

**Title: SIGNS OF THE TIMES That Point To The Second Coming  
Of Christ To The Earth**

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**"We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."**

**"This shall be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in clothes lying in a manger."**

**V. 1, "The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested Him by asking Him to show them a SIGN from heaven.**

**V. 2, Jesus replied, 'When evening comes,' you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,'**

**V. 3, and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' 'You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the SIGNS of the times.'"**

**In Matthew 24, while seated on the Mount of Olives toward the end of His earthly ministry, in response to the question from His disciples, "what will be the SIGN of your coming and of the end of the age?", Jesus proceed to outline events that would precede His second coming to the earth to set up His earthly Millennial Kingdom.**

**3 signs occurring in the world at the present time that I think could play a part in Biblical prophecy.**

**"It is very logical to conclude that the embryonic beginnings of the signs of Jesus coming to earth to set up His kingdom could be in place in the end of the church age." Robert Gromacki, "Are These The Last Days?"**

**1. The Bible alludes to the fact that the last days prior to Jesus' Second Coming to earth will witness the commerce of human beings (the buying and selling of slaves) in the world.**

**The problem of slavery across the world has become so prominent that last year the United States held the first "International Conference on Slave Trafficking." Delegates from more than 120 nations attended the conference. The United States has since passed a law to address the practice of slavery across the world. The Department of Justice now treats the fight against human trafficking as a top civil rights priority.**

**"The advent of globalization has exacerbated the problem by creating market opportunities for traffickers in human beings. ... Liberalized borders and ease of movement of people across them have made international trafficking in persons a**

**profitable activity. ... About half of those sold into servitude are sold internationally, but the countries to which they were sold do not consider them victims. ... Sex and drugs are driving the slave industry." Depaul University's International Human Rights Institute.**

**Congressman Chris Smith of the United States says, "Up to 4 million persons worldwide, mainly women and children are trafficked. Statistics of this loathsome business are difficult to garner, and many believe the actual number of victims is much higher."**

**"In India alone, over 2.3 million girls and women are believed to be working in the sex industry against their will. Some are actually 10 years old or younger."**

**"It is hard to believe that in 2003, women, children and men are bought and sold as chattel every day in the U.S. and abroad. Four girls from Mexico and 30 women from Russia were recently found working as slaves in the U.S. Prior to being brought to the U.S. to work as slaves, they were told that if they complained their families in Mexico and Russia would incur serious injury." Chris Smith**

**Rev. 18:1-5 and 8-13.**

**The Expositor's Bible Commentary: "In v. 13 'bodies and souls of men' require special mention. The Greek word for 'bodies' is somata and it is a Greek idiom for slaves, while the Greek word for 'souls of men' is psychas which means essentially the same as bodies or slaves. Thus the whole expression means, 'slaves, that is, human beings.'**

**2. The Bible teaches that in the last days there will be an increase in drug ingestion and addiction in the world.**

**Revelation 9:21 and 18:21, 23b.**

**The Greek word for "magic spells" (NIV) translated as "sorceries" (KJV) is "pharmakeia" from which our English word, "pharmacy" is derived. Strong's Concordance says, "pharmakeia" means, "medication" or "drugs." A "pharmakon" is a "drug" or a "druggist", or a "pharmacist", or a "poisoner". By extension, the word came to mean a "magician", a "sorcerer" or "witchcraft."**

**There are 4 major drug problems in the United States alone:**

**A.) Illegal "street" drugs grown or manufactured here or abroad such as marijuana, cocaine, heroine, etc. and sold/purchased illegally.**

**B.) Legal drugs/medication prescribed by the medical profession which leads to prescription drug addiction.**

**Over 1/3 of all persons entering drug treatment centers suffer from addiction to legal prescription drugs.**

Many Americans who are addicted deny they have a "problem" because they get the medications legally and a doctor(s) said they need the medication.

C.) Legal psychotropic (mood altering) drugs prescribed by the medical profession.

Over 200 million prescriptions for psychotropic (mood altering) drugs issued in the United States last year! Many of these were prescribed for children!

Robert Lee said, "Many, if not most children are formally introduced to the drug culture by their pediatricians, where they first learn from a major authority figure outside the family that the solution to feeling 'bad' is to take a drug that will make them feel good."

Dr. Robert Mendelsohn, who served on the Illinois State Medical Licensure Board and taught at Northwestern University wrote a book entitled, "How To Raise A Healthy Child ... In Spite Of Your Doctor. In the book, Dr. Mendelsohn complained that the "pediatrician's wanton prescribing of powerful drugs indoctrinates children from birth with the philosophy of a 'pill for every ill.'

D.) Senior citizens who are addicted to prescription drugs.

It is estimated that there are over 2 million seniors admitted to hospitals in the United States yearly due to drug addiction from prescription drugs.

U.S. senior citizens fill 613 million prescriptions annually, an average of 15.5 per person and many are taking as many as 10 different drugs at a time.

Just because a doctor tells you that you need to go on drug(s), does not mean that you need the medication or, more importantly, that it is God's will that you do so!

Robert Gromacki: "The Book of Revelation indicates that heavy drug participation will mark the generation preceding the Second Coming of Christ."

3. The Bible teaches that during the Tribulation the identifying mark of 666 will be mandatory for any and all persons to participate in the economic necessities of life.

Rev. 13:16-18.

6 passages in the Book of Revelation that speak of the mark 666.

(1.) Revelation 13:16-18:

1. Every person living at that time (during the Tribulation) will be "forced" to take the mark of the beast ("He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on right hand or his forehead, ..." Rev. 13:16

2. No person will be allowed to engage in or participate in commerce or business transactions without the observable mark. ("so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark ...") Rev. 13:17

3. The mark is 666 ("His number is 666 ...") Rev. 13:18

**(2.) Revelation 14:9-11**

**Receiving the mark guarantees the eternal doom of the soul and body of every recipient. ("If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he too will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.") Rev. 14:9-11**

**(3.) Revelation 20:4**

**1. Not receiving the mark of the beast (666) will lead to the loss of life through beheading. ("And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the Word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands") Rev. 20:4**

**2. Though beheaded, those who refuse the mark of commitment to the Antichrist and his economic system will rise again to live in the 1,000 year earthly kingdom with Christ and ultimately eternally with Him. ("They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years") Rev. 20:4b**

**Now how does this relate to today? Perhaps in this way.**

**Did you know that already there are companies that have developed technology to identify every person through a mark in the body. Listen to this:**

**"ADS is hoping that Americans can be persuaded to implant RFID chips under their skin to identify themselves when going to a cash machine or in place of using a credit card. The surgical procedure, which is performed with local anesthetic, places a RFID tag in the flesh of a human arm. ... (The tag is called) "VeriPay" and ...some manufacturers have managed to shrink to half the size of a grain of sand. ... (It will) transmit a unique ID code."**

**Dr. Gromacki, "It is very logical to conclude that the embryonic beginnings of the signs could be seen in the end of the church age."**