

The Second Coming of Christ 基督第二次降臨



馬太福音廿四章 Matthew 24 MGC 5/10/2020

Introduction (1) 前言

The message God laid in my heart to preach today is on the second coming of Christ.

For the past 2 ½ months our minds have been occupied with the Coronavirus pandemic. This pandemic affects the life of everyone in the world. Leaders in every nation are working very hard to deal with it and are trying to get our lives back to “normal”

Why does God allow this to happen? Is He sending us some signal and try to get our attention? If this is the case, what is He trying to tell us?

While this pandemic certainly has a lot to do with human sins and God's judgment, but it may be more than that. What role does this epic global pandemic play in God's agenda for the human race? Is this part of His end time agenda?

In my previous sermon I pointed out that Habakkuk 3:5 mentioned that “plague went before God's coming and pestilence followed His steps 在祂前面有瘟疫流行，在祂腳下有熱症發出”. This is also mentioned in Luke 21:11 and Revelation 6:8.

Introduction (2) 前言

Matthew 24 & 25 are called the “Great Chapters (大章)” of the Bible; it is also called the Olivet Discourse (橄欖山的講論).

In these chapters, our Lord Jesus Christ prophesized on future events concerning Israel, His 2nd coming and end of the age (這世代的終結).

Prophecies in the Bible are given thru the prophets in the Old Testament and thru the apostles in the New Testament. But this end time prophecy is given by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the greatest prophet. These chapters are the key to understanding other end time prophecies in the Bible. Therefore Matthew 24 & 25 are very important chapters.

Prior to the discourse, Jesus gave His last public message and pronounced judgments on Israel:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

Look, **your house is left to you desolate.** (fulfilled 70 A.D.)

耶路撒冷阿、耶路撒冷阿、你常殺害先知、又用石頭打死那奉遣到你這裡來的人。我多次願意聚集你的兒女、好像母雞把小雞聚集在翅膀底下、只是你們不願意。看哪、**你們的家成為荒場**、留給你們。



"For I tell you, you will not **see me again** until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

“我告訴你們、從今以後、你們不得**再見我**、直等到你們說、奉主名來的、是應當稱頌的”

Matthew 24: 1-3 馬太福音 24章 1-3 節

24¹ Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.
2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."
3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "**when** will this happen, and **what** will be the **sign** of your coming and of the end of the age?"

24¹ 耶穌出了聖殿、正走的時候，門徒進前來，把殿宇指給他看。
2 耶穌對他們說，你們不是看見這殿宇麼。我實在告訴你們，將來在這裡，沒有一塊石頭留在石頭上不被拆毀了。
3 耶穌在橄欖山上坐著，門徒暗暗的來說，請告訴我們，**甚麼時候**有這些事。你降臨和世界的末了，**有甚麼豫兆**呢。

Disciples' 3 Questions about the prophecy 門徒對耶穌預言的三個問題

- 1) **When** (will the temple be destroyed & you come back)?
 - 2) **What** will be the sign of your (second) coming?
 - 3) **What** will be the sign of the end of the age (這世代的終結)?
-

The disciples didn't realize Jesus' prophecy has two parts. The first part (destruction of Israel & the Jerusalem temple) was fulfilled exactly as prophesized in 70 A.D. when Roman general Titus came to crush the Jewish rebellion.

Fulfillment of the first part of this prophecy in 70 A.D. in the disciple's generation is important because it establishes the credential / validity of Jesus' prophecy for that generation.

The remainder of Jesus' prophecy has been partially fulfilled up to this date and is progressing rapidly to its full fulfillment.

Jesus gave us His words as guarantee the prophecy will be fulfilled:
“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away 天地要廢去、我的話卻不能廢去”

When Will Christ Come Back? 基督何時回來？

The Unknowable 不可知的: the day & hour 日子、時辰

"No one knows about that **day** or **hour**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

但那**日子**、那**時辰**、沒有人知道、連天上的使者也不知道、子也不知道、惟獨父知道。

How can Jesus not know it since He is God?

"Jesus in his incarnation "choose to limit his knowledge only to what His Father reveal to him" (Pastor John McArthur)

(Jesus) being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking **the very nature of a servant**, being made **in human likeness**.

