



Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19

Lamplighter

LAMB & LION MINISTRIES
a Non-Denominational Christian Media Ministry

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SPIRITUAL SIGNS OF THE END TIMES



SPECIAL EXPANDED ISSUE

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for His Glory**



From the Editor



Eyes to see.

Ears to hear.

That is what Jesus advocated to His listeners when He taught on the earth. He was referring to a spiritual awareness that physical eyes and ears alone cannot discern.

While the crowds that followed after the Lord clamored for physical healing and food, their real need was spiritual. Nothing has changed in 2,000 years. Most of our prayers focus on the physical and material—but our greatest challenges are spiritual.

Like Elijah's servant, it is easy to be overwhelmed by what we can see with our eyes, hear with our ears, and grasp with our mortal minds. Even with spiritual discernment, some witness the trends and trajectories in our society and yield to discouragement and despair. Certainly, there are spiritual forces of darkness raging all around us and winning many

battles, because the Earth is still Satan's domain.

The category of Spiritual Signs contains many negative examples of that sad truth. But "we are not of night nor of darkness" (1 Thessalonians 5:5b). So, we recognize that the Holy Spirit has also given us wonderful positive signs of God's providential protection and preservation.

As you consider this particular category of signs, hold tight to the wisdom we have spoken of before. Christians are not optimists, because they see the world as it is—and know it will grow ever darker. They are not pessimists either—because they know the end of the story. Instead, they are people of eternal hope. Our hope is not some fragile thing made of gossamer and wishful thinking. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

The Lord Himself is our Blessed Hope.

Linger on that last line for a few moments. Pause right now and lift up a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

If the great negative and positive Spiritual Signs threaten to overwhelm you as you read this edition of the *Lamplighter*, quiet your heart and stand on the solid Rock. He will ever be your Hope and Stay! ♦



Future Lamplighter editions will reference the Legacy Standard Bible (LSB)—an updated version of the NASB that uses more Hebrew words (such as God's self-revealed Name "Yahweh" instead of the more generic "LORD"). Other translations will still be cited by their common abbreviation.

For more information on this change, visit ChristInProphecy.org

4

**SPIRITUAL
SIGNS
ABOUNDING**

12

**UNDENIABLE
SPIRITUAL
SIGNS**

14

**SPIRITUAL
SIGNS OF THE
LAST DAYS**

18

**FEARLESS
FISHING**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

20 AND THEN THE END WILL COME

**24 MOVIE REVIEW:
JESUS REVOLUTION**

**26 THE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT
OF SIGNS AND SEASONS**

28 WHY STUDY BIBLE PROPHECY?

30 SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**32 WILL YOU BE ABLE TO RESIST
THE BIG GREEN DRAGON?**

34 YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVIVAL?



SCAN ME

Upcoming
EVENTS

FOR WE WALK BY
FAITH
NOT BY SIGHT
2 CORINTHIANS



TIM MOORE

Spiritual Signs

abounding

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

Charles Dickens
A Tale of Two Cities



Charles Dickens captured the dichotomy of the world in which we live. At the same instant, it is both maddeningly reprobate and yet reflective of the glory of God. We witness tremendous abominations at the same time that God reassures us that He has everything under control.

More pronounced today than even during the era Dickens wrote about, our world has become a cacophony of contradictions. Knowledge is accessible in volumes never before imagined, and yet wisdom is tragically illusive. Material prosperity and riches have raised our life expectancy and standard of living, and yet many people are plagued with a sense of perpetual jealousy and impending doom. This is the dual reality of our age.

The Signs of the Times are multiplying all around us. Some are so obvious that even the undiscerning can recognize them. As discussed in previous editions of the *Lamplighter*, natural signs are increasing in frequency and intensity—although the Christ-shunning world is eager to chalk them up to global warming, climate change, or whatever the latest fear-mongering fad dictates. Signs of society's breakdown are evident in crime statistics, human pathologies multiplying by the day, and a sense of foreboding and despair that is infecting our young people.

In the coming months, we will address the remaining end time sign categories. The signs of technology are aligning with Bible prophecy at an incredible rate. People are being misled into clamoring for a globalist approach

to world politics that presages the alignment of nations in the end times. And, exceeding all the other categories, Israel shines as a prophetic beacon proclaiming that God's promises are still "yes, and amen."

Touching on cause and solution to our current state is the category of Spiritual Signs. Like so many other indicators, many of them are becoming more pronounced by the day. Looking about, it would be easy to be "tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14). Certainly, Satan wants us deceived, demoralized, and defeated. However, not all the Spiritual Signs are negative; some are tremendously positive.

Before we examine the negative and positive aspects of this category, let's remember the "bottom line up front" with Peter's word of encouragement regarding our own spiritual well-being. He advised us to be consistent in "holy conduct and godliness..." (2 Peter 3:11). So, as we consider the Spiritual Signs multiplying around us, let's determine to keep our eyes on Jesus.

NEGATIVE SIGNS

It is undeniable that we are witnessing a falling away from moral truth and spiritual discernment in our society. Throughout the Western world—a prominent portion of "Christendom" because of a shared foundation of Christian identity—Judeo-Christian values are being abandoned with glee. In just the past 2-3 generations, Christianity has fallen



from prominence as the default religion of most Americans. It is now the ostracized faith of people considered “troublers” by the broader society (1 King 18:17).

Although secularists assert that mankind can evolve away from religion, the truth is that other ideologies and false religions fill the void when Christianity is rejected. Consider some of the tragic manifestations of this negative trend:

RISE IN CULTS AND DEMONIC WORSHIP

After Roman Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity early in the 4th Century, Christianity became the dominant religion in the West. What we know as the Catholic Church held primacy until the Reformation, when break-away Protestant denominations determined to reform the Church back to its Biblical foundations.

Until the 1800s, there was little divergence from basic Christianity.

But over the last 150 years, the world has seen an explosion of religious denominations, sects, and faiths—with many qualifying as outright cults, such as:

- Mormons – whose latest “prophet” renounced that name in 2018 in favor of simply “Latter-day Saints”
- Jehovah’s Witnesses – who deny the deity of Christ and therefore are far outside the Christian faith



Universalism

- Christian Scientists – whose beliefs follow the erratic teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, including an assertion that the material world is merely an illusion; it has been rightly said that Christian Scientists are like Grape-Nuts Cereal, which contains no grapes or nuts (similarly, Christian Science is not based on Christianity or science)
- Unitarians – who attempt to harmonize all religious beliefs into a homogenous amalgam that ends up devoid of any meaning

Scripture specifically warns that anyone who preaches a gospel contrary to the Gospel declared by Jesus Christ “is to be accursed!” (Galatians 1:8).

