

From: Dr. Christian Widener
Subject: End Times Berean Watchman Report - Recognizing the Signs Part 2 - More in the News
Date: March 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM

CW



End Times Berean Watchman Report - Recognizing the Signs Part 2 - More in the News

By [Dr. Christian Widener](#) • [Issue #20](#) • [View online](#)

March 11th, 2022

Welcome to another edition of the End Times Berean Watchman Report! In this issue, we'll continue the series on recognizing the signs and talk about the latest developments in the news.

I also have an update about my book...

Witnessing the End

WITNESSING THE END: Daniel's Seventy Sevens and the Final Decree Everyone Missed

Here's the title of my new book. It's in the final proof reading stage right now, so it's getting really close to being ready. But with these excerpts I've been sending out, you are the first ones to be getting a glimpse of it. :)

Recognizing the Signs - Part 2

MISSING CHRIST'S FIRST VISITATION

As Jesus approached Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, he wept over the city because they did not recognize the appointed time of his visitation. There were numerous prophecies indicating not only that Jesus was the Messiah, but also that the timing of his arrival was at hand in the first century. The Wise Men from the East recognized the appointed time (*Matthew 2:1-9*), as did Simeon of Jerusalem, Anna the prophetess (*Luke 2:22-38*), and many others. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law largely did not. Their failure to recognize the times and the arrival of the Messiah led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple. Luke 19 records the words of Jesus before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, just days before his crucifixion. His statement begs a couple of questions. First, "How did they miss that he was the Messiah?" And second, "If there was an

appointed time for his first coming and they failed to recognize it, could we also miss the appointed time for his promised return?”

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

– Luke 19: 41-44 NIV

Let’s start with the first question. There were many ways they should have recognized the appointed time. You could argue that his miracles alone testified to the fact that he was the Messiah. He was a son of David, was born in Bethlehem Ephratah to a virgin, fled to Egypt, grew up in Nazareth, ministered in Galilee, was preceded and affirmed by John the Baptist, and he had just ridden through the East Gate into the Temple Mount on a donkey, all in fulfillment of different Bible prophecies [1]. He also appeared at the appointed time—483 years (sixty-nine times seven) after an edict by Artaxerxes to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, in accordance with Daniel’s prophecy of seventy weeks. [*I’ll have a lot more to say about that in my soon to be released book, **Witnessing the End.***]

— — — — —

Finally, and most importantly, Jesus directly told the Pharisees and the teachers of the law that he was the Messiah, the Son of God sent by his Father (*John 10:22-40*). So, there were both signs and direct revelations that they missed or refused to recognize. Prophecies were fulfilled right under their noses, but they didn't see them or just couldn't believe them. And as a result, they suffered the pronouncement of Jesus in Luke 19, when thirty-seven years later the temple and all of Jerusalem were destroyed in AD 70.

We can't just blame the religious leaders for not seeing what was right in front of them, though. Jesus also said some things to the disciples that they couldn't understand, either. For example, he told them directly that he was going to be killed and then would rise from the dead three days later (*Mark 9:9-10, 31-32*).

As they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead. They seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead meant. – Mark 9:9-10 NASB

For He was teaching His disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill Him; and when He has been killed, He will rise three days later.” But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him. – Mark 9:31-32 NASB

Jesus used very plain language, and yet the disciples

couldn't comprehend what he meant. But how can that be? Why wasn't what he said clear to them? The disciples just couldn't imagine how the literal words Jesus was telling them could be true, and therefore they reasoned that they must mean something else. It wasn't that they didn't hear him or didn't understand his words. Mark wrote that the disciples "*seized upon that statement*" and then discussed what it meant. When a rational and truthful person makes a fantastic statement, it is logical to assume that it was meant as a metaphor or hyperbole. An example would be: *The runner **flew** down the track.* A problem arises, however, when a literal statement is wrongly understood to be outside the realm of possibilities [2]. When that happens, it can cause us to misunderstand the simplest of statements. Since this happened to both the Pharisees and the disciples, we must also be on guard against making similar mistakes when interpreting prophecy.

COULD MANY ALSO BE CAUGHT UNPREPARED FOR CHRIST'S SECOND COMING?

This brings us back to the second question: If there was an appointed time for his first coming and they failed to recognize it, could we also miss the appointed time for his promised return? And the obvious answer is, yes, we could. To avoid making the same mistake, we need to know the specific signs that the Bible tells us to watch for, and we need faith to believe them. Jesus promised to return (*John 14*), and he gave many signs of his return (*Matthew 24 & Luke 21*). He also told us

to watch so that we would recognize that the time had arrived and not be taken by surprise.

