

DISCERNING THE TIMES

Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather'; and there is. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?" Matt. 16:3 (NKJV)

The SIGNS OF OUR TIME

The Falling Away

How does the Bible describe the last times. "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." 2 Tim. 3:1-5 (NKJV) Does that sound like the times we are living in? Even those who pretend to be Godly seek out teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. They want to justify the sin they have chosen to live in. Their itching ears prefer a watered down gospel and too many churches today are not willing to teach sound doctrine and bear the consequences and rebukes that inevitably follow. In doing so they are sacrificing their own souls and the souls of those they instruct.

Spirit of Lawlessness

"Because of lawlessness the love of many will grow

cold.” Matt. 24:12 (NKJV) It is a spirit that is prevalent in today’s world, trying to wear down the saints. When the Bible speaks of nation against nation, it is simply saying people against people. And that definitely describes people today. It is the eternal war between good and evil – light and darkness. One seeks to build up while the other seeks to tear down – tear down systems, buildings and lives. Many will not receive the love of truth that they might be saved. They are being deceived and will believe the ultimate lie because they will not receive the truth but have pleasure in unrighteousness. Their condemnation is sure in coming. Even now believers around the world are being delivered up for their faith in Christ. I have seen it reported that more people have died for their faith in recent years than in the previous 2000 years. Family and friends turn some in for persecution and even death. In America freedom is quickly vanishing; perhaps the last hope for the world. These actions are the spirit that will lead to the coming of the lawless one which is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders -- the Anti-Christ. Just remember, when they are saying peace and safety, then comes sudden destruction.

Weather and Famines

“There will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences.” Luke 21:11 (NKJV) Yes, there have always been disturbing weather and famines. We are now being told of the ring of fire which circles land masses around the Pacific ocean. It is an area producing 75% of the world’s volcanoes and activity is increasing. The Canary Islands, which will cause untold destruction if it splits, is even now experiencing

earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The frequency and intensity of all weather patterns are growing more turbulent. Earthquakes are being reported where they never were before. Whether you ascribe this to climate change or whatever, God is warning us. He is telling us something with the recent pandemics, locust swarms, storms, famines and waves roaring (tsunami). Famines are being caused by man's actions in addition to the weather. All this is a result of man's sin and a fallen world which chooses not to do things God's way. God's heart aches at what man is doing to himself as He patiently waits for the full measure of the willing to come in.

Heavenly Signs

"There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Luke 21:25-26 (NKJV) In Genesis 1:14, when God created the lights in the heavens to divide day and night, He said they would also serve for seasons and signs. Jesus also said there would be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars as a sign of His soon return. There have been many such events and we don't always interpret what they signify. However, there have been several blood moons and sun eclipses in recent years that fell on major feast days the Lord established. The significance of these should be recognized. Even now scientist are talking about the meteor Apophis which is heading our way in 2029. Could this be the wormwood predicted in Revelations? Would our leaders even tell

us if they knew it was going to strike the earth? “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” Heb. 12:26 (NKJV) And yes, our Lord will be returning in the clouds, but it won’t be in a UFO spaceship. Don’t be deceived. These are not signs to be ignored as normal happenings.

Israel

“I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.” Exodus 6:7 (NKJV) Like it or not, every since Abraham acted in faith and obedience, God has selected these people as His own. He has chosen to act through them, revealing all the good, bad and the ugly. They have served as our tutors to teach us all the ways of God. Now they serve as the greatest sign of all; that His return is imminent. After 2000 years of dispersion, the nation was birthed again in 1948. This is the prophesied nation born in a day – the dry bones that live. The Jews returned to a desolate land and God has caused it to bloom. Invasions, persecution and attempts at extinction were not enough to void God’s Word about them. “You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes the set time has come . . . For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.” Psa. 102:13,16 (NKJV) God’s Word cannot fail. When we see this, His return is at the very doors.

Noah

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man.” Luke 17:26 (NKJV) Jesus said when He returned people would be acting as they did in the times of Noah. How exactly does God describe that time? “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.”
Gen. 6:5 (NKJV) Now mankind is playing god by delving into artificial intelligence, genetic engineering and gender modification. Only God knows what mutations have resulted from their secret experiments. They are seeking to manipulate God’s creation even as the fallen angels did when they mixed with humans. As knowledge has increased so has their sense of deification – I can and I will. Once before God thought it best to destroy all of mankind; before Noah also was corrupted and no pure seed remained for redemption to arrive. People are now acting in like manner and drawing many after them – some willingly and some in ignorance. Our creator knows all things, even the thoughts and intents of a persons’ heart. I believe when He knows that none are left who are willing to turn to Him, He will choose to cleanse the earth again. The coming of Jesus will bring that new cleansing of the world.

Conclusion

I know God’s is pained for those who choose darkness over light. He doesn’t desire anyone to share in the torments reserved for rebellious angels. As light begets light, dark begets more darkness. Our heart also cries out for those perishing in their own evil desires which have overtaken them. Sin is horribly deceptive. It may at first appear pleasurable but your heart is gradually hardened to all that is right. Evil becomes good. They go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Prov. 14:12 (NKJV) When people will no longer let the Spirit of God touch their heart, their fate is sealed. Look up. But for us,

your redemption comes!

Acts 17:26 says God has determined our pre-appointed times and the boundaries of our dwellings. That means that you were born here and now for such a time as this. “Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” Rom. 13:11 (NKJV) If the Apostle Paul wrote this 2000 years ago, how much truer is it now? I use to hear a lot about how this and this had to happen before Jesus could return; not so much anymore. Now is the time if you’re going to serve Him. I urge you all to contend for the faith. Do not become disheartened as you witness the world around you descending into darkness.

God has not given us a spirit of fear. Fear is for those who are perishing and have no hope. I remind you this world is not our home and we’re just passing through as the old song says. Be expectant and rejoice as you know His coming nears. Cling to the promises of God. “If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses?” Jer. 12:5 (NKJV) Any affliction is just for a moment and is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Great will be your reward in heaven. Just think, we shall see Him face to face and He will wipe all tears from your eyes. Hold loosely the things of this world. Even your most precious things. The hurt will be less. Fight the good fight and hold back the darkness by letting your light shine. It matters – even in your little section of the world. Your witness could help turn one lost soul to Jesus; the angels will rejoice. Even now it costs some death to witness. That

may be universal sooner than you think.

Father, thank You for opening my eyes and understanding to properly discern the signs. Your Word says I was born for this specific time. Grant grace that I will fulfill Your desire. Let me clearly hear Your voice; "this is the way, walk in it".

Personal Remark: Fellow Christians, let me express a note to whoever is willing to accept it. Even if we choose to overlook the signs that are visibly present, I am personally feeling an urgency in my spirit that things are beginning to speed up rapidly. I think I can discern it in others also. Time for just drifting along is quickly ending. I tremble even as I say that because I also have spent too much time adrift. God says He would rather we be hot or cold; He will spew the lukewarm from His mouth. Judgment stands at the door and if we are to ever get serious about God, now is the time. The Holy Spirit is speaking loudly. Are you listening?

this concludes my article from last year. still relevant or more urgent?

linda