INCREASED APOSTASY AND HERESY

Let’s first distinguish between apostasy and heresy. Apostasy refers to a former believer (or denomination)

that declares himself, herself, or itself no longer a believer—meaning a total rejection of Christian faith by one who once claimed to be regenerated. Heresy on the other hand can be likened to a little leaven that affects the whole loaf. It happens when someone attempts to blend a false teaching in with Scriptural truth, inevitably undermining the Gospel and the Person of Christ.

Paul foretold that apostasy would become more pronounced in “latter times” as some will “fall away from the faith, paying attention to the deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.” (1 Timothy 4:1).

Regarding any who would exchange the truth of Christ to return to paganism, Peter said, “it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away...” (2 Peter 2:20-22).

Regarding heresy, Peter also warned, “There will be false teachers

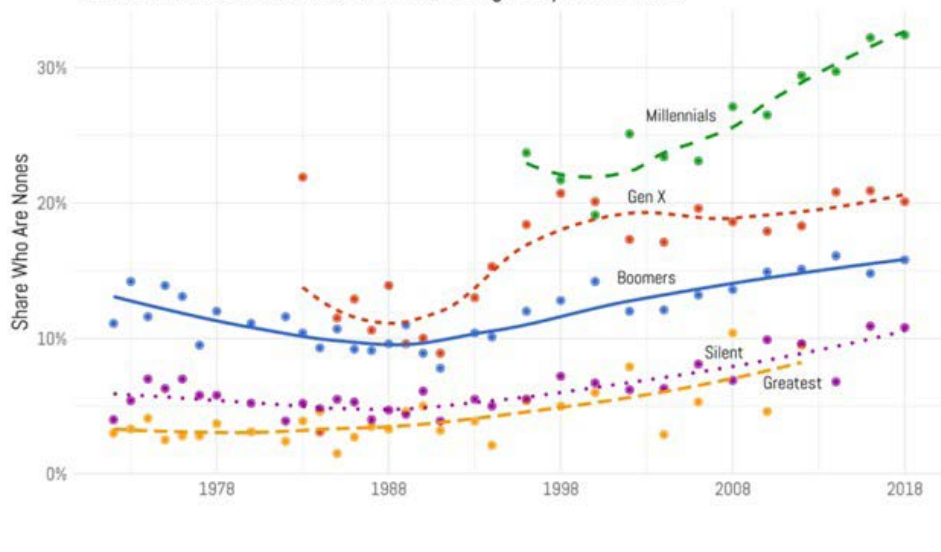
among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2:1). Not only does heresy deny Jesus, it also causes destructive divisions within the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:19).

True followers of Jesus must be on guard, testing the spirits and every supposed doctrine to see if it adheres to the Word of God. Any teaching or teacher who denies Christ “is of the antichrist” according to John (1 John 4:1-6). That is why Jesus, Paul, and Jude were so quick to warn against wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15-23, 1 Timothy 1:3-7, 2 Timothy 1:13-14, and Jude 1:3-16). After a first and second warning, Paul tells us to simply reject such a person (Titus 3:10-11).

We regularly highlight the accelerating decline of denominations that formerly held to “the faith once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 1:3). With great sadness, these include:

- The Episcopal Church (tied to the Church of England), which set aside millennia of Church teaching on marriage and sexuality to ordain militant transgender and queer priests and bless same-sex marriages; in 2022 a doctoral student studying under the oversight of the Archbishop of Canterbury posited that Jesus was a transgender man.
- The United Methodist Church, which individual churches and even whole conferences are abandoning as it forsakes Biblical truth in exchange for the evolving sexual revolution.
- The Presbyterian Church USA, also embracing the entire litany of progressive causes in violation of Scripture.

The Share of Each Generation That Is Religiously Unaffiliated



Source: Ryan Burge | ryanburge.net

While this is just a short list of denominations that have gravitated far to the Left, individual pastors are also susceptible to drifting away from orthodox Biblical faith. Numerous studies have documented that closet atheists are engaged as pastors and church leaders in virtually every denomination in America.

AN EPIDEMIC OF DECEPTION AND SATAN WORSHIP

How could any of this occur unless people willingly stray? Billy Graham testified that his one-time colleague in evangelism, Charles Templeton, experienced a crisis of faith. He ended up rejecting Christianity altogether—denying the Lord who he had once served. His adamantness caused Graham to struggle for a time. But Billy Graham remained true. Responding to Templeton's doubts, he said,

When I take the Bible literally, when I proclaim it as the Word of God, my preaching has power. When I stand on the platform and say, "God says," or "The Bible says," the Holy Spirit uses me. There are results. Wiser men than you or I have been arguing questions like this for cen-

turies. I don't have the time or the intellect to examine all sides of the theological dispute, so I've decided once for all to stop questioning and accept the Bible as God's Word.

Templeton yielded to deception and was led astray. Clearly, sixty-six years later, scores of people have embraced deception and followed the same path to destruction. Church attendance has plummeted, and the number of non-affiliated "nones" has skyrocketed.

While not every Christ-denier will overtly worship the devil, their eternal destiny is the same. Incredibly, a growing number are adding insult to injury by verbally affirming their allegiance to Satan. The so-called Church of Satan existed only at the extreme fringes of American society until recent years. Now, Satan worship is not only widely tolerated, it is also celebrated at events like the Grammys and gleefully broadcast on networks like CBS for the entire nation to revel.

Someone fully grounded in, and committed to, the Word of God and relying on the Holy Spirit should be immune from drifting away from the Lord. Many people have had "crises of faith." One mark of an overcomer is that they overcome such fiery darts.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

The final example of a negative spiritual sign is a precipitous rise in the persecution of Christians. When I first began preaching with Lamb & Lion Ministries in 2013, I predicted that, in some fanatically-liberal corner of America, a Christian would be jailed for their faith sometime within the next 5-7 years. By the next year, I moved the timeline up to 3-5 years. I never dreamed it would happen the following year—in my home state of Kentucky!



Kim Davis Booking Photo

When the US Supreme Court handed down its Obergefell decision on June 26, 2015, the liberal governor in Kentucky immediately mandated that every county clerk had to personally endorse his newly minted same-sex marriage license certificate. Out of 120 counties, only three clerks were willing to risk their income and pension to oppose such an outlandish order.

