

The Last-Trumpet Decade?

End Time News

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WILL THE TRUMPET SOUND THIS DECADE?

The year 2020 has arrived with a bang! Russia, China, and Iran conducted joint military operations with the US being the simulated foe; President Trump ordered the assassination of the world's most renowned terrorist to the dismay of the liberal left; Iran launched ballistic missiles at Iraq's military bases injuring some American troops; two Iranian missiles downed a Ukraine passenger jet killing all 176 passengers; a deadly Coronavirus which Senator Tom Cotton warns may have come from a Chinese super laboratory has infested tens of thousands and has begun to spread across the globe; massive swarms of locusts are infesting Africa and now beginning to spread elsewhere threatening millions with famine; the United Kingdom Brexited the European Union; Pope Francis is travelling the globe promoting an antichrist Muslim-Christian dialogue (dubbed Chrislam) since he contends that both religions have the same god, America's duly elected President was impeached by the Congress and acquitted by the Senate; the top two finishers in the Iowa Democratic caucus were Pete Buttigieg (would his husband be America's 1st gentleman?) and socialist Bernie Sanders (who spent his honeymoon in Russia). Both candidates relied heavily on the youth vote confirming the radical left-wing poison that America's ultra-liberal universities are feeding today's college graduates.

"The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left" (Eccl. 10:2 *NIV*).

All of this and the roaring 2020's has just begun! Will this decade see the return of Christ?

JESUS DID NOT KNOW WHEN

Jesus said in the 1st century that neither he nor any human knew the time of his return to earth.

But of that day and that hour knoweth (*oida*) no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Mark 13:32

There are several Greek words that are translated "knoweth" in the New Testament and these include the verbs *oida* and *ginosko*. The highly respected *Companion Bible* was edited by the late Anglican scholar E.W. Bullinger and published in 1922. It distinguishes the difference between the two words.

- i. ***oida*** = to know (intuitively) without effort, to understand. No. i is subjective, while No. ii is objective.
- ii. ***ginōskō*** = to know (by experience, or effort); to acquire knowledge, become acquainted with; hence, to come or get to know, learn, perceive. See John 1. 48. 1 John 5. 20. Eph. 5. 5.

Had Jesus used the word *ginosko* (ii) in Mark 13:32 or Matthew 24:36 the text could read like this:

"But of that day and hour no man can acquire knowledge of or become acquainted with...but my Father only."

The case would be closed. The time of Jesus' return was not to become known prior to its occurrence. However, Jesus did not use *ginosko*; rather he used the Greek word *oida*! By using this word the idea provided by the context could be interpreted like this:

"But of that day and hour no man can know without effort..."

Oida implies that the time of Jesus return can become known as the time draws close if the watchful Saints put forth the proper effort as we are asked to do (1 Thes. 5:4-6)! This gives a different look at the "know not" tradition and helps solve a contradiction.

ARE THE SAINTS COMMANDED TO KNOW?

A host of related passages support this usage of *oida* or else they seem to render some texts contradictory. For instance, Jesus said in the same chapter that contains the "know-not" passage, "...when ye shall see all these things, know (how, if we can't know?) that it is near, even at the doors." (Matt. 24:33). Jesus repeated this command in Mark 13:29 and Luke 21:31 and even limits the scope of his "knoweth no man" comment in *the very same context*.

"But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, my lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite

his fellow servants and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that (evil) servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of." (Matt. 24:48-50).

Why did Jesus distinguish between the two servants if he comes to both in an hour that they are not aware of? Are the Saints the evil servants? If so, we need to repent because the next warning isn't very comforting.

"And shall cut him (the evil servant) asunder and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 24:51).

Jesus spoke a related parable about his return in Luke 12:35-40. He said, "Be ye therefore ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." (Luke 12:40). Was this warning intended for the watchful Saints? Peter immediately asked Jesus, "Lord, are you addressing this parable to us [his disciples] or to everyone else as well?" (Luke 12:41 – *Amplified Bible*). Jesus answered Peter's question by comparing two types of servants.

"And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward...Blessed is that servant, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household...But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken...**The lord of that servant** (the unfaithful servant) will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware..." (Luke 12:42-46).

Are the Saints the unfaithful servants? If not, then Jesus should not come in a day that they think not!

WILL JESUS COME AS A THIEF?

Prophecy skeptics love to scold the watchful Saints by reminding them that Jesus said, "I come as a thief" (Rev. 16:15). But, come as a thief to whom? Jesus did not know the day of his return while on earth but after he ascended to heaven and God glorified him with his own glory (John 17:5), Jesus rebuked those who refuse to discern the hour of his return.

