

SIGNS OF THE END-TIMES

Introduction

Jesus gave one of the clearest teachings concerning the signs that point to the end-times. The bible has over 150 chapters that are dedicated to describing the events, times and signs that will eventually end with Jesus' second coming to establish His kingdom on earth. With so much information available to us, it is evidently clear that God intends for His church to be prepared and aware of the signs that point to the end of the age.

I. PROPHEPIC TRENDS LEADING TO THE END TIMES

Jesus gave us 12 trend signs of the generation in which He will return (Matt 24:4-8, Luke 21:7-18). Matthew gave us 7 trend signs which are false christ's, war, ethnic conflict, economic warfare, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. Luke describes 5 more which are commotion, fearful sights, great signs from heaven, distress in the nations and roaring waves.

Matthew 24:5-8 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Luke 21:9-11 "But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven."

Luke 21:23-26 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. "And 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; ²⁶ 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."

II. THE CHURCH'S NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE ENDTIMES

A. Jesus taught that all these trend signs would be witnessed by one generation.
- Matt 24:33-34

1. A generation in scripture can be between 40-100 years
2. Genesis 15:13-16, Psalm 90:10, Matthew 1:17, Acts 7:6

- B. Jesus sharply rebuked the generation of His day for not discerning the signs of the first coming. The Jewish “Church” was not able to discern His coming and was not prepared for His appearance. Much like Jesus’ first coming, many in the Church will not be ready at His second coming.

Matthew 16:1-4 “Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; ³ and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.”

Matthew 24:42-44 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

- C. The Apostle Paul taught that the Church should be fully aware of end time eschatology that they would not be caught of guard.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6 “Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”

III. MANY BELIEVE THE LIE THAT NO ONE CAN EVER KNOW THE TIMING OF JESUS’ SECOND COMING

- A. Many believe we are not able to understand prophetic books like Daniel and Revelation.
- B. Many have been taught we cannot know the day or the hour. So why therefore even study the end times. Matt 24:32-34, Luke 21:25-29, 1 Thes 5:1-6, 2 Thes 2:1-11
- C. Some believe the lie “It will all pan out”
- *At what cost?*
 - *At what loss?*