Governor Steve Beshear instructed his administration to fire up the furnace of public opinion and throw in Kim Davis. Eventually, he would insist she be jailed for flaunting his edict.

Five years later, Beshear's son held the same office. As he reacted to the supposed Covid crisis, he singled out Christian churches for heavy-handed intimidation and threats—in flagrant violation of the First Amendment to the US Constitution.



Ramin Parsa in front of the Mall of America in Bloomington, MN

I could speak to the arrest of an Iranian pastor (Ramin Parsa) sharing his faith in a private conversation at the Mall of America. Or the imprisonment of Christian pastors Artur Pawlowski and James Coates in Canada for refusing to bow to the persecution of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. We could talk about Christian faith under attack around the world—with little pushback from our current US Administration. I personally know many pastors and missionaries who testify that conditions are worsening around the world year by year because America no longer cares about defending religious liberty in general and Christian evangelistic efforts in particular.



Canadian pastor, Arthur Pawlowski, arrested for holding church services during the Covid-19 pandemic

These negative signs weigh upon the soul of anyone who wants to serve the cause of Christ. They bear testimony to the battles our enemy seems to be winning. Sensing his soon demise, Satan is pulling out all the stops to distract, demoralize, and deceive.

But greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Before we turn to some very positive signs, please pause to pray. Ask for tough and persevering faith from the One who has overcome the grave—and promises to hold you tight, as you too overcome the world.

POSITIVE SIGNS

Thankfully, the category of Spiritual Signs is replete with many affirmations that God is in control, that His plans cannot be thwarted, and that He will be victorious despite Satan's malicious efforts.

WORLDWIDE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

Doug Cobb and others have documented that we are on the cusp of reaching every people group in the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The fulfillment of the Great Commission is something generations of Christians have been dedicated toward and aspired to witness. Now, it is within our reach.

Thanks to advancements in technology, worldwide communication, and unprecedented travel capability, evangelists are reaching every corner of the globe. It is estimated that Billy Graham alone preached to over 2 billion people in his lifetime. Even today, when we broadcast our Christ in Prophecy television program or Prophetic Perspectives or conference livestreams, we know that people

around the world will watch.

This is just one example of how modern technology is enabling the preaching of the Gospel in places that were inaccessible just a few years ago.



RESURGENCE IN DAVIDIC PRAISE AND WORSHIP

I love old hymns and have great appreciation for the liturgies and chants that worshipers developed many generations ago. But over time, there was a stifling of the spontaneity and joy in worship demonstrated by King David. If David himself danced down the aisle of many staid houses of worship, some churchgoers would respond like David's wife Michal, who despised him for his enthusiastic worship (2 Samuel 6:16).

But in recent years there has been a renewed appreciation for a style of worship that captures the delight in the Lord David expressed. This is happening across denominational boundaries and worship styles.

The Lord has always welcomed those who seek to praise Him by worshiping in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). This rejuvenated Davidic style of praise and worship is one manifestation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that Joel refers to as the "latter rain" prophesied to fall after the Jews had returned to their land (Joel 2:28 and referred to in 2:23).



There is much discussion among committed Christians about the validity of certain music for praise and worship. Clearly, not all music is conducive to worshipping “in spirit and in truth.” Frankly, some music seems to exalt the worshiper instead of the Lord or is so shallow and inane as to be worthless in expressing “deep calling to deep” (Psalm 42:7). And, as we choose hymns and spiritual songs to sing to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19), Christians should avoid enriching artists and movements that are heretical.

Having said that, we need to be honest about all the songs and music we consider praise and worship. Even the Psalms and songs that are part of the Word of God were written down by fallen men and women in need of the Savior. From King David and Asaph to Mary and Zechariah (not to mention Fanny Crosby and Horatio Spafford), every songwriter falls short of the perfection of God. So, the test to determine whether a song is suitable for God-honoring worship is not the purity of the source but the scriptural orthodoxy of the words and the devotion of the heart that lifts the praise.

TIMELY UNDERSTANDING OF BIBLE PROPHECY

One positive Spiritual Sign thrills the heart of every student of Bible Prophecy. The Word of God indicates that in the End Times, some of the mysteries prophesied long ago will become clear.

The Lord gave the prophet Daniel tremendous insight and foresight, allowing him to interpret dreams, read strange handwriting, and see into the distant future. Daniel was the only man in Scripture given an extended biography who does not demonstrate great failings or character flaws. But in spite of his great discernment he was perplexed by some of the prophecies he was recording.

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel by “a certain Man” dressed in linen and girded with a belt of gold. (John described Jesus’ appearance very similarly in Revelation 1:12-16, so I believe this is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.) The Man’s body was like beryl, His face shone like lightning, and His words were “like the sound of a tumult” (Daniel 10:1-6). He described to Daniel the sweep of human history leading to the time of the end, but warned him to “conceal these words and seal up the book until

the end of time” (Daniel 12:4). One clue about that time of the end is contained within that same verse: “many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

Daniel, the great interpreter and prophet, was perplexed. He admitted, “As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, ‘My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?’ ” (Daniel 12:8).

The Man responded, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand” (Daniel 12:9-10).

Clearly, like the picture in a puzzle that becomes more discernible as

pieces fall into place, certain prophecies make more sense in the fullness of time. As the Lord’s return and the world’s ensuing plunge into the Tribulation grows more imminent with each passing day, Bible prophecy is being understood with greater clarity.

Some of that understanding comes simply through hindsight. Committed Christians throughout most of Church history could not imagine how God would restore the Jewish people to their ancient homeland. They believed His promises to that effect but found them inconceivable. Or consider the two witnesses of Revelation 11, whose dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days while the whole world looks on. For thousands of years the fulfillment of such a prophecy seemed too fantastic to com-



One positive Spiritual Sign thrills the heart of every student of Bible Prophecy. The Word of God indicates that in the End Times, some of the mysteries prophesied long ago will become clear.

prehend without some supernatural act. But today we understand how this will happen: a camera will broadcast that image around the world through modern technology.

Why does God practice “just in time” understanding of His prophetic Word? Because He wants us to trust Him, accepting by faith those things that seem too fantastic to believe—like a son for Abraham and Sarah in their old age. In the fullness of time, our faith will be made sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Until then, we can heed James’ word of advice: “be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (5:8, NIV).

