

## SO, WHAT DO CARS AND GOD HAVE IN COMMON?

It is the idea of warning. Cars have warning lights, engine sounds or smells to tell us ahead of time that something is going wrong, so that we can take action to prevent worse trouble from happening. Well, God is in charge of the 'end times' and He loves us. So, these warning signs that are written about throughout the Bible are given to us so that we see them, and take action with God. We get things right with Him. Since we are seeing the warning signs mentioned in the Bible on the news every day, we need to acknowledge them, and turn to God today. Talk to Him (this can be called prayer). He is approachable. In fact, He is allowing the warning signs, so we do wake up and take the time to turn to Him or turn back to Him.

## IS IT ONLY BAD NEWS FROM NOW ON?

No! There is some good news in relationship to the warnings. Just like the car warning lights that give us time to take action and repair the car *before* the car is destroyed, these prophesied warning signs outlined and described in the Bible and the traumas and devastation we are seeing daily in this world, are being allowed by God, there is HOPE for each one of us to make things right with God. If there were NO warning signs given in the Bible, we would all have been caught by surprise and the end would have just "shown up."

How do you heed the warnings and "get it right with God?" You can stop what you are doing right now and talk with God (Pray). "Heavenly Father, I now realize that I have not set my life on You, your Son (Jesus Christ) and your Word (the Bible). I have not realized the destruction I am seeing all around me is something that I could have known about. I am sorry that I have ignored You and thought only about myself. Please forgive me. I want to make my life more about you and your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for sending Jesus to die in my place and to pay for my sins so that I can be right with You and part of Your family. Holy Spirit, I invite you to guide me every day. I ask that you help me read and understand the Bible, especially the warnings that are in there. Thank you that it is **NOT TOO LATE**. Help me to hear and recognize your voice. Guide me through each day and help me to fall more in love with Jesus Christ every day." Amen.

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## Engine Trouble

**Was the check engine light on?**



**WAS THERE ANY WARNING OF TROUBLE TO COME?**

## CARS- A GREAT WAY TO GET AROUND-WHEN THEY ARE RUNNING

Many people around the world get around by using cars. They offer great views of the scenery as you go from place to place. When they are running well, they can be a great help.

But there are times when the car makes knocking, ping, clunking sounds. That is NOT good. Sometime there is a bad smell to go along with the noises. These sounds and smells are sending out “warning signals” that something is wrong with the car. If we want to keep it running, we take it into the mechanic. By catching it early, further more serious damage may be prevented. But, if the check engine light is on, and you wait and ignore the other warning signs, you may run the car to the point that the engine seizes or the car stops working altogether.

## WHAT DO CARS AND GOD HAVE IN COMMON?

God also lists warning signs of dangerous situations and times to come. They are like the ‘warning lights’ of the car. God has recorded many of these warnings throughout the Bible. There is much written about the signs to watch for that signal a terrible time of testing on the earth called “the end times.” For example, in Joel 1:12 it talks about a time of severe drought that occurs where “the vine has dried up, and the fig tree fails...even all the trees of the field are withered.” In verse 17, it talks about a time when “the seed rots and shrivels under the clods.”

## ARE THERE MORE SIGNS OF THE END TIMES?

Besides these few verses cited from the book of Joel, there are many more verses in Joel. Many of the prophets of the Old Testament like Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Amos, Zechariah and Malachi talk about the activities that occur on the earth before and during the “end times.”

Even Jesus warned about the “birth pangs” on the earth before the actual destruction. Jesus talked about all these signs when He answered the question that the Apostles asked in Matthew 24:3, “And they asked Him, saying, “Tell us, when will this take place, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end (the completion, the consummation) of the age?”[amplified version of the Bible]

In Matthew 24:7 Jesus said: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. In verse 8, Jesus continues: “All these are the beginning of birth pangs.” (Mark 13:8 also records similar words of Jesus describing the warning signs of the end times). In Luke 21:9, Jesus said: “But when you hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass: but the end *is* not yet.” In Luke 21:11, more warning signs are added. “And great earthquakes shall be in divers (various) places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from Heaven.” In fact, **ALL** of Matthew chapter 24 deals with the end times, and is well worth reading.

## WARNINGS CONTINUE

In the New Testament, the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, outlines what happens during the end times in depth for 22 chapters. Rev 1:1-2 states “This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything that he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.” [NLT] There is so much in it that all of it cannot be written here. Basically, there are a series of events that unfold concerning the end times. There is a spiritual war being waged between the forces of God and the forces of the enemy, Satan or the Devil. There are a series of unfolding events that occur. Some are on earth and some are in Heaven. They are listed as the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven vials. There is much pain and suffering on earth as wars rage, and the earth is affected. It is known as a terrible, awful time or the Great Tribulation. Jeremiah, the prophet, called it “Jacob’s trouble” in chapter 30:7: “Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”[KJV]

The apostle Peter called it the ‘end of the world.’ In 2Peter 3:10 he recorded “The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” The end times are also known as the ‘end of the world’ or ‘the day of the Lord’ when God intervenes in human history for the purpose of judgment.