

PROPHECY COUNTDOWN



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SIGN OF CHRIST'S COMING



Prior to the time when Jesus was crucified, his disciples were asking Him questions as they sat on the Mount of Olives:

"...Tell us, (1) when shall these things be (the destruction of Jerusalem), and (2) what shall be the sign of thy coming, and (3) of the end of the world?"

(Matthew 24:3)

The first question had to do with the events that were fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman soldiers.

The third question that they asked relates to the future time at the very end of the Tribulation:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

(Matthew 24:29-30)

Note that the third question the disciples asked has to do with the time immediately after the Tribulation period when the whole world will see Christ return in the clouds.

Days of Noah

The second question, however, has to do with the time of Christ's coming. Jesus answered this second question in His description of the days of Noah:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying

and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

(Matthew 24:37-39)

Jesus clearly stated that the answer to the second question (what shall be the sign of His coming) will be the same as it was in the days of Noah.

Interestingly, in the original Greek it is saying: "exactly like" it was, so it will be when He comes (see Strongs #5618). In other words, Jesus was telling His disciples that the sign of His return would be exactly the same as it was in the days of Noah.

Multiple Applications

Much of Scripture is layered with several different applications. In this prophecy, Jesus was telling us many things. The most known and obvious application relates to the general description of living conditions during Noah's time.

The wickedness, violence and corruption we see so rampant on the world scene today is a direct parallel to the time of Noah, and a strong indication the return of the Lord is very, very near.

Until 1995, this application of Christ's teaching was one of the most widely accepted signs of His coming. Then on July 23, 1995, an unusually bright comet was discovered outside the orbit of Jupiter. Two different astronomers: Alan Hale of New Mexico and Thomas Bopp of Arizona, both independently sighted this bright comet.

This new comet is known as Comet Hale-Bopp, & is the farthest comet ever discovered

by amateurs. It appears 1,000 times brighter than Comet Halley did at the same distance.

SIGN OF CHRIST'S RETURN

As was described in the last two issues of *PROPHECY COUNTDOWN*, the last time this Comet came by planet Earth was approximately 4,200 to 4,400 years ago. In other words, the same comet that was just recently discovered is the same comet that appeared during the days of Noah!

Jesus told us His return would be preceded by great heavenly signs:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea & the waves roaring."
(Luke 21:25)

Comet Hale-Bopp is being labeled as the Great Comet of 1997. What most people don't realize is the fact that this same comet may actually be the Sign of Christ's coming that Jesus was referring to!

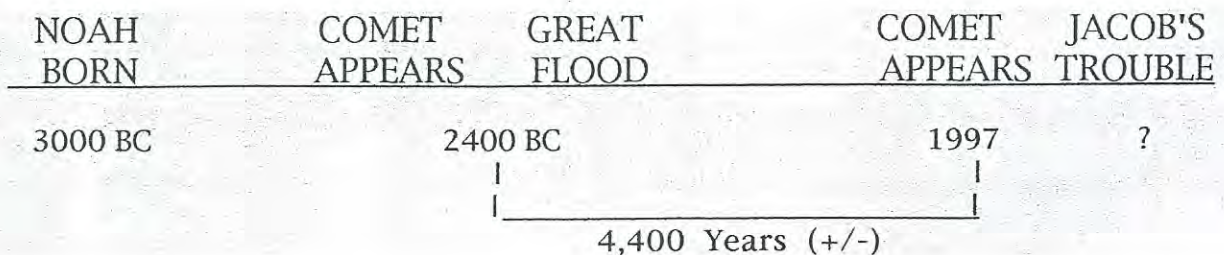
Jesus was telling us that the sign of His coming would be the same as it was during the days of Noah. As comet Hale-Bopp was a sign to the people in Noah's day of the Great Flood, its arrival in 1997 is a strong indication that Jesus is coming back again very soon.

Comet Hale-Bopp could be the very sign Jesus was referring to which would announce His return for his faithful.