OTHER SPIRITUAL SIGNS

As already mentioned, spiritual signs are evident in other categories as well. America’s fixation with the culture of death is manifested in our nation’s horrific embrace of abortion on demand—with some philosophers and cultural leaders openly advocating for actual infanticide. Some states have already legalized assisted suicide and denial of medical care for those deemed unworthy of life. The Nazi eugenics advocates who coined the phrase “Lebensunwertes Leben” (“life unworthy of life”) would be pleased.

How else to explain such a slide into moral insanity than a complete abandonment of our Judeo-Christian foundations? Yes, there are positive signs of hope (as in the Supreme Court’s overturn of the spacious Roe v. Wade decision), but there are also horrific negative signs. When states like California, New York, and Minnesota enshrine pro-abortion laws on par with countries like North Korea, we are clearly in a deep spiritual crisis.

The clamor by the Left for a one-world government stems from a spiritual vacuousness that rejects God. This is a very negative sign that is developing before our eyes. Ironically, Israel offers both negative and positive spiritual signs. Although the Israeli culture is overwhelmingly atheistic outside the Orthodox community, the Holy Spirit is drawing increasing numbers of Jews to follow Jesus. Most large cities in Israel and the US have growing Messianic congregations.

PERSEVERING HOPE

Noted hymnist Horatio Spafford captured the heights of hope we can profess—even from the depths of despair. In 1876, while grieving the death of his four daughters during a transatlantic crossing, Spafford wrote these words:



*And Lord, haste the day
when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*But, Lord, 'tis for Thee,
for Thy coming we await,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of
the Lord!*

Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

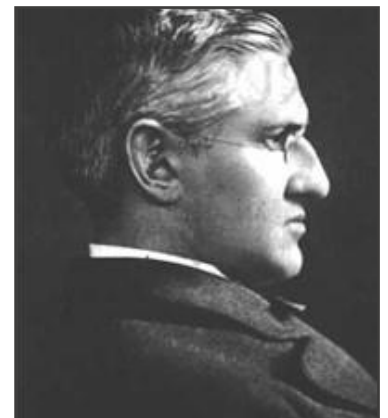
It is well, with my soul,

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.



America’s fixation with the culture of death is manifested in our nation’s horrific embrace of abortion on demand—with some philosophers and cultural leaders openly advocating for actual infanticide.



Horatio Spafford

I HAVE HOPE – HELP ME WITH MY LACK OF HOPE

Do you look around and see the world's glass half empty—and draining fast? Or do you see it half full and expect it to “make it great again” under current management?

I pray that you see the Spiritual Signs for what they are. Negative and positive alike, they all testify to the accuracy of God's Word, the power of our God, and the surety of His victory.

They also prove that although Satan is working overtime to thwart God's plan for the ages, soon and very soon the trumpet will sound, the voice of the archangel will shout, and Jesus Christ will descend from Heaven to collect His Bride. Then, following the Tribulation, we will return with Him when He appears a second time in glory to reign upon the earth with peace, righteousness, and justice.

Do you believe that?

If so, then heed the rest of Peter's charge to us. I already cited his admonition that we “ought to be in holy conduct and godliness,” but Peter went on to say that we should be “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12). What else are we looking for? According to Peter, “we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found in Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation...” (2 Peter 3:13-15).

Are you looking for His coming? Are you hastening the day of God through your prayers, urgent evangelism, and diligence toward holiness?

“Behold, now is ‘the acceptable time,’ behold, now is ‘the day of salvation’ ” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 11:15). ♦

Lamb & Lion Ministries 2023 Bible Conference



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YOUR HEART
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Undeniable SPIRITUAL SIGNS



According to the dictionary, a sign is “an event whose presence or occurrence indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else.” With that as a description, the world we live in today is full of spiritual signs, events whose presence indicates the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To say that we live in exciting times may not adequately describe the days in which we live. When it comes to the spiritual signs on display all around us, some signs are positive while others are negative. So, to cite the age-old question: “Which do you want first—the good news or the bad news?” I think most people would pick to receive the bad news first thinking, “Let’s get the troublesome news out of the way so that we can enjoy the good news.”

GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT

As we inch closer and closer to the amazing return of our Lord and Savior, the bad news is that false messengers will try to deceive heaven-bound saints (Matthew 24:5). These false messengers’ lies, deceitful tactics, and words will increase, becoming harsher and yet more convincing. The fruit of these false prophets spreading their false gospel will be increasing heresy within the Church. People who you might

never imagine leaving the Church or falling prey to spiritual deceit will, in fact, do both. Eventually this wicked trend will further erode the size of the Church and lead to rising persecution of true followers of Christ.

In Jesus’ day, the Pharisees asked Him for a sign (Matthew 16:1-4). His response was a resounding, “NO!” Why would Jesus deny such a request? He denied their request because He knew a miraculous sign would have no effect on their hard hearts because they were

more concerned with keeping the Law than their spiritual condition. I often grieve as I look around at our university campuses, our civil government offices, our entertainment venues, and our public spaces, and I see and hear people living life with no concern about their spiritual condition. Sure, we are to rejoice in each day the Lord gives us; but to live the day-to-day with no concern for eternity, with no recognition of the condition of one’s soul, is irresponsible.



I have learned to find solace in knowing these signs must take place. As the Apostle Paul was passing down the spiritual baton of leadership to his spiritual son Timothy, he described in great detail how people would choose to behave and live in the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-9).

He later explained, “the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:3). I have not figured out which is more disappointing, those who want to have their ears tickled or those preachers and teachers who are willing to accommodate such desires.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE GOOD NEWS

OK, enough of the bad news. Let’s rejoice in the good news. As Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives and presented them with signs of the end times, He spoke of birth pains (Matthew 24:4-14). Any woman who has ever given birth can testify that as the moment of birth draws closer, birth pains become more intense and more rapid, culminating in the baby’s arrival. Jesus explained that in the end times all humanity will experience birth pains leading up to His arrival. There will be wars, famines and earthquakes, however, the last birth pain (Matthew 24:14) will be the Gospel being preached to the entire world! What is exciting about Jesus revealing these truths is the fact that we now have the technological ability to present the Gospel to the entire world! (Mark 13:10).



Going hand-in-hand with the Gospel being preached around the globe will be an increased yearning for discernment of end times prophecy (Daniel 12:4). Followers of Christ will understand the end times as the Holy Spirit penetrates their hearts (Joel 2:28-29).

