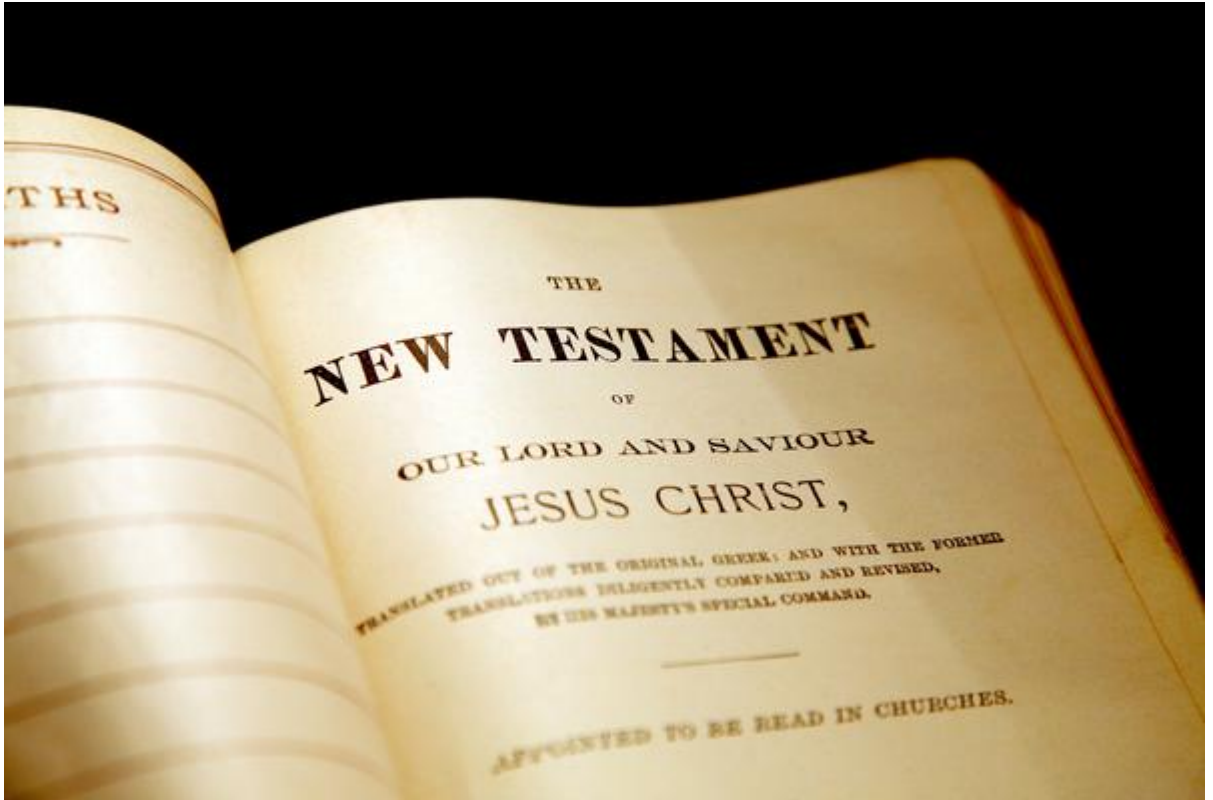


Every day there are shocking reports of mass violence and murders in the news. Just when it seems like things can't get any worse, they do! This same worsening scenario seems to be repeating day after day. Such horrible events are part



Are the increasing mass murders a sign the end is near?

of the
fulfillment
of Jesus'
prophecy:

“Because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold”—Matthew 24:12 NRSV

Does this mean the end is near?

Jesus predicted that: **“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man,”** in that people in general would be going about completely absorbed their daily lives, and totally unaware of **“the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39 NIV)**, until it **“will come on them suddenly” (1 Thessalonians 5:3 NIV)**.

In the years leading up to the global flood of Noah’s time, God noted that: **“the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence” (Genesis 6:11 NIV)**. These conditions are similar to the world today. God has explained, **“I, Yahweh, do not change” (Malachi 3:6 NJB)**. Based on that, and the fact that **“by God’s word . . . the world of that time was deluged and destroyed” (2 Peter 3:5,6 NIV)**, 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” (Matthew 24:39 NIV)**, and other prophecies, such as the above, we can safely conclude that God will suddenly intervene in this present world at some future point.

However, this does not necessarily mean the end is near. Why not?

We need to keep a balanced perspective on what Jesus said about his return. On the one hand, we know that **“the devil has gone down to you in a rage, knowing that he has little time left” (Revelation 12:12 NJB)**, and the devil’s influence on people may very well

be a reason for the greatly increasing violence and mass murders. On the other hand, while the increasing frequency of mass murders is very shocking, we should keep in mind, that, in the future, **“It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that sudden destruction falls on them” (1 Thessalonians 5:3 NJB)**. Based on this, things in the world may appear to be calm, and it may seem that the major problems in the world have been solved, just before the sudden end of this world. In any case, may we always keep in mind that **“speculations” (1 Timothy 1:4 NLT)** that **“go beyond what is written in Scripture” (1 Corinthians 4:6 GWT)** are warned against in the Bible.

The two articles on this website, **“The Last Days - The Sign of Jesus’ Return?”**, and **“The Last Days - When?”**, deal with more Biblical specifics of Jesus’ sudden, unexpected, return in the future. Since no one will know, or can know, in advance, of the timing of Jesus’ return (**Matthew 24:36,42,44; 25:13**), it is wise to heed his advice to always: **“Be on guard! Be alert!” (Mark 13:33 NIV)**, and **“keep watch,” “Be ready” (Matthew 24:42,44 NIV)**. We are advised, by Jesus himself, to be ready for his return at all times.