(耶穌)本有神的形像、不以自己與神同等為強奪的。反倒虛己、取了**奴僕的形像**、成為人的樣式 (Phil 腓 2: 6-7)

"**a servant does not know his master's business..** all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **僕人不知道主人所作的事**。我從我父所聽見的、已經都告訴你們了"(Jn 約15:15)

When Will Christ Come Back? 基督何時回來？

Despite Jesus said no one knows “that day or hour” of his return, many had come up with predictions of the date of Christ’ return.

One recent example: Family Radio’s co-founder & Bible teacher

Harold Camping predicted the date of Christ return to be May 21, 2011, then revised it to October 21, 2011. Both dates fell thru.



Harold Camping admitted he was wrong and passed away 2 ½ years later (age 92)



When Will Christ Come Back? 基督何時回來？

The Knowable – A time frame 可知的 – 大體時間
“Days 日子”, “Season 時令”, “Generation 世代”

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree (Israel): As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that **summer is near**. Even so, when you **see all these things**, you know that it is **near, right at the door**. I tell you the truth, this **generation** will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.”

“你們可以從無花果樹(以色列國)學個比方。當樹枝發嫩長葉的時候、你們就知道**夏天**近了。這樣、你們**看見這一切的事**、也該知道人子近了、正在門口了。我實在告訴你們、這**世代**還沒有過去、這些事都要成就。”

It is generally agreed that the fig tree represents Israel. Many scholars believe **the generation** that see the nation of Israel restored AND the signs in Matthew 24 will see the end time.

As it was in the **days** (plural) of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 挪亞的**日子** (眾數)怎樣、人子降臨也要怎樣。

End Time Signs in Matthew 24 馬太24章的末時徵兆

We can categorize these signs by:

1) Signs in the world:

Disasters (natural): earthquakes, famine, violent weather, pestilence (Lk 21:11)

Disasters (man-made): wars, ethnic conflicts, economic problems, social unrest & lawlessness (wickedness)

2) Signs in the church:

Deceptions: false teachers, prophets & false Christ

Deflections: falling away from faith

Desecrations: persecution of Christians

Declaration: worldwide preaching of the gospel

行毀壞可憎的、
站在聖地

3) Signs in Israel: a) restoration; b) "abomination of desolation"

4) Signs in the sky: sun & moon darkened; stars fall from the sky; heavenly bodies shaken → **the ultimate sign : sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky (人子的兆頭要顯在天上)**. All the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 地上的萬族都要哀哭。他們要看見人子、有能力、有大榮耀、駕著天上的雲降臨。

The most important signs: Israel 最重要的徵兆發生在以色列國身上



"Now learn this lesson from the **fig tree (symbolize Israel)**: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door."



你們可以從**無花果樹 (象徵以色列)** 學個比方: 當樹枝發嫩長葉 (以色列復國) 的時候, 你們就知道夏天近了。這樣, 你們看見這一切的事, 也該知道人子近了, 正在門口了

God has His end time agenda in world wars

After World War I - Britain was given the mandate over Israel's ancient territory after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1917

World War II - United Nation granted the re-establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948.