We can expect demonic forces to respond, increasing their attack on the foundation of our society by undermining Biblical marriages, attempting to divide Christian families, and surrounding our children with lies, confusion, and anti-Biblical mumbo-jumbo (1 Timothy 4:1). Despite these demonic efforts, the Spirit of the Lord will prevail. He will faithfully draw many hearts to Himself, saving countless souls for eternity (Hebrews 7:25).



You will see him much more often in our Lamplighter magazine and on Christ in Prophecy. He will also be creating new content for our Christinprophecy.org website, often tied to particular episodes of the television program or articles that appear in the magazine. We are excited about what the Lord has in store for us as we continue proclaiming Jesus’ soon return!

SIGNS ARE MULTIPLYING

Every day, just about everywhere we go we are presented with signs - traffic signs, retail signs, warning signs, directional signs, and political signs. Some of these signs are on billboards tempting us to buy the latest gadget, and some are lit up with bright colors allowing us to see them from hundreds of yards away. We simply cannot escape the avalanche of advertisements. In these end times I pray that we are also aware of the spiritual signs that are all around us.

Those who have rejected Jesus as their personal Savior may be blinded to such signage, but those who love the Lord can rejoice in the multiple ways God is speaking to His children. The Holy Scriptures warn us and allow us to recognize all of the signs God’s Word foretold—including the multiplying spiritual signs. Let us rejoice and be glad in the days in which we live for the Lord is speaking to His children—encouraging us to look up as our redemption draws near! (Luke 21:28). Maranatha, Lord Jesus! ♦

Lamb & Lion Ministries is pleased to announce that David Bowen is joining our Evangelism team to serve as a Teaching Evangelist. Pastor Dave has served at Standing Stones Community Church in Phoenix, Arizona, for a number of years. He specializes in teaching and preaching from God’s prophetic Word via his own web-based outreach called Interpreting the Times.



LEE BRAINARD



Spiritual Signs of the LAST DAYS

Lee Brainard is a self-taught expert in ancient Greek and Hebrew texts. He shares insights in “doctrine, discernment, and devotion” through his website at soothkeep.info. Lee demonstrates that treasures can be unearthed through study and hard work—and through a driving passion for the Word of God.

INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY

When I was a babe in the Lord, I often nursed disappointment that I had not been born during one of the periods of revival, like the First Great Awakening or the Second Great Awakening—led by men like John Wesley and Charles Finney. But as my eyes were opened to prophetic truth, it dawned on me that I was privileged to live in the most exciting time since the days of Christ and His apostles—the end of the age. This

generation shall witness the great falling away, the Rapture of the church, the Tribulation, the coming of the Lord in glory, Armageddon, and the establishment of the Kingdom.

What an amazing time to be alive! What an incredible opportunity to earn battlefield glory. On every hand we see compromise, Laodiceanism, and apostasy. Don't let this discourage you. Let it inflame your heart with zeal for the honor of God. Be strong in the Lord, put on the full armor of

God, and stand for the truth of the Word of God against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-17). The battle is fierce. But the fiercer the battle, the greater the glory.

THE SIGNS AND DOUBTS

Sadly, many people seem oblivious to the hurricane of prophetic convergence that is blowing all around us. When confronted with the signs of the times, they manifest indifference if not open hostility. In their estimation, the prophetically awakened are unstable men and women who are living in a make-believe world. But who is guilty of living in a fantasy? Those who see end-times signs happening around them? Or those who close their eyes and deny their existence or validity?

And make no mistake—signs are multiplying all around us, including spiritual signs whose effects are quite apparent. This article will focus on those signs that pertain to the spiritual realm, both negative and positive.

NEGATIVE SIGNS

Let's start with some of the negative signs, that is, signs which are indicative of man's end-times departure from the will and ways of God. Those listed here are by no means exhaustive, but they are certainly characteristic.

Last days scoffers

2 Peter 3:3 warns us that “scoffers will come in the last days.” This scoffing is characterized by a denial of catastrophism and defense of uniformitarianism (v.4), unbelief in the second coming in fiery judgment (vv. 4, 7, 10), unbelief in creation (v. 5), unbelief in the flood (v. 6), unbelief in God's timetable (v. 8), and unbelief

in the goodness of God (v. 9). This is definitely a prophecy with a time stamp. Until the rise of evolution and God-denying rationalism in modern times, such unbelief did not characterize most people.

Militant, religious atheism

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 we read that the Antichrist will sit in the temple of God, declare himself god, and exalt himself above all that is called god or worshiped. In short, he will seek to exterminate all religion that does not glorify him. This will be universally enforced, as seen in Revelation 13:8 where we read that everyone on earth will worship him except those whose names are in the book of life. And this foul man will make war against the saints who resist his wicked demands and overcome them (Revelation 13:7). While this prophecy hasn't been exhaustively fulfilled yet, we are certainly witnessing the rise of this atheistic juggernaut and the demise of Christendom.

Self-centric Christianity

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 we read that in the last days Christendom will be dominated by "Christianity" that has the form of godliness but lacks the power thereof. Such "christians" will be lov-

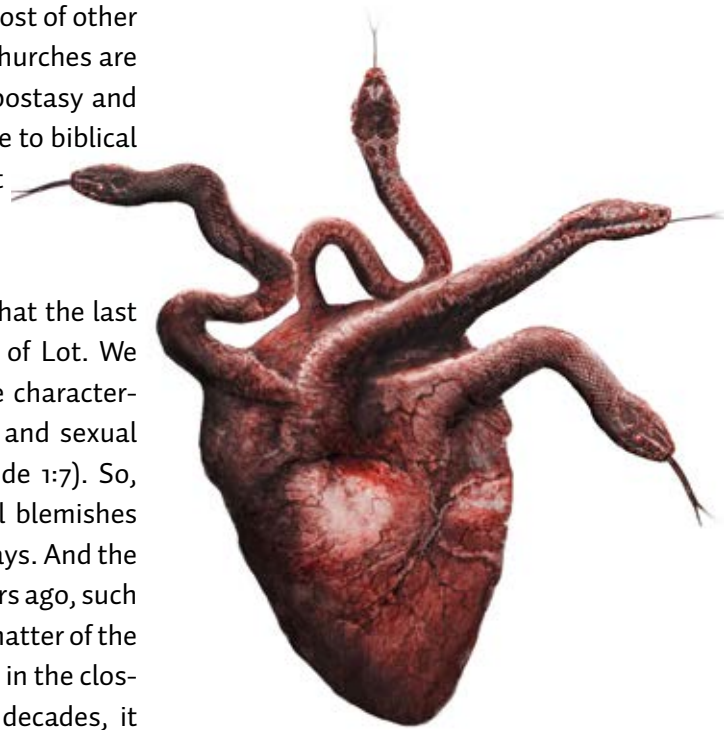
ers of themselves and will love pleasure rather than God. This sad state of affairs is already dominating the scene. The Protestant churches long ago, by and large, became formalized and fossilized institutions. Now with the rise of the Laodicean spirit, the prosperity gospel, the emergent message, the NAR ("New Apostolic Reformation") message, and a host of other virulent errors, too many churches are succumbing to a tide of apostasy and heresy. They give lip service to biblical Christianity, but their heart is far from it.

