



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, 10/12/2021

Scripture: Mark 13:7-10, 19-23

TITLE: What Signs Indicate Jesus’ Return? Part 1

You can’t go to church or attend a Bible study without hearing questions about the return of Christ. You hear talk of the signs of His return. Events seem to be pointing towards that imminent return. Are there signs? If so, what are they?

Let’s keep going back to the Bible for the answers. Mark 13:9-10 (CSB) says:

“But you, be on your guard! They will hand you over to local courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a witness to them. And it is necessary that the gospel be preached to all nations.”

That’s one sign of Christ’s return: the preaching of the Gospel to all nations. Thanks to the faithful missionaries who carried and continue carrying the Gospel to the remotest parts of the world. And thanks to ministries like Back to the Bible through radio and digital tools, the Gospel is going where it has never gone before.

Mark 13:7-8 says:

“When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, don’t be alarmed; these things must take place, but it is not yet the end. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.”

Jesus continues in verses 19-20:

“For those will be days of tribulation, the kind that hasn’t been from the beginning of creation until now and never will be again. If the Lord had not cut those days short, no one would be saved. But he cut those days short for the sake of the elect, whom he chose.”

Jesus said there would be great tribulation. There will be wars and rumors of wars. It will be horrible with famines, destruction, and natural disasters. It’s going to get really bad. That’s another sign.

So the Gospel will be preached all over the world. There will be great tribulation. But there will also be false prophets working signs and wonders. Mark 13:21-23 says:

“Then if anyone tells you, ‘See, here is the Messiah! See, there!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect. And you must watch! I have told you everything in advance.”

Even Matthew 24:23-24 says so.

These are just 3 signs, and tomorrow we’ll discover 3 more. But suffice it to say, though we do not know the specific hour Jesus is returning, it seems like things are falling into place. The Gospel is being delivered to the ends of the earth; there are constant natural disasters, wars, rumors of wars, and famines. And today, we find many miracle workers who are leading people astray.

So what should we do because of these realities? Don’t get distracted and push on. That’s my challenge for you today: keep your eye on the prize: eternity with Christ. We know that the victory is secured in Christ. Yes, it’s going to get really bad on earth. War, persecution, false teaching, and signs but the Gospel marches on. The gates of hell will not prevail. So all we need to do is follow Jesus faithfully each and every day. Jesus is coming back soon. It’s my prayer we will be ready.