

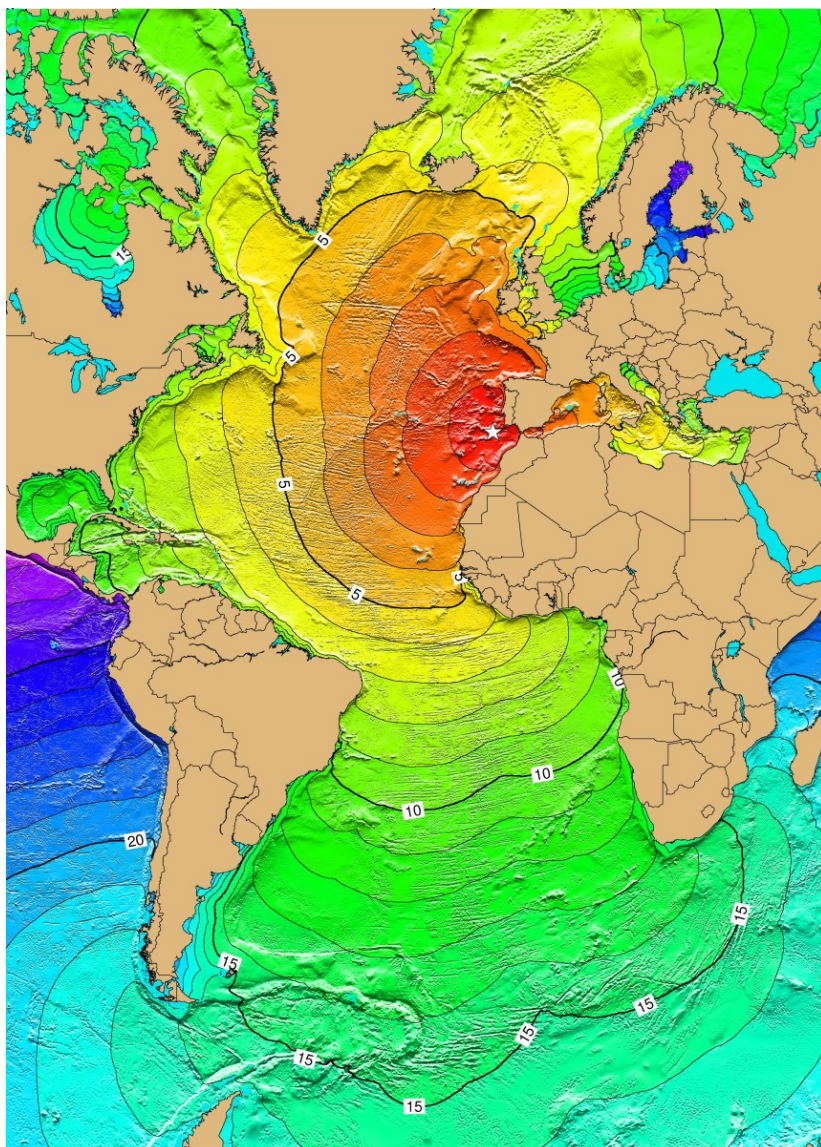
Aim:**Refer:** The Great Controversy chapter

God's people faced danger and trouble in the time of Esther; God's people faced danger and trouble in the time of the Waldenses, John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, John Calvin, the pilgrims, and all the other people we have been learning about in the last six months and God's people will face danger and trouble again as we come close to the end of the world.

Today we are going to look at Matthew chapter 24 where the disciples asked Jesus what signs would happen before Jesus came returned.

Use the following information along with either the Prophets and Prophecy Honour booklet from week 6 or the page from the lesson book.