"If therefore thou shalt not watch (I am watching!), I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." (Rev. 3:3).

If Jesus comes at an unknown hour whether we watch or not, why even sound such a pointless warning? Jesus said that he had many things to say to his disciples, but they could not bear them at that time (*John 16:12-13*). However as promised, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and the spirit did reveal "things to come" as several New Testament authors confirmed.

After Pentecost, the spirit-filled apostle Paul flat-out refuted the theory that Jesus will come as a thief to the watchful Saints.

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day (return) of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night, for when they (the unrighteous) shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them...But ye, brethren (the watchful Saints), are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." (1 Thes. 5:1-4).

The book of Hebrews asks the Saints to obey an impossible dream if we cannot determine for certain the timing of the end of the age.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day (of Christ's return) approaching." (Hebrews 10:25).

If the Saints cannot be sure whether the end of the age has arrived as many say, then how are we to know when to assemble ourselves together more often?

GOD IS A DATE SETTER

Even though some panic at the thought of setting dates, they may be surprised to learn that God is the author of date-setting.

God preordained a date for the flood to occur and he revealed the relative time to Enoch and the exact time to Noah.

The meaning of Hebrew names was so significant in ancient days that God sometimes renamed folks to reflect their future status. Nearly a thousand years before the flood, Enoch was inspired to name his son Methuselah. According to Hebrew scholar, Dr. Charles Shaw, Methuselah means: "In the year he (Methuselah) dies it (the flood) will break forth."

Methuselah was 187 years old when he bore Lamech (Gen. 5:25). Lamech was 182 years old when he bore Noah (Gen. 5:28). Noah was 600 years old when the flood came (Gen. 7:6). [187 + 182 + 600 = 969]. Since Methuselah died at age 969 (Gen. 5:27), the flood came the exact year that Methuselah died! Therefore, God revealed to Enoch the relative time of the flood nearly a thousand years ahead of time.

As for Noah, he knew that the closer he was to completing the ark, the closer it was to the flood. As the time drew very close, God gave Noah a precise revelation. "Yet seven days and God will cause it to rain upon the earth." (Gen. 7:4). "And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were upon

the earth.” (Gen. 7:10). If Noah could count to seven, then he knew when the flood would begin.

God set a date for Isaac to be born and revealed it to Abraham. “But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.” (Gen. 17:21). At God’s preset time, Sarah did bare that son! “For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.” (Gen. 21:2).

God set a date for Israel to come out of Egypt and centuries in advance told it to Abram (Abraham).

“And he said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs...and they shall afflict them four hundred years...But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again...” (Gen. 15:13, 16). The four generations were Levi, Kohath, Amram, and Moses. God fulfilled his prophecy to the exact year (Acts 7:6)!

God set a date for the cattle of Egypt to die and in advance he told it to Moses.

“And the Lord appointed a set time, saying, Tomorrow the Lord shall do this thing in the land. And the Lord did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died...” (Exo. 9:5-6).

God set a date for the defeat of Moab and several years in advance told it to Isaiah. “But now the Lord speaks, saying, “Within three years...the glory of Moab will be degraded along with all his great population...” (Isaiah 16:14 - *NASB*). About three years later the Assyrians took the ten tribes of Israel captive and defeated the Moabites just as predicted.

God set a date for the Jews to come out of Babylon and in advance told it to Jeremiah.

“And this whole land (Judah) shall be desolation and astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.” (Jer. 25:11).

The Jewish captivity began during Nebuchadnezzar’s reign when the Jews were carried captive to Babylon (Dan. 2:1-2). It ended with the defeat of the Babylonian kingdom by the Persians. In the first year of his reign, the Persian King Cyrus gave a decree that the Jews could return to their homeland (Ezra 1:1-2). Just as predicted, the captivity lasted seventy years!

God set a date for the fall of Babylon and decades in advance told it to Jeremiah.

“...And now have I given all these lands unto the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon...And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son’s son (3 generations), until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.” (Jer. 27:6-7).

During the reign of Belshazzar, who was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar of the third generation, it occurred. “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom...” (Dan. 5:30-31).

God set a date for the fall of the Medo-Persia Empire and revealed it to Daniel years in advance.

