year. Among women between 30 and 40 years of age, six out of ten have gone through a divorce, which is a rate of 60%. In France, one in every two marriages ends in divorce.

World health is threatened. The number of AIDS patients is increasing rapidly, and soon the victims will number in the 18 millions. All this shows that something is happening, but what?

1. Because of these conditions, what do people suffer from? Luke 21:25, 26. _____

Why is all this happening? What do these events, changes, and crises announce?

2. What did the disciples once ask Jesus? Matthew 24: 3.

SIGNS OF THE END

Even though no one knows the exact day or time of Jesus' coming (Matthew 24:36), there will be certain characteristic signs pointing to the time of His coming. The anguish that we have just mentioned is one of the signs of the last times.

3. What will happen among the nations? Matthew 24: 6, 7. _____

There have always been wars, but world wars are a product of our century. There is a frantic arms race. Small nations are becoming strong (Joel 3: 10). The nuclear weapons in existence today can destroy our planet 50 times over, not mentioning chemical weapons.

4. In spite of all this, what agreements will be signed? 1 Thessalonians 5: 3; (Jeremiah 6:14) _____

5. What will be the health condition of people, animals and nature? Matthew 24:7.

Modern day man is becoming increasingly sick; cancer, AIDS, and heart attacks are the plagues of today. Animals are kept artificially, and vegetables are treated with insecticides and chemical fertilizers for greater production.

6. What does the Bible say about environmental pollution? Isaiah 24:4, 5, 7.

7. What will millions of poor people suffer? Matthew 24:7. _____

The UN reports that two thirds of humanity suffer from malnutrition and every year 12 million children die before they reach their first year of life. The foreign debt of the Third World makes the problem more serious, and inflation threatens to destroy the economy of many countries.

8. What other signs are there? Luke 21:11 _____

According to statistics, there have been 127,000 earthquakes in this century, which is 8,500 times more than in the first century, and 31 times more than all the centuries before. The death toll from earthquakes has been 10 times higher in this century than in previous ones.

9. What will happen in science in the end of time? Daniel 12: 4. _____

80% of all discoveries were made in the last decades, and 90% of those scientists are still alive. "Many shall run to and fro..." reflects the hectic pace of life of our time and the speed with which man is able to go from one place to the other.

10. What problems will arise in the work world? James 5:1-5 _____

11. To what time will the love of pleasure, sex, violence and corruption be similar to? Luke 17:26-30. (Genesis 6:11). _____

Appetite has become a god to many. Adultery, divorce, rape, and violence dominate TV screens and real life.

The sin of Sodom (homosexuality and promiscuity) has increased in an alarming way and AIDS is its obvious consequence. Crime has increased to 900% in the last 10 years.

12. What are the signs in the social world? 2 Timothy 3:1-4. _____

There will be a lack of _____ (Matthew 24:12).

13. What signs will be evident in the religious world?

2 Timothy 3:5. A form of _____.

Timothy 4:3,4. False doctrines.

Matthew 24:5,11,24. False _____.

Luke 18:8. Lack of _____.

2 Peter 3:3,4. _____.

Matthew 24:14. The gospel _____.

CONCLUSION

14. What do all these signs mean? Luke 21:28-31. _____

15. What does God urge us to do in this most solemn time? Luke 21:34-36. _____

Based on the above and the fulfillment of the biblical prophecies that are fulfilled before our eyes, do you believe that we are living in the last days of human history? Do you want to be prepared to meet Jesus at His second coming?

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My decision: I believe the signs of the times announce the end of the world and I want to be ready when Christ returns. Yes No
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