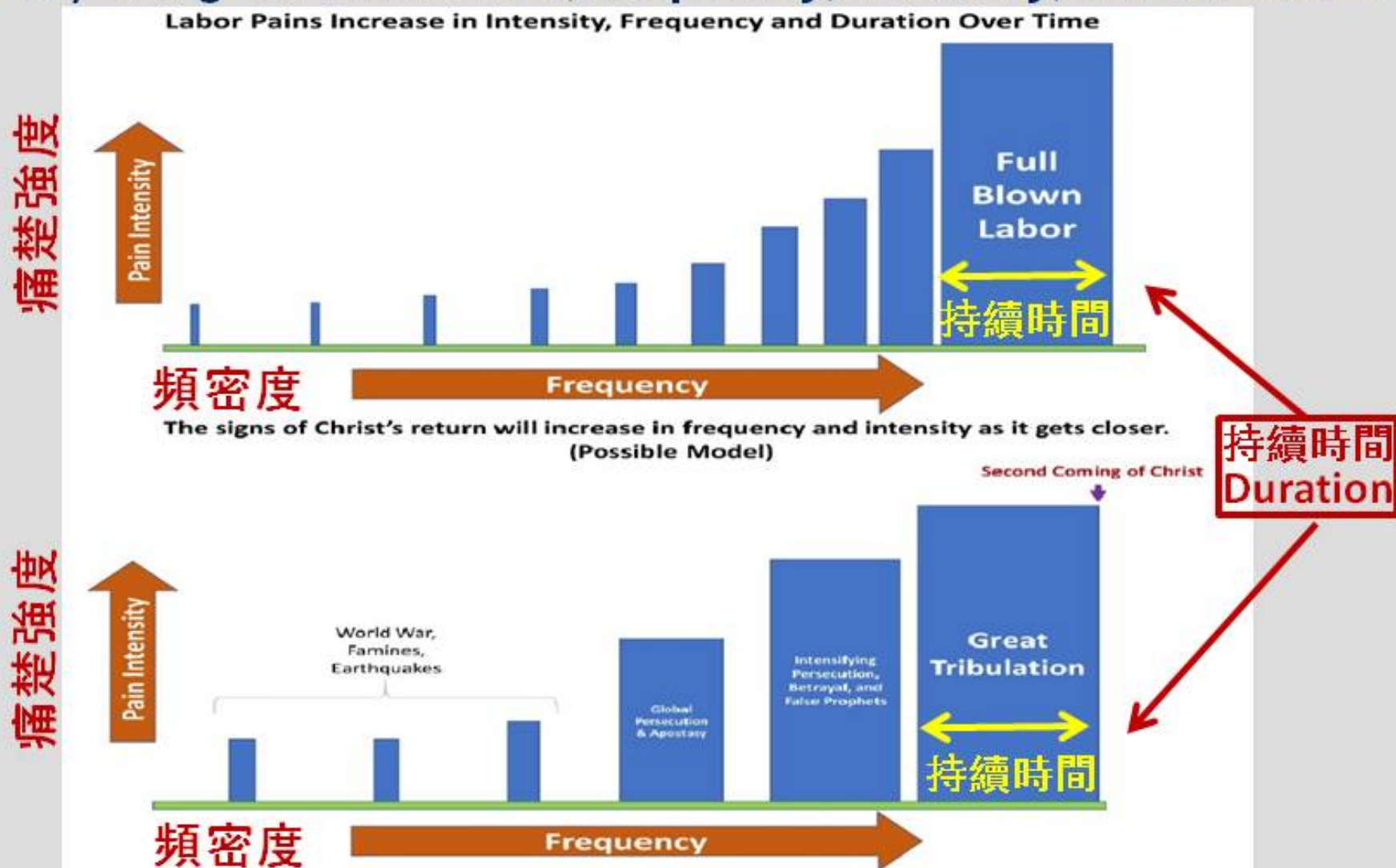
6 Days War (1967) - Israel defeated invading Arab forces and took back Jerusalem as well as its other ancient Biblical lands



Birth Pains 生產之痛

By **watching for the signs** in Matthew 24, we can gain some clues on the return of Christ

These signs are called birth pains/pangs, they occur **everywhere** (各處必有) and grow in number, frequency, intensity, and duration.



