



Matthew 24:37

(37) But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

King James Version

Some feel we have reached a time in history that parallels the period just before the Flood. [God](#) recorded what conditions were like as Noah was building the ark: "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" ([Genesis 6:5](#)). What a horrifying thought! What danger and oppression must have lurked at every turn!

Yet Jesus predicts in a prophecy regarding the time of the end, the time we live in today, "But as the [days of Noah](#) were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." In a larger, more general context, Jesus meant that, despite the dangerous, portentous events occurring all around them, people will be going about their normal routines without seriously considering the meaning of these events ([Matthew 24:38-39](#)). They will not take the time to wonder if these cataclysmic events are affecting them personally.

How about you? Even though we are living in momentous times, we are easily distracted from their importance by our high standard of living and convenient access to almost anything we desire. The nations of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States are, for the most part, wallowing in unprecedented technological luxury. Much to our spiritual detriment, our lives are caught up in our possessions and keeping our noses above water economically.

But we must not allow this to happen any longer! Time and prophecy are relentlessly marching on. The [book of Amos](#) records an almost exact parallel account to what is happening in our day. It chronicles the social, political,

economic, military, and religious conditions and attitudes prevalent in ancient Israel in about 760 BC, about forty years before Assyria invaded and completely devastated the nation. So remarkable was Israel's defeat that, as far as [the world](#) is concerned, her people disappeared from history! Today, they are known as the [Ten Lost Tribes of Israel](#).

Amos is not a happy book to read. It does not contain the encouraging, soaring, and hope-inspiring prophecies of Isaiah. No, Amos speaks of almost unending gloom and doom, presenting an interesting contrast to Israel's surging power, wealth, and influence. During the days of Amos' ministry, the nation underwent a burst of prosperity second only to Solomon's time. On the surface, it appeared that Israel's prosperity indicated God's pleasure, but Amos' words prove beyond any doubt that God was not pleased in the least! He was *deadly* serious! If the people would not [repent](#), they were doomed!

The Israelites did not repent. They suffered war, famine, pestilence, and captivity as a result. Tens of thousands died. They learned the hard way that God means exactly what He says through His prophets ([Amos 3:7](#)).

Though Amos describes what was literally happening in ancient Israel, God intended the message for us, the physical and/or spiritual descendants of Israel. It was written to stir us to action, seeing that the times indicate [Jesus Christ](#) will return soon.

Amos clearly shows that our nations are heading along the same path to destruction as ancient Israel. There is still hope that we will turn around and avoid the [wrath of God](#), but as each day passes, it becomes more unlikely. We have many lessons to learn, and we seem determined to learn them the hard way.

— John W. Ritenbaugh and Richard T. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

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