- False Messiahs – (Either watch part of this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9yNdreaIMl> make sure you watch the video before hand and plan to skip the section about Jim Jones, Sun Myung Moon and David Koresh. OR have a look at the list here: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-people-claim-reincarnation-jesus-christ.php>)
- Wars and threats or rumours of wars – (<http://m.historytoday.com/blog/2011/07/alarming-increase-wars> Also talk about the "Cold War" which covered much of the second half of the 1900's. On the day that I write this, 15 September, 2017, the news for today is that North Korea has made a direct threat to the US and Japan, declaring its nuclear weapons could reduce America to ashes and sink Japan. They have conducted at least 6 nuclear bomb tests this year and 13 missile tests and the last two on August 28 and September 14 were over Japan. <http://abcnews.go.com/International/north-korean-missile-test-year/story> <http://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/north-korea-threatens-to-reduce-us-to-ashes/news-story/d735f25866cc4b089fad03865908dc91>)
- Famines – (See <https://ourworldindata.org/famines/>)
- Earthquakes – (From lesson) "One memorable earthquake and tsunami happened in 1755. Its centre was closest to Lisbon, Portugal but its effects were seen in Spain, Europe, Africa and America and the shaking felt as far away as Greenland, the West Indies, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. The map shows the travel times of the tsunami – each line is one hour. Mountains were changed and villages disappeared. The earthquake occurred on the Catholic All Saints day - Halloween. There was the sound of thunder underground followed by shaking. People fled to the churches and to a new quay (wharf) but then most of the large public buildings, including all of the churches and a quarter of the houses fell down and the new quay also sank. Fires broke out in the city and the water from the ocean disappeared then returned in a wave 20-30m high! 60,000 people died that day and many people thought the end of the world had come. Of course this is only one of many devastating earth quakes that have occurred in the last couple of centuries; some scientists say that natural disasters are increasing, others disagree; but the world population and the number of people living in cities is increasing so the effects of natural disasters are often more devastating."



- Persecution and hatred – Has there been persecution and hatred of Christians? For the last 6 months we have been learning about the persecution of Christians who wanted to follow the Bible teachings.
- False prophets – (Check out <http://www.ranker.com/list/notable-prophets/reference>,
 - This list contains both true and false prophets and to know the difference you would have to apply the Biblical tests of true a prophet.
 1. Isaiah 8:20
 2. Matthew 7:20
 3. Jeremiah 28:9
 4. 1 John 4:2
 - Note that Jesus never claimed to be a prophet
 - 3. Muhammad – The founding prophet of the Muslims; Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet too,
 - 4. Nostradamus – Made general predictions many of which have come true. Some predictions failed.
 - 11. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad – "claimed that Jesus survived crucifixion and migrated to Kashmir..." Does this match what the Bible says?
 - 17. Jeffrey Lundgren – former leader of a cult and convicted mass murderer of five people.
 - 20. Edgar Cayce – an American mystic who gave answers to people while in a trance.
- Wickedness – A google search on "Is crime increasing" found these titles:
 - Violent crime is on the rise in the U.S. cities – time.com
 - UK News: Crime rise is biggest in a decade, ONS figures show – www.theguardian.com
 - UK News: Violent crime rising in England and Wales, police figures show – www.theguardian.com
 - Victoria's crime rate rises 8pc in a year; robberies and thefts drive... - www.abc.net.au
 - Trump correctly cites rising crime rates in cities – CNNPolitics – CNN.com

Possibly have a look at this article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-16/crime-rate-jumps-8-per-cent-in-victoria/8358924>
- Love growing cold, lost - Divorce rates in Australia have remained fairly constant in the last few years but at the same time marriage rates have fallen. More and more people are choosing to live together without marrying so they can leave whenever they want to.
- Gospel to the whole world - Advances in technology have allowed the Gospel to be spread like never before. First the printing press, then radio, TV and now Satellite stations like the Hope Channel and 3ABN.
- Abomination – this is talking about the time of the destruction of Jerusalem which we read about six months ago.
- Miracles – Remember that Satan can do miracles too so we need to apply the Bible tests of a prophet to miracles to know if they are from God or Satan.
- Sun and moon darkened - 25 years after the Lisbon earthquake, on 19 May 1780, many people in America thought the end of the world had come when the sky became black and the sun disappeared; the full moon when it finally became visible later that night was a blood red colour. The day was so dark that people had to use candles to see. Scientists think it was caused by smoke from forest fires but without TV or radio to spread the news people found it very scary.
- Stars falling – we will talk about this another week.

Do we have to worry about the difficult times that might be coming?
 Do you know any Bible verses that we can claim when we have trouble or are worried?

John 14:1-3 (Do not let your heart be trouble)
 Psalm 91
 Psalm 34:7 (The angel of the Lord is a guard)
 1 Peter 5:7 (Cast your cares)
 Philippians 4:6-7 (Do not be anxious)
 John 16:33 (I have overcome the world)
 Psalm 50:15 (I will deliver you)