“And as I was considering, behold, an he goat (the symbol of Greece) came from the west...and the goat had a notable horn (the Grecian king, Alexander the Great – Dan. 8:21) between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns (Media and Persia – Dan. 8:20) and ran unto him in the fury of his power...and smote the ram and brake his two horns (the defeat of the Medes & Persians by Alexander)...” (Dan. 8:5-7).

When did the Medes and Persians suffer defeat? During the reign of the notable horn just as predicted.

God pre-ordained the generation for the birth of Jesus and told it to Simeon in advance.

“And it was revealed unto him (Simeon) by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he (Simeon) came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus...Then took he him up in his arms and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation...” (Luke 2:26-30).

God set a date for the anointing of Christ and over 500 years earlier revealed it to Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27). [See God’s 7,000 Year Calendar near the end of this study]. Jesus fulfilled this date to the exact year!

The wicked were shocked when the flood broke forth and they were destroyed. Yet shortly beforehand, righteous Noah was shown the exact time. Jesus said his return would resemble the days of Noah. If so, should the Saints know or moan that we can’t know?

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the son of man be.

Matthew 24:37 (NKJV)

God warned Abraham that he was going to destroy Sodom. “And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?” (Gen. 18:17). As the time drew near for Sodom’s destruction, Lot (Abraham’s nephew) was warned to flee the city for as soon as he had escaped from Sodom, the holocaust would occur (Gen. 19:12-17). The Sodomites ignored the warning and were consumed, but Lot was shown the time of the holocaust. If Lot knew, should the Saints be surprised by the timing of our Lord’s return?

Likewise, also as it was in the days of Lot
...Even thus shall it be in the day when the
Son of man is revealed.

Luke 17:28, 30

The timing of the end of this age will likely be revealed more and more to the watchful Saints as the time draws near. However, if the Saints are to learn that time, then how best might God reveal it?

BIBLE PROPHECY IS BEING UNSEALED!

But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the scroll until the end of time. Many will go back and forth and search anxiously [through the scroll], and knowledge [of the purpose of God as revealed by His prophets] will [greatly] increase...None of the wicked shall understand, but those who are [spiritually] wise will understand.

Daniel 12:4, 10 [Amplified Bible]

Is it possible that God has concealed the timing of the end of the age within the pages of the Bible itself? After all, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time. An estimated five billion copies have been printed and distributed (Guinness Book of World Records). According to the Wycliffe Bible translators, all, or parts of the Bible, have been translated into over 3,312 languages of the world.

What better means to reveal the timing of the end of the age than by the Bible itself? I believe that the Holy Spirit will quicken God's recorded plan to the watchful Saints as the time draws near (John 16:13).

Sadly, the misunderstood "knoweth no man" view has lulled many Christians so fast asleep that they use it as a crutch to ignore Bible prophecy altogether. Some reply, "Well, it may be tomorrow, or it may be another thousand years." Is this cynical view pleasing to God or are the scoffers being willingly ignorant?

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after 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 the creation. For this they (the scoffers) willingly are ignorant of...

II Peter 3:3-5

Though usually overlooked, it appears that God may have countered the willingly-ignorant scoffer delusion in the same context!

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2 Peter 3:8).

Psalm 90:4 agrees: "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past..."

Though unrecognized by most, the Bible itself records a precise chronology that is built right into the scriptures and depends on no secular chronologist.

THE 7 DAY PRINCIPLE

There were six creation days and God rested on the 7th day Sabbath (Gen. 1:1-2:3).

On the 4th day of creation God made the Sun to give light on the earth (Gen. 1:14-19). On the exact 4,000th year from Adam's creation, God's son (spelled "Sun" in Mal. 4:2) brought light into the world when Jesus was anointed at age 30 and began his ministry (John 8:12; Luke 3:21-23; Acts 10:38).

The apostle Paul said that the Hebrew holy days, including the Sabbath (Lev. 23:3), are "a shadow (a foreshadowing) of things to come." (Col. 2:16-17).

The author of Hebrews directly associates the 7th day Sabbath to the future 1,000-year reign of Christ known as the "day of the Lord!" (Rev. 20:4; Isa. 2:12).

"There remaineth therefore a rest (the 1,000-year Sabbath) to the people of God." (Hebrews 4:9).

The Greek word for 'rest' is *sabbatismos*,' meaning 'a keeping sabbath' (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon*). This strongly suggests that the 7th day Sabbath typifies the 1,000-year "day of the Lord!"

Since the "day of the Lord" Sabbath lasts for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:6), then logic alone suggests that the other six creation days also symbolize a thousand years each. If so, this means that God will allot 7,000 total years for mankind this side of eternity. This concept is also reinforced by the prophet Isaiah:

"And it shall come to pass in the *last* days...(that) the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains..." (Isaiah 2:2).