Parallels Between the 6 Seals in Revelation 6 & the Olivet Discourse

啟示錄第六章與橄欖山講論中 末世徵兆的對照

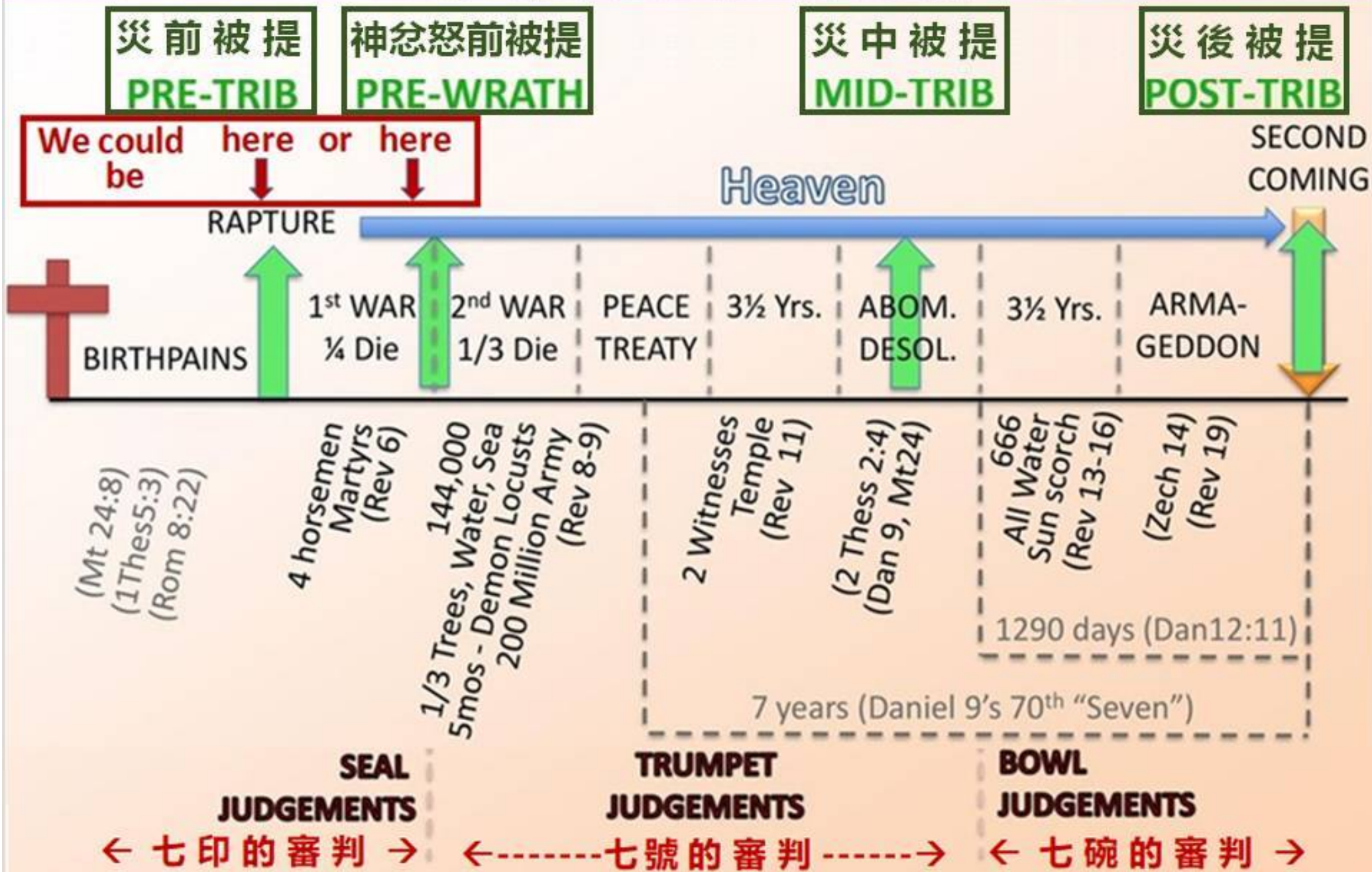
| | | | Revelation 啟 6 | Matthew 太 24 | Mark 可 13 | Luke 路 21 | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Beginning of Birth Pains 災難(產痛)的起頭 | ↑ | 假救主 假先知 | False Messiahs, False Prophets | 2 | 5, 11 | 6 | 8 |
| | | 假戰爭 | Wars | 2-4 | 6-7 | 7 | 9 |
| | | 國際衝突 | International Discord | 3-4 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| | | 饑荒 | Famines | 5-8 | 7 | 8 | 11 |
| | ↓ | 瘟疫 | Pestilences | 8 | | | 11 |
| Great Tribulation 大災難 | ↑ | 逼迫 殉道 | Persecution- Martyrdom | 9-11 | 9 | 9-13 | 12-17 |
| | | 地震 | Earthquakes | 12 | 7 | 8 | 11 |
| | ↓ | 宇宙異象 | Cosmic Phenomena | 12-14 | 29 | | 11 |

BIRTH PANGS

Matthew 24:8 characterizes the events of verses 4–7 as “the beginning of birth-pangs.”