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” – Luke 21: 34-36

*While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.** You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. – 1 Thessalonians 5:3-5 (emphasis added)*

There were very serious consequences for not recognizing the time of Jesus’ first visitation. The Scriptures teach us that Christ’s return will surprise people “*like a thief*” who are in the darkness with their “*hearts weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life*” and aren’t watching. Accordingly, we must be “*always on watch*” and praying that we can “*escape all that is about to happen,*” so that we will “*be able to stand before the Son of Man*” when he comes. I think we can

be sure that we are not taken by surprise when he comes.

be pretty sure from these verses that those who are looking for his appearing will not be taken by surprise, though. We can also be sure that it will be even more disastrous to fail to recognize the signs of Jesus' second appearing than it was at his first appearing.

NOTES:

[1] The references are found in: Isaiah 11:1, Micah 5:2 & Isaiah 7:14, Hosea 11:1, Isaiah 9:1-2, John 1:29, Ezekiel 44:1-2, and Zechariah 9:9.

[2] For example, that the millennial reign of Christ will be literally for one thousand years.

IN THE NEWS...

Inflation Continues to Rise

Another full week of interesting news bites, and so many of them are pointing towards higher prices worldwide. You don't need a news article to know that, though, since prices in the grocery store and at the gas pump are already telling us the same thing. The present price increases are being blamed on the Russian invasion, but don't be fooled. The prices were already rising. It will still take some time for the Russian invasion of Ukraine to make its full impact on prices, which will make the present increases look tolerable.

Oil analyst warns gas prices will continue to rise amid 'very ugly' inflation, fuel shortage looming | Fox Business

The Schork Group principal Stephen Schork warned that gas prices will continue to soar amid “very ugly” inflation and that a recession is “unavoidable at this point.”

www.foxbusiness.com • [Share](#)



Food prices reach record highs, skyrocket by 20.7 percent across globe

World food prices, led by the skyrocketing costs of dairy and vegetable oils, reached record highs in February. The shocking 20.7% yearly increase in food costs was reported Friday by the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization, which tracks the prices of food staples.

nypost.com • [Share](#)



China and Taiwan

We should expect that China will indeed invade Taiwan soon, perhaps even before summer. They have been stepping up their intimidation lately, following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the President Xi has announced that Taiwan will be reunified with China, either peacefully or by force.

Taiwan on high alert: Fears rising that China will invade while world focus is on Ukraine | All Israel News

Recently, China has increased its incursions into Taiwanese air space to record levels

www.allisrael.com • [Share](#)



How Will This Affect Israel and the Middle East?

Ukraine may seem like a distant nation when thinking about Bible prophecy and the Gog-Magog War, but one country that probably no one has considered as playing some role in the development of, is Ukraine. Why? Because Ukraine is also a former part of the Scythian empire, along with parts of present day Russia. Furthermore, there is a connection between the Scythians and the Assyrians. If you look on most ancient history maps, the Assyrian empire is shown as extending only to the southern shores of the Black Sea, not north of it (into the present territory of Ukraine). However, historians also record that during the Assyrian king's reign Esarhaddon (c. 681-669 BC) he went to war against the Scythian king and defeated him. After that battle, the king was succeeded by Bartatua, who married Esarhaddon's daughter Serua-eterat, making the Scythians a vassal state and an extension of the Neo-Assyrian empire.

What does that mean? Maybe nothing, but it does mean that

Ukraine is not really outside of the Bible's prophetic map of actors...

And if that wasn't enough reason, just the proximity of the conflict, the involvement of Russia, and the large number of Jews (>200,000) presently living in Ukraine, all potentially pull Israel in or provide cover for another attack on Israel, while the world is focused elsewhere.

How might the Russia-Ukraine war lead to conflict in the Middle East? - The Jerusalem Post

War is happening right now in Europe, but every actor in the area can cause a butterfly-effect scenario for Israel and its neighbors.

www.jpost.com • [Share](#)



ISIS Names a New Caliph

And ISIS named a new Caliph this past week, who is now their third, since they first arose under Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was the first leader of ISIS to attempt to lay claim to the title and establish rule over all Islam. This third attempt is also likely to fail, but they are not the only ones attempting to establish supremacy over all Muslims. If the Antichrist is to somehow rise from Islam, then we can expect that one of these attempts is soon going to gain a lot more traction.

ISIS names new leader, confirms the death of former head killed during US operation - All Arab News

The terror group's new spokesperson made the announcement in a recorded message that confirmed the death of Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi al-Quraishi

[allarab.news](#) • [Share](#)



Wrap Up

Well, that's all for now, but I expect there will be more to talk about in the news next week, I'll have another installment in the series on Recognizing the Signs, and whatever news I can share about the book's progress.

Blessings and Maranatha,

Christian

Did you enjoy this issue?



By Dr. Christian Widener

Keep up-to-date on specific trends and events which help us know where we are in the Bible's last days timeline.