The word last in "last days" is singular in the Hebrew text and cannot modify the plural word days. Therefore, Isaiah's text can properly read: "And it shall come to pass in the last one (i.e. the 7th) of the days..."

The Rotherham Bible translates Isaiah 2:2 to read, "in the afterpart of the days."

In other words, the events described in Isaiah 2:2-4 will occur during the last one of the seven, one thousand-year days since Isaiah goes on to immediately describe events that will occur during Christ's 1,000-year reign on earth (Rev. 20:4).

The following chart will show that precisely 4,000 years elapsed from Adam's creation to the anointing of the most holy Jesus as Messiah the Prince [Dan. 9:24 - 26]. Messiah means the 'anointed one.'

GOD'S 4,000 YEAR CALENDAR

The ancient Hebrew mode of reckoning contains some peculiarities that our calendar today does not. It chronicled a man's lifespan (birth to death) from the Jewish New Year (Feast of the Trumpets) to the following New Year (1 Kings 1:34; 2 Kings 9:13). A man's age was counted in whole years and a person became a year older at the New Year rather than the actual month and day of their birth. Likewise, the reign of a king added a year when the New Year arrived even if he reigned only a few months. If a king reigned a few months but was deposed or died before the New Year arrived, his reign was reckoned as zero years. Parts of years were ignored when counting a person's lifespan or the reign of a king.

<u>Kings of Judah</u>	<u>(1 & 2 Kings)</u>	<u>Years of Reign</u>
Solomon	1 Kgs 11:42 (see note * d)	36
Rehoboam	1 Kgs 14:21	17
Abijam	1 Kgs 15:2	3
Asa	1 Kgs 15:10	41
Jehoshaphat	1 Kgs 22:42	25
Jehoram	2 Kgs 8:17	8
Ahaziah	2 Kgs 8:26	1
Athaliah	2 Kgs 11:1-4, 20-21	7
Jehoash	2 Kgs 12:1	40
Amaziah	2 Kgs 14:2	29
Azariah	2 Kgs 15:2	52
Jotham	2 Kgs 15:33	16
Ahaz	2 Kgs 16:2	16
Hezekiah	2 Kgs 18:2	29
Manasseh	2 Kgs 21:1	55
Amon	2 Kgs 21:19	2
Josiah	2 Kgs 22:1 * e	31
Johoiakim	2 Kgs 23:26	11
Zedekiah	2 Kgs 24:18	11

Total Years from King Solomon to King Zedekiah and the Start of the Babylonian Captivity

Sub-total 430

Total Years of the Babylonian Captivity 70
(Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10; Daniel 9:2)

Total Years from the End of the Babylonian Captivity to the Anointing of the Messiah (Christ) *f 483
(Ezra 1:1-4; Dan. 9:25) 7 weeks of years x 69 equals

Total Years from Adam's Creation to the Anointing of the Messiah

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

$2107 + 430 + 480 + 430 + 70 + 483 = 4,000$

*Reference Notes

* a Noah was 600 years old (Gen. 7:6) and Shem was 98 years old (100 minus 2) when the flood came (Gen. 11:10). Thus, Noah was 502 years old (600 minus 98) when Shem was born.

* b Abram (his name was changed to Abraham) was 75 years old when he departed Haran (Gen. 12:4) immediately following his father's (Terah's) death (Acts 7:4). Terah died at age 205 (Gen. 11:32). Thus, Terah was 130 years old (205 minus 75) when Abram was born.

* c God made a covenant with Abraham when he was 99 years old (Gen. 17:1-7). From the time God confirmed the covenant with Abraham to the end of the Exodus was 430 years (Exo. 12:40-41; Gal. 3:16-17).

Total Years from Adam to the Abrahamic Covenant

	<u>Genesis</u>	<u>Lineal Years</u>
Adam	5:3	130
Seth	5:6	105
Enos	5:9	90
Cainan	5:12	70
Mahalaleel	5:15	65
Jared	5:18	162
Enoch	5:21	65
Methuselah	5:25	187
Lamech	5:28	182
Noah	* a	502
Shem	11:10	100
Arphaxad	11:12	35
Salah	11:14	30
Eber	11:16	34
Peleg	11:18	30
Reu	11:20	32
Serug	11:22	30
Nahor	11:24	29
Terah	* b	130
Abram	17:1-2 *c	99
<i>Sub-total</i>		2107

Total Years from Abrahamic Covenant to the Exodus (Gen. 17:1-2; Exo. 12:40-41; Gal. 3:17) * c 430

Total Years from the Exodus to Building of the Temple and the reign of King Solomon (1 Kings 6:1) 480

* *d* Solomon reigned for 40 years (1 Kgs. 11:42) but the construction of the Temple did not begin until the 4th year of his reign (1 Kgs. 6:1). Therefore, only the last 36 years of Solomon's reign (40 minus 4) can be counted from the building of the Temple to the start of the Babylonian Captivity. The first 4 years of Solomon's reign are reckoned to be part of the 480-years from the Exodus to the building of the Temple.

