

Perspective

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August 13, 2026

Are You Seeing the Signs?

Around the world we hear of disasters in diverse places with thousands of people's lives being turned upside down. On June 24, 2026, Venezuela was hit by two earthquakes, 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale. The first earthquake's epicenter striking in Veroes Municipality west of San Felipe, the capital of Yaracuy. Just thirty seconds later, a quake hit centered off the coast of La Guaira. These two powerful quakes caused extensive damage across the country. In Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, and particularly the city of La Guaira, 80% of buildings were flattened. As of August 2026, more than 6,300 people were killed, and about 73,300 were hospitalized; there are tens of thousands still reported as missing. On August 10th, a 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia early in the morning, with the epicenter near San José del Palmar, about 250 miles west of Bogotá. 132 people have been reported as dead, with over 620 injured and more than 2,000 reported still missing. Earthquakes are just one of the kinds of disasters taking place on Earth. Europe is currently experiencing a severe, widespread drought, affecting rivers, agriculture, energy production, and water supplies all across much of the continent. As of early August 2026, just over 50% of England has been officially declared in drought by the Environment Agency due to exceptionally low rainfall and high temperatures. Australia, the driest inhabited continent, is facing drought across multiple regions. Southern Australia has been short of rain for over 16 months; areas such as western Victoria, agricultural regions of South Australia, and parts of western Tasmania are experiencing record dry conditions --- inland areas remain dry, resulting in ongoing agricultural troubles. In 2024, the United States suffered 81 natural disasters; the majority being vicious storms, followed by wildfires, heat waves, droughts, flash floods and deadly flooding. Is something different happening in the world and will it grow worse?

What are the signs of the end of the age?

When Christ talked about how the Temple would be totally demolished, His disciples then asked Him, *'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'* (Matthew 24:3)

They disciples wanted to know what we also want to know, how will we know the end is near? *"And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.'"* (Matthew 24:4-8)

All the markers Jesus warned us about are happening now. More than any other time, deceitfulness using the name of Christ runs rampant in this world, along with teaching false doctrines. Wars and rumors of war are constant. The United States has been at peace for only about 17–22 years since its founding in 1776. How about famines? The 2026 Global Report on Food Crises estimates that 266 million people across 47 countries and territories are experiencing crisis-level hunger or worse, requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. Pestilences are ongoing. Most recently, Covid-19 affected people around the world, as well as Ebola, Dengue fever, Monkeypox, and Zika virus. The CDC reports multiple U.S. and international outbreaks linked to Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, and Cyclospora. In 2026, *Vibrio vulnificus* — often called "flesh-eating bacteria" — has triggered multiple severe outbreaks along the U.S. Gulf Coast and beyond, with rising case numbers and fatalities. Worlddata.com reported, "The CDC estimates ~80,000 vibriosis cases annually in the U.S., but only 150–200 *Vibrio vulnificus* cases occur each year, with a fatality rate of about 1 in 5 (20%)."

What is next?

There is a proclivity of skeptics to cast doubt on anything in the Bible. The apostle Peter warned about those who scoff at prophecy, *"knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'"* (II Peter 3:3-4)

Scoffers willingly forget about the flood during Noah's time which drowned all people and animals on earth, except eight people who were protected in the ark, along with the animals set apart for repopulation (II Peter 3:5-7). There seems to be a threshold of wickedness that God will not tolerate: *"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So, the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."* (Genesis 6:5-8)

Will we find grace in God's eyes like Noah? Jesus continued in Matthew 24:9-13 *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*

In the Matthew 24 Olivet Prophecy, remember Jesus did also say, *"All these are the beginning of sorrows."* What follows will be a time when families will betray one another, and intense persecution falls on the faithful.

Luke 21:20-22, is in the same end-time context as Matthew 24, and He warned about armies surrounding Jerusalem: *"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."*

This is happening now as well, but it is not at the level as yet that it will be. Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 when Roman forces under Titus besieged Jerusalem, destroyed the Second Temple, and razed much of the city, marking a pivotal moment in Jewish history. It will happen again in the end of the age prior to Christ's return. Very likely tactical nuclear weapons will be used, making it much more destructive.

Jesus said, *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."* (Matthew 24:21-22)

What else did Jesus say?

It is going to be a time unlike any other in history. It will be a time of disasters and catastrophes never before seen. Jesus said, *"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."* (Luke 21:25-27)

There will be monster-sized tsunamis and signs in the heavens, and great fear will overwhelm people. A great earthquake will shake the whole earth. Zechariah 14:5 says, *"Then you shall flee to the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus, the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You."*

Revelation 6:14-17, *"Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'"*

Jesus was not the first to speak of a time which is coming unlike any other time in history; Daniel the prophet wrote of it in Daniel 12:1; then he was told by Gabriel (verse 9), the prophecy was sealed for the end time: *"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book."*

So, we certainly do not need to fear, but believe and trust our Father and Jesus Christ. If we remain faithful to God, we will be among those who are written in the book of life and will be delivered!