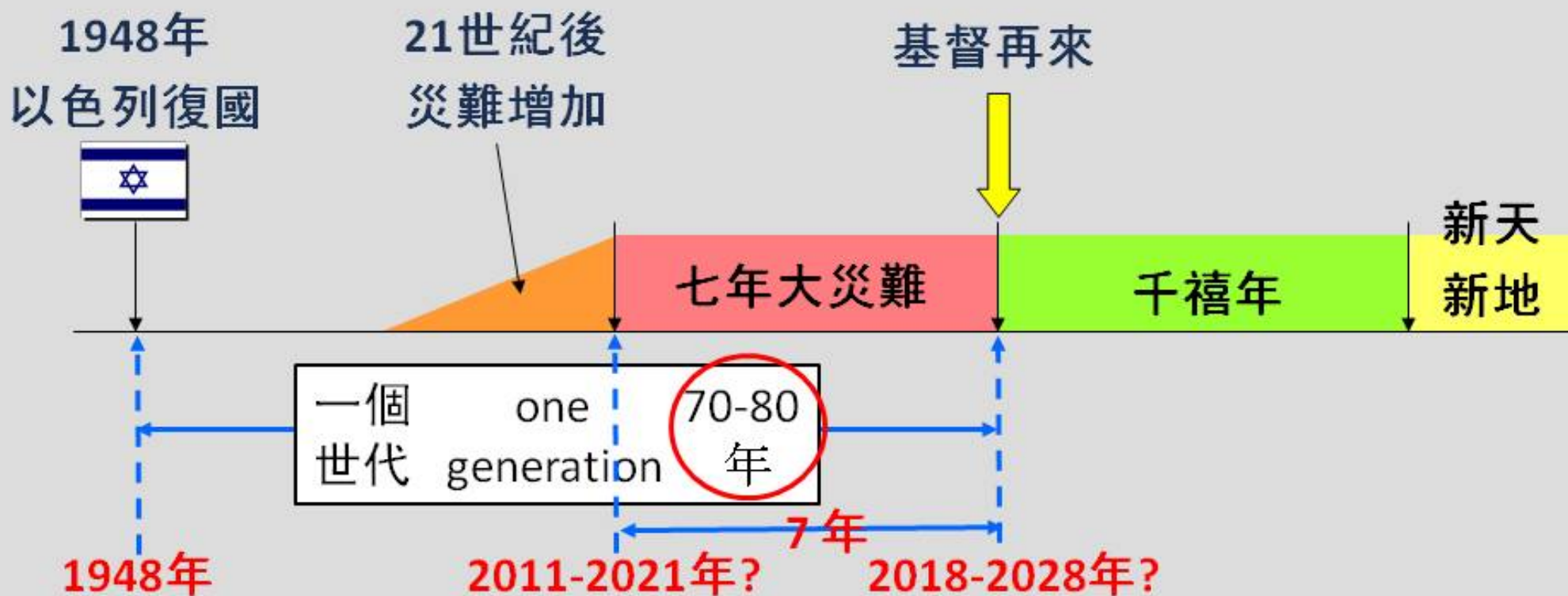
Great Tribulation Timeline

末期大災難時間線



Is the Lord's Return Very Close ?

主再來的日子真有這麼近嗎？



我們一生的年日是七十歲，若是強壯可到八十歲；但其中所矜誇的不過是勞苦愁煩，轉眼成空，我們便如飛而去。（詩90:10）

來源：中國家庭教會領袖林獻羔牧師《聖經中奇妙的數字》
西雅圖東區基督教會彭動平弟兄

"Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. For false Christ and false prophets will appear and deceive even the elect (24:4-5; 24)

“你們要謹慎、免得有人迷惑你們。因為將來有好些人冒我的名來、說、我是基督、並且要迷惑許多人。因為假基督、假先知、將要起來.. 若能行、連選民也就迷惑了” (太 24:4-5; 24)

FALSE TEACHERS EXPOSED

Matthew 24:11 "MANY FALSE PROPHETS will RISE UP & DECEIVE MANY."



