

What Will be the Sign of Your Coming?

¹³As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?'" (Matt. 24:3).

There is much speculation among *Believers* about the *Return* of *Messiah Yeshua*. Evidently the disciples also had similar questions and desired answers about *His Return*. In *Matthew Chapter 24* they asked Him directly. *He answered their three questions* in the remainder of *Matthew 24* and part of *Matthew 25*, so *we do not have to speculate* or depend on individual's dreams, interpretations, or popular doctrine. These passages in Scripture are among my personal favorites because in them *Yeshua* clearly delineates *Scriptural Principles* that are relevant in *our days* and in *the end of days* (which could be one in the same).

One of the principles He elucidated on is: *³⁶But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven nor the Son, except the Father alone. ³⁷For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. ³⁹And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away. So shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man...²⁶As it was in the days of Noah, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷They were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. (Matt. 24:36-39, Luke 17:26-27, TLV).* This week's reading is *Parashat Noah* (*Noach*, in Hebrew) which is preceded by the awesome statement: *"⁸But Noah found favor (*chen*) in Adonai's eyes" (Gen. 6:8).* I spoke on favor (*favour* in the KJV) earlier this year in my January 8, 2022, message entitled *In His Favour* and again on my March 17, 2022, message entitled: *Spending His Favor*. In the January message I shared: *"There is an appointed time to receive and accept His favor (*chen*) and the set time is now, in 2022. We are to gain favor with Him and favor with the people around us. Our future depends on this. Our success depends on this."* Evidently, favor was the key component in Noah's life and that changed everything! *Yeshua* described His return as being accompanied by judgment. Just as the flood came and judged people, so also will His return. The *sweeping them all away* is not, as some people interpret, the so-called *rapture of the church*. The context is clear in that His Return is compared to the flood taking away people in judgment. We can surely go back to *Genesis* chapter 6 and clearly see the context of the *days of Noah* in *Gen. 6:8-13, 17-18, 22*. In particular we read: *"¹¹Now the earth was ruined before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²God saw the earth, and behold it was ruined because all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth...¹³Then God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh is coming before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Behold, I am about to bring ruin upon them along with the land...¹⁷Now I am about to bring the flood – water upon the land – to destroy all flesh in which is the spirit of life from under the sky. Everything that is on the land will perish. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you. So you shall come into the ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you...²²So Noah did according to all that God commanded him; he did so exactly.* This is a description of today's world. Don't you agree?

Yeshua indicates that during the time just before His return, although the warnings were sounded, most people will carry on with life as usual. In those days, even though Noah was building the ark and living in righteousness (i.e., he was *Naase V'Nishma*, preaching and doing the work to prove his preaching), people were ignoring him. It was *business as usual*, people were getting married, gathering food, living their life, etc. But Noah's message was completely being ignored. His trek was not a 1-day, 1-week or even a 1-year, 10-year, 25-year, or 50-year event. From *Genesis 5:32 and 7:11* we can infer *~100-year ark-building ministry* before his peers. So will it be in the days preceding the return of *Yeshua*. Noah's message (which the same as John the Baptist's message) *Repent & Return* will be preached, but most people will give little heed to it. According to *Yeshua's* own words it should be clear that *Noah* provides an important basis for understanding the end times. The problem appears to be one of *self-gratification* (the context implied by the statement: *"eating, drinking and taking wives"*). In another translation the implication is that individuals took wives (plural) they themselves chose. Notice that *Adonai* is not considered at all in this self-centered lifestyle. As if to say: *Who cares what Adonai thinks?*

Another way of expounding the same message is to say that the people in the time of Noah did not *Shema* to *Adonai's* words and ways. The Lord has been emphasizing in the congregation that we must *shema*: *prove that we heard by doing what He said*. The Apostle Peter seems to agree: *“¹⁸For Messiah once suffered for sins also—the righteous for the unrighteous—in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Ruach. ¹⁹Through the Ruach He also went and preached to the spirits in prison. ²⁰Long ago they disobeyed while God kept waiting patiently, in the days of Noah as the ark was being built. In that ark a few (that is, eight souls) were brought safely through water. ²¹Corresponding to that, immersion now brings you to safety—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but a pledge to God of a good conscience—through the resurrection of Messiah Yeshua” (1 Peter 3:18-21)*. Does the current Believing World care about *what Adonai says*? I would say NO because *His Torah* and *His Tanach* are rejected by nearly all of Christianity while adhering to the doctrine of *Yeshua* abolishing obedience to the Old Testament – *Who cares what He said prior to the New Testament?* This statement may seem harsh, but regardless of the reason, Christianity promotes disobedience to *Adonai's Torah* by insisting that it has no relevance to a Born-Again Believer's life.

The Apostle Peter gives further instruction for the approaching end times in 2 Peter Chapter 2: *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ²Many will follow their immoral ways, and as a result the way of the truth will be maligned. ³In their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction does not slumber... ⁵He did not spare the ancient world. He preserved only Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, along with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly...⁹Therefore the Lord certainly knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and how to keep the unrighteous being punished until the Day of Judgment...¹³They will be paid back for what they have done—evil for evil. They consider carousing in broad daylight a pleasure. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceitful pleasures while feasting together with you. ¹⁴They have eyes full of adultery that never stop sinning, enticing unstable souls. They have hearts trained in greed—a cursed brood! ¹⁵They have abandoned the straight way. They have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness...¹⁸For by mouthing grandiosities that amount to nothing, they entice in sensual fleshly passions those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹They promise them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption—for a person is a slave to whatever has overcome him. ²⁰For if—after escaping the world's pollutions through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Yeshua the Messiah—they again become entangled in these things and are overcome, the end for them has become worse than the beginning. ²¹For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after learning about it, to turn back from the holy commandment passed on to them.”*

But also, Peter reminds us how to live in the Last Days: *“Therefore, since Messiah suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same attitude. For the one who has suffered in the flesh is finished with sin. ²As a result, he lives the rest of his time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for God's will. ³For the time that has passed was sufficient for you to carry out the desire of the pagans—living in indecency, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, wild parties, and lawless idolatries...⁷Now the end of all things is near. So be self-controlled and sober-minded for prayer. ⁸Above all, keep your love for one another constant, for “love covers a multitude of sins.” ⁹Be hospitable one to another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of the many-sided grace of God. ¹¹Whoever speaks, let it be as one speaking the utterances of God. Whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies. So in all things may God be glorified through Messiah Yeshua—all glory and power to Him forever and ever! Amen. ¹²Loved ones, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal taking place among you to test you—as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³Instead, rejoice insofar as you share in the sufferings of Messiah, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be glad. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Messiah, you are fortunate, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵For let none of you suffer as a murderer or thief or evildoer or as a troublemaker. ¹⁶But if anyone suffers for following Messiah, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name. ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin with the house of God. If judgment begins with us first, what will be the end for those who disobey the Good News of God? ¹⁸Now, “if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what shall become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will—let them trust their souls to a faithful Creator while continuing to do good” (1 Peter 4)*. Not much else needs to be added. *Shabbat Shalom!*