Further Confirmation

Additional confirmation that Comet Hale-Bopp is the same comet of Noah's day was brought out in Bob Wadsworth's excellent

During the days of Noah, Comet Hale Bopp arrived on the scene as a harbinger of the Great Flood. Could its arrival in 1997 be a sign that God's final Judgement, also known as the time of Jacob's Trouble is about to begin?



book: *A VOICE CRYING IN THE HEAVENS*. In it, he describes some very interesting facts about Comet Hale-Bopp's history:

"This comet spends most of its time in the constellation Pavo...This is the constellation, so to speak, where the comet is from. Though the constellation Pavo is not part of the 48 constellations of the Zodiac, it has some interesting history behind it. This constellation is now known as The Peacock. The following is a quote from *Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning*, p. 321:

"This bird was still further astronomical in originally having been Argos, builder of the ship Argo, who was changed by Juno to a peacock when his vessel...transferred to the sky, where he has rejoined her."

The following is a quote from WOS, p. 157 concerning...constellation Argo (the Ship): "Whatever fables have gathered round the story there can be no doubt as to its great antiquity. Some think that the story had its origin in name, as well as in fact, from the Ark of Noah and its mysterious journey."

"From looking through the fables, it is quite possible that the constellation Pavo, in ancient times, represented Noah. This is quite interesting, if this comet from (constellation) Pavo was last here during the days of Noah."

Even Comet Hale-Bopp's history reflects its association with Noah! Its arrival in 1997, must certainly be a sign from the Lord!

ADDITIONAL COINCIDENCES

On March 9, 1997 a New Moon will occur and a total solar eclipse will be visible across Mongolia and eastern Siberia. At that same time Comet Hale-Bopp will be highly visible. Throughout recorded history, less than half a dozen "*eclipse comets*" have been seen. The combination of viewing two of the most impressive phenomena in the heavens is an extremely rare event. The last time this occurred was in 1948, some 49 years ago.

1948 of course, is the year the fig tree (Israel) was reborn as a nation. On May 14, 1948, Israel issued their call to return and rebuild. Sir Isaac Newton believed that the prophecy in Daniel teaches the Messiah the Prince will return 49 years after Israel issues that call. It seems a little more than coincidence that two "*eclipse comets*"

would appear 49 years apart. This certainly must be further confirmation from God that His Son is about to return.

FINAL APPROACH

Comet Hale-Bopp is making its final approach into our solar system, and March 22, it reaches its closest distance to Earth. This is the Jewish Feast of Purim which is a highly significant day in Jewish history.

In the book of Esther we see where the Jews got relief from their enemies on this day (Esther 9:18-22). And then in 1991, the 42 day war with Saddam Hussein came to an end on this same Feast day.

Ancient secular society have always viewed comets as harbingers of doom and destruction about to occur. There may be good reason for their beliefs. Noah's generation, however, was oblivious to its importance. Today's society views such phenomena as an exciting recreational event. An attitude strikingly similar to the Noahian scoffers.

Donald Wesley Patten wrote an interesting book called: *CATASTROPHISM AND THE OLD TESTAMENT*. Interestingly, he notes that the Old Testament records 3 major catastrophes. Through much technical scientific research, he believes that each of these happened on or about March 20-21.

Here again, we find it extremely interesting that Comet Hale-Bopp is making its final approach into our solar system about the same time that Patten believes these ancient catastrophes occurred. Another coincidence?

Keep an eye on Comet Hale-Bopp! It could be the Sign of Christ's coming for His Bride. Get ready and tell others before its too late!





Luke 24:32

Keep The Fire Burning

-Not Yet-

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in the beautiful stores. This was their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially teacups. One day in this beautiful shop they saw a beautiful teacup. They said, 'May we see that? We've never seen one quite so beautiful.' As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the teacup spoke.

"You don't understand," it said. "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was red and I was, clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'Let me alone,' but he only smiled, 'Not yet.'

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel," the teacup said, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting dizzy!' I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I wondered why he wanted to burn me, and I yelled, and I knocked at the door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head, 'Not yet.'

"Finally the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. 'There, that's better,' I said. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not Yet.'

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven, not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. All the time I

could see him through the opening nodding his head, saying, 'Not yet.'

"Then I knew there wasn't any hope. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he pulled me out and placed me on the shelf. One hour later he handed me a mirror and said, 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful.'

"I want you to remember, then,' he said, 'I know it hurt to be rolled and patted, but if I just left you, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurt and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life, and if I hadn't put you back in the second oven, you wouldn't survive for very long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you.'

-Author Unknown

Scripture Reading: James 1:2-12

Key Verses: James 1:24

Consider it pure joy, my brothers whenever: you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may become mature and complete, not lacking, anything.