Moral perversion

In Luke 17:28-30 we read that the last days will be like the days of Lot. We know that Lot's days were characterized by earthliness (v. 28) and sexual perversion (2 Peter 2:6; Jude 1:7). So, we know that these moral blemishes will characterize the last days. And the last days are here. Fifty years ago, such debauchery was largely a matter of the societal elite that was kept in the closet. In the past couple of decades, it has come to dominate educational, informational, financial, entertainment, and governmental institutions. Biblical morality is now the position of the moral minority. We are teetering on the brink of complete moral collapse.

**The heart is more
deceitful than
all else and is
desperately sick;
who can know it?**

Jeremiah 17:9



Deceiving Spirits

1 Timothy 4:1 informs us that in the latter times men will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of devils. Two lies that are specifically mentioned are forbidding to marry and forbidding to eat foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving. Decades ago, I warned my friends that we would see the new world order try to ban meat eating, animal husbandry, and dairy. This is exactly what we see going on. How did I foresee this? Because the devil hates every institution of God, and one of these institutions is a land flowing with milk and honey.





...over the past decade, the New Age elite have begun to prepare the world with ready explanations for the possible vanishing of Christians.

The rise of explanations for the mass disappearance known as the Rapture

Beginning in the early 1800s, the concept of an imminent and Pre-Tribulation Rapture grew in popularity. The resurgence of anticipation and excitement that belief caused was scorned by many as ridiculous. Yet over the past decade the New Age elite have begun to prepare the world with ready explanations for the possible vanishing of Christians. The most common suggestions are alien abduction and the universe purging itself of all bad energy. This implies that fallen spirits behind the deep state and the world elite are fully aware of the truth of the Rapture, and they are brainwashing the world ahead of time.

POSITIVE SIGNS

Now there are several positive signs, too, which indicate that we are fast approaching the end of the age.

Increase in knowledge

Daniel 12:4 informs us, "Seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." The prophetic Scriptures in general and Daniel in particular were mysterious for many centuries, lost in the swamp of allegorical interpretation.

But beginning in the early 1800s, men began interpreting prophecy literally once again, which led to an explosion of prophetic light. They reintroduced a clear distinction between Israel and the church, a future seventieth week, a literal Tribulation, a literal Millennium, and a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church. Based on God's Word, they also predicted the return of the nation of Israel. The understanding of prophetic matters continues to increase, with greater discernment in areas like the new covenant, the Nephilim, the Antichrist, Ezekiel 38-39, and Psalm 83. This understanding of the prophetic Scriptures indicates that we are nearing the time of the end.

Spread of the Gospel

We read in Matthew 24:14, "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." The church is nearing the completion of this monumental task. This suggests that we are nearing the end of the age. But the church doesn't have to finish the job before the rapture. The Tribulation saints will take up the torch after the Rapture of the church, and they will finish the job. Every tongue, tribe, and nation will hear the Gospel in the language of their heart.

Messianic Judaism

During Christ's earthly ministry, He introduced instruction that became



Mottel Baleston

central to the message of the Church Age. It was necessary to lay the foundation before the Church was raised.

In a similar fashion,

at the tail end of the Church Age, we have witnessed the rise of Messianic Judaism, which is a precursor to the God-ordained form of worship and service that shall prevail in the Tribu-



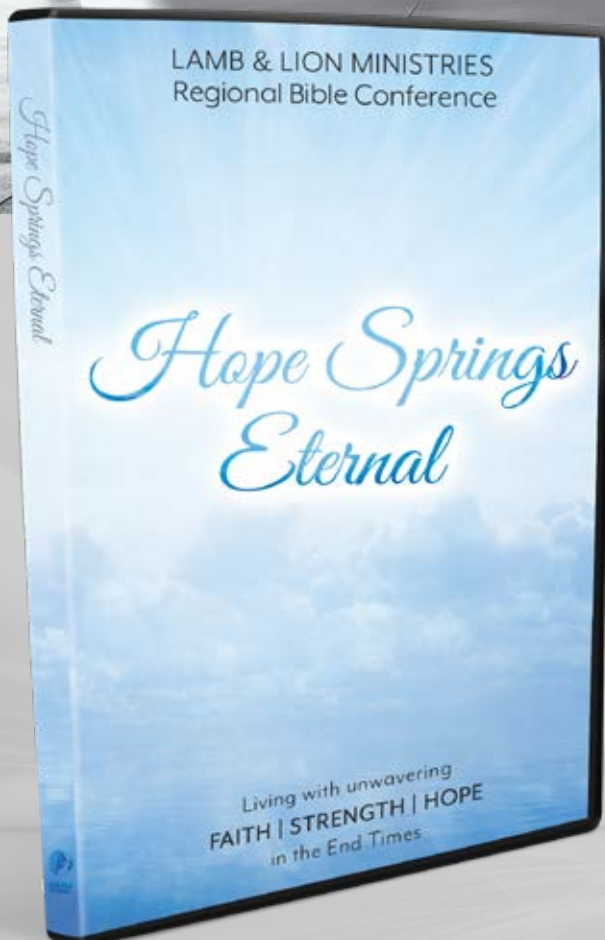
lation. People hungering for Truth immediately after the Rapture will treasure the books, websites, videos, and literature born-again followers of the Messiah leave behind. The light we offer today will shine bright in the darkness of the Tribulation.

