

FAQ 18

Jesus Christ's Return Is SOON But Not Immediate

Q #18 Where are we on the eschatological chart, chronologically speaking ?

It's difficult to discern (where we are on the prophetic calendar) even when one is reading the end-time passages on a regular basis. But, due to accurate data from the One Who knows exactly how the future will indeed unfold, at least we have some reliable information with which to work. While His return will not take place in 2021, 2022 nor 2023, His initial appearing could take place before the end of this 2020 decade.

It is very probable we are in the days of "birth pains" or "the beginning of sorrows." (See Matthew 24 for specific details.) No one can dismiss the present signs unless they simply insist upon contrary-to-the-facts disbelief. Recent events are exactly what the text lists. Yet, "the end is not yet." By the way, don't miss that which our Lord also says in this portion of His answer: Many will come in My name saying "I Am" or "I am the Christ." These false prophets will deceive many. The New Age and global spirituality is doing just this as it heralds a *spirit-of-antichrist* message concerning Jesus Christ. (See I John 2 & 4 and [Truth Matters Article #13](#) for more details.) In summary, duplicity will be great—actually, IS PRESENTLY great! Other passages also address this end time theme of deception for the sake of clear warning to those who would receive it.

Note what happens after this initial period of time. (Also, please discern: the interpretation often applied to the Matthew 24, 25 passage by the Pre-Tribulationists is just that, an interpretation. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture is NOT stated to have occurred anywhere in the context, let alone the New Testament. Please also discern: the interpretation often applied to the same passage by the Preterists—those who believe these events happened during the first century—are rejecting the context concerning what our Lord Jesus is addressing: the sign of His coming and the end of the age.) Back to what the passage says will happen next. Persecution or tribulation—eventually martyrdom on a global scale—for "My [Christ's] name's sake" will occur. This tribulation will come not from God but will come from the world (vs. 9) and the Beast (of Revelation 13). Deception from false prophets will also occur during this time. It will be so great even *Christians so called* will play a huge role in bringing this persecution. The true believers in Jesus Christ will appear so cultish even nominal, Christians-by-name will have nothing to do with them. But that's part of the deception, you see. Satan will be so successful in his campaign of deceit, few will discern it.

It's here where we will stop in this Matthew context, for the passage goes on to speak of something that has clearly not yet taken place: the event of the Abomination of Desolation. Tied to this event is the man of sin as described in II Thessalonians 2. Presently, this individual has not yet gone public, although he may be alive today.

If we go to the Book of Revelation, we find the seven Seals. It is possible we are in the days of the first couple seals. The third seal speaks to food shortages. While the cost of food is clearly on the rise globally, we cannot dismiss the possibility we've already entered

this period of time given the food shortages in many parts of the world. It's also possible that this period of time will be much more severe than at present. Are we prepared as our Lord has described His faithful stewards will be? (See Matthew 24:45)

Once again, it's here where we will stop, for the rest of Revelation 6 speaks to seals four, five and six. Due to the description of that which contributes to the killing by "Death" and "Hades," it is most likely this time in history is yet future—"beasts of the earth" are currently not contributing to the killing of many over a fourth of the earth.

As a result of these biblical and cultural observations—and God help us to be observing correctly—what are clear signs which will follow our present (July, 2008) days? According to Scripture, a huge wave of martyrdom of true Christians will take place. This is seen in the fifth seal (Revelation 6) and in Revelation 13. Those who will not honor the miracle-working beasts nor receive the mark will be killed. Currently, we do not find this event taking place today. This may sound obvious, but because some are actually saying it is taking place today on a spiritual level, we need to make these biblically stated appeals even though it really is clear to those who allow the Word of God to speak for itself.

[Click here](#) for an end-time chart in light of Endurance Ministries' eschatological position

So, in light of the above, how shall we now live? Good question.

The Word of God sincerely does provide the answers. Because Endurance Ministries has as one of its top purposes the goal of encouraging people to go to the Word for True counsel, we leave the rest of the answer to this important question (concerning applications as to how we should be living today) for you to uncover. Just throw off the worldly influences concerning time restraints and open the Book! You can do it! For pertinent passages, go to [First Things First](#).