Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

Matthew 24:2-8

2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

These particular signs given to us by Jesus appear to be signs that have continually taken place since the time he spoke it. Therefore it is extremely difficult to determine what is meant by each one of these signs identified as "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

However Jesus says at this same time we also are to be looking for what he told us "All these are the beginning of sorrows." "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." (Matt 24:5-7) These signs are only the beginning of sorrows and we are not told how long they will last before Daniel's seventieth week of years will begin or what is commonly known as the Great Tribulation of which we have already found is only the final three and one half years of the seven year period of time.

Jesus does tell us explicitly "**So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.** Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.** Heaven and earth shall pass away, **but my words shall not pass away.**" (Matt 24:33-35) Therefore I believe that since many of the prophetic signs given to us concerning the end of days or the end times that some of the signs can be seen in multiple generations spanning the time since the destruction of the second temple in 70 AD that we are given this verse of scripture to help us to be able to understand precisely when we see all these prophetic signs that they must be taking place at the same time with some being fulfilled while others the stage is set for them to take place because the ability for them to take place is part of the prophetic signs that we are to be looking for, and that when we do see all of them taking

place or the stage set for them to take place that we are given a guarantee by God who can not lie "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matt 24:33-35)

All these are the beginning of sorrows

1. Many will come in my name, saying, I am Christ.

According to the Wikipedia in the twenty and twenty-first century this is a list of people who have claimed to be Jesus: Ernest Norman, Krishna Venta, Jim Jones, Marshall Applewhite, Hulon Mitchell Jr., Laszlo Toth, Wayne Bent, Mitsuo Matayoshi, Inri Cristo, Shoko Asahara, Hogen Fukunaga, Sergey Torop, Apollo Quiboloy, Alan John Miller, and David Shayler.

However Jesus also continues into Daniel's seventieth week of seven years and says, "For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, <u>there should no flesh be saved</u>: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt 24:21-27)

2. Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars and Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

The wars that have taken place since 1948 are far to numerous to list. This not including rumors of wars. Here is a list of the wars according to the Wikipedia that are currently taking place as of 2011 to the present being 2016 with the wars starting at any of the years from 2011 upward. Sinai insurgency, Syrian Civil War, Sudanese conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, Ethnic violence in South Sudan, Central African Republic conflict, South Sudanese Civil War, Iraqi Civil War, Libyan Civil War, War in Donbass, Military intervention against ISIL, and the Yemeni Civil War.

Many of these wars are causing nation to rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There are also many rumors of wars taking place at this time.

3. There Shall be Famines.

There have been eighteen famines since 1948 according to the Wikipedia with an estimated death of 23 - 52 million people.

4. There Shall be Pestilences

I believe this prophetic sign given to us under the beginning of sorrows is one that would apply to every year somewhere in the world and thus will be among the signs of the coming of the Lord that we are to be discerning.

5. There Shall be Earthquakes in divers places

The final sign of the beginning of sorrows that we are given is concerning earthquakes in divers places. In the book of Luke we are told "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places," (Luke 21:11) This prophecy does not predict a greater number of earthquakes or that there will be a greater intensity of earthquakes. It just tells us that there will be "great earthquakes" "in divers places".

In conclusion, most of the prophetic signs that we are watching for requires that Israel be a nation, there must be a dispute concerning the land of Israel, Jerusalem, and the land of Judea (the West Bank), there must be an agreement made concerning the disputed land (the confirmation of the covenant), and there must also be a temple erected by the Jews after an agreement is made concerning the disputed land of which will lead to the abomination of desolation by the anti-christ in the midst of the week or three and one half years into Daniel's seventieth week of years.

We are also told what nations and lands we are to be watching for concerning the one world government, the four beasts or nations of Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation Chapter 13 which will be in existence at the time of the end. There will be an increase of knowledge given. There will arise a false prophet that will force those who dwell on the earth to worship the anti-christ. The false prophet will force all, whether small or great, rich or poor, free or bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, known to us as the mark of the beast and that without it no man might buy or sell, except he that has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. The false prophet will also rule over the harlot religious system known as MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.