CONCLUSION

Everywhere we look, we see signs that the end of the age is just over the horizon. While these signs don't speak directly to the Rapture of the Church, that is, they don't point to a date or even a definite year, they do imply that we should be looking for the imminent Rapture of the Church. May we all take our eyes off the passing vanities of this world and place them on the glories that shall be revealed to us when Jesus comes for His own. ♦

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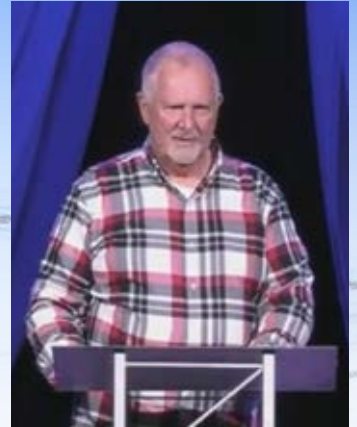
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TERRY COOPER

Fearless Fishing

Terry Cooper is the pastor of Ninevah Christian Church in Lawrenceburg, KY. He and his wife Janet have three children and seven grandchildren. This article is adapted from a recent “Word from Terry” message to his congregation.



We currently have seven grandchildren (five boys and two girls) and number eight (Henry) is scheduled to arrive in June. One of my jobs is to teach each of them to fish as soon as they come of age. Now let me explain something about fishing with small grandchildren. It's more like surviving at the water's edge than actually fishing. Especially if I take more than one at a time.

That brings me to my first point today. The first time I took my grandson Ryder fishing was an extraordinary adventure. Ryder was anxious to go and when the fishing day finally arrived, he was so excited...until...that first fish was lifted out of the water. When Ryder saw that fish flipping around, he took off running as fast as he could and didn't stop. You would have thought that the Loch Ness monster had appeared to eat young Ryder. That was the end of our fishing day. Our first catch brought the adventure to an abrupt ending. He was terrified by the fish.

A few days went by, and Ryder said he wanted to try it again and this time he promised that he wouldn't be afraid. It was at that point that we made an agreement that has been in place ever since. The agreement was based on two things.

- No scaredy business
- No whining

Ryder promised that he would comply with these two fishing rules. He promised not to be afraid when we catch a fish and no whining about the fishing conditions (bugs, snakes, weather, fishing worms...or other cousins that were competing with him on that trip).

It took a while, but I must admit that Ryder has honored our agreement. He is now putting the worms on the hook by himself and putting the fish in the basket without running for the hills.

That brings me to my point. It's time to talk to the Church about fishing. Something is happening—at Ninevah Christian Church and other places around the world (Asbury for example). We didn't start it, but we can sure recognize that the Holy Spirit is at work.

For us, it began on January 22nd. We broke 1,000 in attendance for Sunday Morning Worship. Not just once, but for the following four weeks. Then on February 19th we broke 1,100 and on February 26th we broke 1,200. In early March, 1,236 people came to NCC to worship Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We have baptized 15 people since January 26 and multitudes have come to the altar to confess and repent of sin...rededicating their lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior. Something is happening!

Is this about reaching some attendance goal? No! But each of those numbers is a human soul. A soul that will spend eternity somewhere. A soul that Jesus died to save. What shepherd doesn't count his sheep to make sure that they are all safe and healthy?

This is where my fishing agreement with Ryder applies to the church. No scaredy business and no whining. People are asking, "What are we going to do?" The parking lots are overrun and it's getting difficult to find a seat in the Worship Center. No scaredy business and no whining. Why?

Because we are fishing. We are fishing under the authority and power of the Great Shepherd Jesus. Jesus knows His sheep by name and His sheep know His voice and follow Him. Jesus doesn't want us to be afraid while we're fishing, and He certainly doesn't want us to mess up the great fishing adventure with our fearful whining while He's adding fish to the boat (the church).

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" (Mark 1:17, NLT).

Right now, our main job is to FOLLOW JESUS. He's got this. This is His Church! These fish are His people, the blood-bought children of the Most High God. We've been invited to join Him in the great fishing adventure. I'm not sure about what will come next, but I feel confident in this. No scaredy business and no whining will certainly apply to this fishing trip with Jesus.

I ask you to read carefully the following fishing story of Jesus. This is why we will keep fishing until He comes for us. This fishing trip is urgent; for souls are at stake.

Let's keep fishing! 🐟



Terry with his Grandson, Ryder

Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you understand all these things? "Yes," they said, "we do."

Matthew 13:47-51 NLT





DOUGLAS COBB

Doug Cobb is a trained financial consultant who has turned his talents toward supporting the spread of the Gospel around the world (in aspiration of “hastening the coming of the day of God as described in 2 Peter 3:12, and reaching all nations as described in Revelation 5:9). This article addresses the thesis of his book, *And Then the End Will Come*, which was featured on a recent episode of *Christ in Prophecy*. He and his wife Gena live in Louisville, Kentucky.

AND THEN THE END WILL COME

FULFILLING JESUS' COMMANDMENT UNTIL HE RETURNS

What is the most important sign that we are living in the season of the Lord's return? Some might say the re-establishment of the nation of Israel (Matthew 24:32-33). Others might point to the declining condition of our culture (Luke 17:26-29), or the growing apostasy in the Church (1 Timothy 4:1-3). But to me, the clearest and most definitive sign is the promise Jesus gave His disciples in Matthew 24:14.

The disciples had been admiring the temple and its courts, when Jesus surprised them by saying, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left on another; which will not be torn down.” Shocked, they replied, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:2, 3).

In response, Jesus delivered what we today call the Olivet Discourse, listing several events and circumstances that would occur before “His coming” and “the end of the age.” But then in verse 14 He said,

This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

In other words, when the disciples asked Jesus, “When are You coming back?”, He answered, “Only after the Gospel has been preached to all nations.”

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

To understand Jesus' answer and how it points to His imminent return, we need to consider the concept of “the nations” in Scripture. How close we are to seeing His command—to preach the Gospel to all of them—fulfilled.

THE NATIONS

When we think of the word nation, we think of a country, like France or India or China. But the word has a different meaning in the Bible. In the New Testament—and in the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament—the word translated nations is the Greek word *ethnos*, from

which we get the English words ethnic, ethnicity, and so on. An ethnos is a group of people who share a common ethnicity, ancestry, heritage, culture, geography and/or language—an ethnolinguistic people group.

According to “Finishing the Task,” there are more than twelve thousand of these biblical nations scattered around the world. Some modern countries have only a few people groups, but some have many. Nigeria has over 450 “nations” within its borders. India has a similar number. China has hundreds as well.

In Genesis 11, God divided the nations at Babel. The Lord saw the tower the people were building to “make a name for themselves” (v. 4). Knowing they were acting in disobedience to His command to “fill the earth,” the Lord “confuse[d] their language so they [would] not understand each other” and “scattered them over the face of the whole earth” (vv. 4–8). Genesis 11:1 tells us that before this time, “the whole world had one language and a common speech.” There were no ethnos—all the peoples of the earth were unified with a common language. But after this, they were divided and scattered.