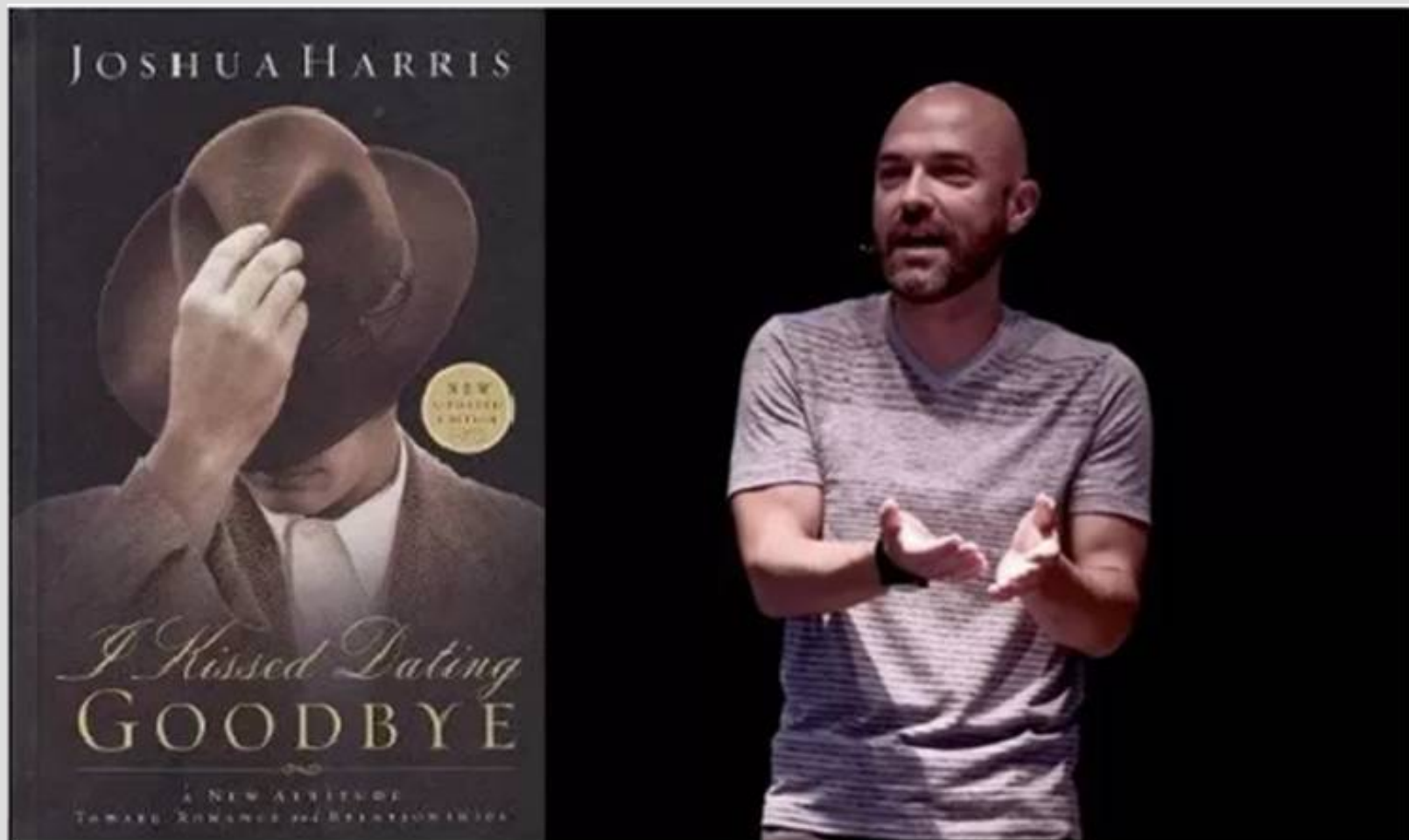
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Many will turn away from the faith
那時許多人會丟棄信仰 (Mt. 太 24:11)