* *e* Omitted from the kings of Judah are Jehoahaz who reigned for 3 months (2 Chr. 36:2) and Jehoiachin who reigned for 3 months and 10 days (2 Chr. 36:9). Why? Either of these kings sat on the throne when the Jewish New Year arrived so according to the Hebrew method of counting regal years, both kings' reigns are reckoned as zero years.

* *f* The Babylonian Kingdom was defeated by the Persians (2 Chr. 36:20-23). In the 1st year of his reign, King Cyrus issued a decree permitting the Jews to return to Palestine. According to Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27), Jesus was anointed as the Messiah 483 years (Dan. 9:25 / 69 x 7) later when he was anointed by the Spirit at his baptism (Lk. 3:21-23; Acts 10:38).

Adam to Christ's anointing 4,000 Years	The Church Age 2,000 years	The future Kingdom Age *** 1,000 years	7,000 tti < years & then Eternity begins
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OTHER 7,000 YEAR SOURCES

The Psalmist first mentioned the 7,000-Year principle and Peter confirmed it. Yet, numerous religious authors have taught it for many centuries.

1 The ancient books of *1 Enoch* (c. 300 BC) and *Jubilees* (c. 100 BC), under the heading of *Apocalypse of Weeks*, indirectly designate 7,000 years for earth's dispensation.

2 The *Sinaiticus*, or *Codex Aleph*, was discovered at Mt. Sinai in 1859 and dates to the 4th century. It contains the books of the Bible plus the *Letter of Barnabas*. It reads: "...the Lord will make an end of everything in six thousand years and then will establish the 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom as a time of special sanctity." (*The Letter of Barnabas - Volume I of the Fathers of the Church*).

3 Saint Irenaeus (140-202 AD) is called the "founder of Christian theology." He wrote a treatise many centuries ago that contains the following: "For in so many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded...and God

brought to conclusion upon the sixth day the works he made...This is an account of the things formerly created, as also it is a prophecy of what is to come...in six days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end in the sixth thousand year." (*Irenaeus against Heresies*, Vol. 1).

4 Saint Justin Martyr (100-165 AD) was known as the foremost interpreter of the Bible in the 2nd century. In his three books still in existence, he discussed the concept of 6,000 years of man as related to the future 1,000 years of rest.

5 The Samaritans (2 Kings 17:29; Luke 9:52) adopted the *Pentateuch* as their sacred book and erected a temple on Mount Gerizim in 331 BC (*Josephus Ant. XI, 7-2, 8-2; cp. John 4:21*). They taught several thousand years ago that the Messiah would appear 6,000 years after Adam's creation.

WHEN WAS JESUS ANOINTED?

Jesus was anointed as the Messiah by the Holy Spirit at his water baptism when he was about 30 years of age (Matt. 3:16; Acts 10:38; Luke 3:22-23). Historians differ on the exact year this occurred, but it is known to be between 26 to 29 AD by comparing scripture to the existing Roman historical records.

The anointing of Christ occurred precisely 4,000 years after the creation of Adam! If we add 2,000 years to 26 / 29 AD we arrive at 2026-2029 AD! This means that 6,000 years from Adam's creation should be completed sometime during this decade!

This may explain why the 2020's has started with such a bang! When Jesus returns to planet earth, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3) and Christ and the Saint's will govern the earth for a thousand years (often called the Millennium).

"...and they (the Saints) lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years." (Rev. 20:6).

The end of the millennial thousand years should complete 7,000 total years from the creation of Adam. After the 1,000 years are completed, Satan will be loosed from the pit for a little season (Rev. 20:3) and then he will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10)!

Eternity will begin, and God will be "all in all." (1 Cor. 15:28). As for the immortal Saints, they will then help govern God's universe, including the stars, for eternity! (Psa. 8:3, 6).

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:20).

Even so, come Lord Jesus!