Joshua Harris Kisses Christianity Goodbye

名牧 (Joshua Harris) 宣布放弃信仰 (July, 2019)
我们该从中学到什么功课？ (全球见证文字工作室)



**Many will turn away from the faith
那時許多人會放棄信仰 (Matt. 太 24:11)**

**Hillsong 敬拜領袖 Marty Sampson 信仰「搖搖欲墜」
稱「真理不只有上帝版本」(基督日報 2019年8月13日)**

**Hillsong Songwriter Marty
Sampson Says He's Losing His
Christian Faith
August 12, 2019**



There will be famines and pestilences in various places (Luke 21:11)
多處必有饑荒瘟疫 (路 21:11)

4 Plagues Are Marching Across Asia Simultaneously: Coronavirus, African Swine Fever, H5N1 Bird Flu And H1N1 Swine Flu

February 2 2020
by Michael Snyder

四場瘟疫正在同時席捲亞洲



A Plague Of "Billions" Of Locusts Threatens To Create A Horrific End Times

Famine All Over Africa January 27 2020 Michael Snyder



There will be famines and pestilences in various places (Luke 21:11)
多處必有饑荒瘟疫
(路 21:11)

The Next Generation: Giant Locust Armies Of "Biblical Proportions" Threaten To Cause Mass Starvation In Africa

April 22 2020 by Michael Snyder



There will be famines in various places 多處必有饑荒 (LK 路 21:11)
Hunger in America? 在美國有饑荒?




'We just can't feed this many'

Vehicles start lining up before dawn as locals hit hard by economic effects of coronavirus seek aid from the San Antonio Food Bank.

San Antonio, TX

April 2020

By Tom Orsborn
Photos by William Luther and Kin Man Hui



CHOPPER4

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

LONG LINE FOR FOOD GIVEAWAY

TEMPLE HILLS, MD

5:19

54°

WORKING
4 YOU

Natural Disasters 自然災害 Earthquakes & Tsunamis

HISTORY OF EARTHQUAKES (Earthquakes greater than 7.0)

| YEAR | NUMBER |
|-------------|------------|
| Before 1900 | 1/10 Years |
| 1900-1949 | 3/10 Years |
| 1950-1959 | 9 |
| 1960-1969 | 13 |
| 1970-1979 | 56 |
| 1980-1989 | 101 |
| 1990-1999 | 174 |
| 2000-2010 | 152 |

Deadliest Earthquakes Since Year 2000

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Magnitude</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Casualty</u> |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 12/26/2004: | 9.1 | Indian Ocean | ~280,000 dead |
| 10/08/2005: | 7.6 | Pakistan | ~80,000 dead |
| 5/12/2008: | 7.9 | Sichuan, China, | ~90,000 dead |
| 1/12/2010: | 7.0 | Haiti, | ~316,000 dead |
| 3/11/2011: | 9.0 | Japan, | ~18,000 dead |



2010 7.0 Earthquake in Haiti killed 316,000



2004 Tsunami
Indian Ocean

2011 Tsunami Japan

Natural Disasters - Hurricanes/typhoon & tornadoes

自然災害 - 颶風、颱風及龍捲風

Costliest Hurricanes in U.S. History

| Hurricane | Year | Category At Landfall | Cost |
|-------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| Hurricane Katrina | 2005 | 3 | \$160 Billion |
| Hurricane Harvey | 2017 | 4 | \$125 Billion |
| Hurricane Sandy | 2012 | * | \$70 Billion |
| Hurricane Irma | 2017 | 4 | \$50 Billion |
| Hurricane Andrew | 1992 | 5 | \$48 Billion |



Hurricane Maria damage Puerto Rico 2017



2013年菲律賓海燕颱風 (7300人死)

Turning Paradise into an inferno 把天堂變成地獄

fire mixed with blood was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. (Rev. 8:7) 有雹子與火攪著血丟在地上，地的三分之一和樹的三分之一被燒了、一切的青草也被燒了(啟示錄8:7)

**Paradise,
California
2018**

**California wild
Fire 2019**



Turning Paradise into an inferno 把天堂變成地獄
Volcano Eruption in Hawaii 2019年夏威夷火山爆發



Hawaii 2019

Volcanic
Eruption



Lawlessness (wickedness) will intensify (Mt. 24:12)
不法(邪惡)的事會越演越烈(太 24:12)



Wickedness 邪惡/ 恐怖行為



Lawlessness

不法的事



Lawlessness (wickedness) will intensify (Mt. 24:12)
 不法(邪惡)的事會越演越烈(太 24:12)



The Days of Noah 挪亞的日子

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were **eating and drinking, marrying** and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and **they knew nothing about what would happen (?)** until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

挪亞的日子怎樣、人子降臨也要怎樣。當洪水以前的日子、人**照常喫喝嫁娶**、直到挪亞進方舟的那日。**不知不覺**洪水來了、把他們全都沖去。人子降臨也要這樣。

How can people in Noah's days know nothing about the flood coming? - Noah had been telling them for 120 years

There was a huge sign reminding them everyday (the Ark)

They ignored Noah's message and the big sign

They became numb to Noah's words & to the big sign **聽而不聞 視而不見** So they live **as usual照常喫喝嫁娶** in the face of an impending calamity. That's the problem.

So in the same way, the second coming of Christ will catch people in the world off guard because they ignore the signs & the message of His return.

The Biggest Danger is a
Lack of Danger Awareness

最大的危機是缺
乏對危險的醒覺



If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 家主若知道幾更天有賊來、就必做醒、不容人挖透房屋。這是你們所知道的



We need to **cultivate a sense of danger awareness**

- 1) Pay **attention** to current situation & events
- 2) **Expect** Danger
- 3) Be on the **lookout**
- 4) **Prepare** ahead

No Automatic Early Warning System For Christ' Return 基督再來沒有自動預警系統

An illustrative example:

There was an active volcano in Indonesia which has been erupting for months. But on December 23, 2018, there was a violent eruption that blew off the mountain which fell to the sea and caused a tsunami.



Meanwhile about 100 miles away, in an Indonesian resort there was a Christmas party. The people there weren't gathering to celebrate Christmas, the 1st. Coming of Christ, but just having a good time: eating, drinking & singing like in the days of Noah.



No Automatic Early Warning System For Christ' Return 基督再來沒有自動預警系統



But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. (Revelation 3:3)

你若不做醒、我必臨到你那裡如同賊一樣。我幾時臨到、你也決不能知道。(啓示錄 3:3)

**Cheer Up,
Christ is Returning !**

振作起來, 基督快回來了!

The Return of Christ is the worst nightmare for the unbelievers. But it is the most precious hope for those who put their trust in the Lord.

主再來是不信耶穌的人
最可怕的惡夢,
但是信靠耶穌的人
最寶貴的盼望

When the disciples asked Jesus when he would return, they were filled with hope and excitements. They have been waiting for that day when they can reign with Christ. Some were hoping to sit on the right side or the left side of Christ.

The disciples thought Jesus' return was imminent. It was unknown to the disciples at that time that salvation would come to the gentiles and there would be a "church age" which would last for about 2,000 years

Ready for the Rapture? 預備好被提沒有？



It is Our Wedding Date 這是我們的婚禮日

Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. 我又看見聖城新耶路撒冷由 神那裡從天而降、豫備好了、就如新婦妝飾整齊、等候丈夫。(Rev 19:7)

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 我又看見聖城新耶路撒冷由 神那裡從天而降、豫備好了、就如新婦妝飾整齊、等候丈夫。(Rev. 21:2)

Birth Pain Will Turn Into Joy

生產之痛將 變為喜樂

A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

婦人生產的時候、就憂愁、因為她的時候到了。既生了孩子、就不再記念那苦楚、因為歡喜世上生了一個人。(約 Jn. 16:21)

Happy Mother's Day 母親節快樂

May God bless all the mothers.

Response Song: He is Coming Soon

回應詩歌：主必快來



主必快來

He's Coming Soon

詞：Thoro Harris

曲：Hawaiian Melody

滕近輝 何統雄修宣道詩

編曲：凌乃基