THE GREAT COMMISSION

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands His apostles to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Today we call this command the Great Commission.

It’s important to understand that when Jesus gave this command to His followers, He wasn’t just making up a challenging task for them to accomplish while He was away. Instead, He was commanding them to fulfill the promise God had made throughout His Word—that the blessings of the Gospel were not just for the Jews, but for every nation.

From beginning to end—from Genesis to Revelation—God’s Word proclaims His heart for the nations. In Genesis 22:17, just after Abraham has presented Isaac for sacrifice, God promises to bless him and to multiply and prosper his descendants. And then He promises, “through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed Me” (v. 18).

When God says “your offspring” here, He is speaking of the coming Messiah, who humanly would be a distant descendant of Abraham. And when He says that “all nations” will be blessed through Him, He’s promising that His gift of salvation would apply to every one of them.

That same promise is repeated over and over in Scripture. For example, in Psalm 72:17 we read, “All nations will be blessed through Him, and they will

call Him blessed.” Psalm 86:9 promises, “All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, O Lord . . .” Psalm 117:1 says, “Praise the LORD, all nations; sing His praises, all peoples.”

This same theme recurs in the Prophets. In Isaiah 49:6 (ESV), God promises that the coming Messiah will be “a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” In Isaiah 66:18, God says that He will “gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see My glory.” Daniel sees “one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven . . . all nations and peoples of every language worshiped Him” (7:13–14, NIV). The prophet Malachi declared, “My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets” (1:11, NIV).

We also see the idea in the New Testament. When Peter saw God pour out the Holy Spirit on the gentile Cornelius and his household, he said, “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right” (Acts 10:34–35, NIV). And of course, in Revelation 7:9 John has a vision of “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

Did you notice the words “all” and “every” repeated in these verses? Over and over again, God declares that His Gospel promises apply to all nations. Every nation—all of them—will be included in His kingdom. At the Great Wedding Feast of the Lamb, when Jesus and His church are united forever, the multitude will contain men and women from every nation on earth—not one will be left out.



WHERE DO WE STAND?

The church has been working for two thousand years to fulfill the Great Commission, and much has been accomplished. But exactly where do we stand in the effort to make disciples of “all nations?”

Amazingly, today there are believers in all but about 200 of the world’s 12,000 people groups. About 6,000 groups would be classified as “reached,” meaning that they have a significant Christian population. Nearly that many would be considered “unreached,” meaning that while they have some Christian presence, it is small—less than 2% of the population. But a couple hundred groups remain that are called “unengaged,” meaning that no one has ever shared the Gospel with them—and there has never been a single Christian among them.

As you might expect, these remaining unengaged groups are mostly very small—typically just a few thousand people. They are found in remote, difficult, dangerous places: in vast deserts, high mountains, and deep jungles. Many are Muslim groups. Some are aggressively hostile to outsiders. Most are illiterate. They are the last groups for a reason!

But over the last few years, the number of unengaged groups has fallen dramatically. In 2005, there were more than 3,500 unengaged people groups. Even as recently as 2017, there were still more than 1,400 groups with no known Christians. But today, there are only a few hundred unengaged groups remaining.

One group that has recently come into God’s kingdom are the Gorose, an animist group found in western Ethiopia. Although Ethiopia has a Christian heritage that traces back to Bible

times, no one had ever gone to the Gorose to tell them about Jesus. As far as anyone knows, there had never been even one Gorose believer.



Getenet with his parents

However, early in 2022, a team of missionaries led by an Ethiopian believer named Amasaganalu climbed the mountain to the Gorose villages. There they met the parents of a boy named Getenet, who had been paralyzed and mute for five years. His parents had taken him to the hospital and the witch doctors, but nothing had worked. Desperate, they asked the missionaries to pray for their boy, and as they prayed in Jesus’ name, God miraculously healed him, enabling him to speak and walk. The parents began to praise God and quickly gave their lives to Jesus! As word of the healing spread, hundreds of Gorose received the Gospel. Entirely on their own, many of the new believers brought their charms and fetishes to be burned as a sign of their commitment to Christ.

That same story is being repeated hundreds of times each year around the world. The Holy Spirit is working with urgency, in places where until recently the name of Jesus had never been heard, to gather in a great end times harvest. By God’s grace, I believe the church will reach all the remaining groups by the end of 2023. We are very close to the finish line!

AND THEN THE END WILL COME

This brings us back to Matthew 24:14 and Jesus’ promise that “this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.” When will the end come? Jesus said, only after the Gospel has been preached to “all nations.”

If we are only a few years away from crossing this finish line, could we also be only a few years away from the return of Christ? I believe we could!

In fairness, we can’t be sure exactly where the Great Commission finish line lies. Peter tells us that “the Lord . . . is patient . . . not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9, NIV). Even after the Gospel has been preached to every people group, Jesus may tarry so that every person has the chance to hear.

But once we’ve crossed that finish line—and there are disciples in every one of the earth’s people groups—the return of Christ will be even more imminent than it has been in 2,000 years. Jesus said that the Gospel would be preached to all nations, “and then the end will come.” We can’t know for certain if that will be immediate, but based on Jesus’ promise, the clock is ticking for His return, and He could come at any time. I think it will be soon! ♦

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JESUS REVOLUTION

The 2023 version of *Jesus Revolution* hit theaters in late February, 2023. Documenting the “Jesus Movement” from the perspective of Pastor Greg Laurie, the movie captures the angst and desperation of American youth over 50 years ago. Society was being roiled by anti-war protests, racial division, political dithering, and a new epidemic of drugs. A brief appeal by Timothy Leary described the counter-culturalism of many young people in the late 60s: “turn on, tune in, drop out.” Millions did just that—only to find that road also led to nihilism and despair.

The movie unashamedly describes the flawed people at the center of the Jesus movement that in turn launched the Calvary Chapel movement. Lonnie Frisbee was the young hippie-turned-preacher who provided the charisma that appealed to disaffected young people. Chuck Smith was the small church pastor who took a chance on allowing the Holy Spirit to enlarge his flock. The movie dramatized that leap of faith with Frisbee’s observation to a hesitant Pastor Smith, “There is an entire generation right now searching for God. The trouble is, your people reject them.”



Chuck Smith

Fifty years ago, the baby boomers were disillusioned by the hypocrisy and materialism of American society. They sought meaning in “free love,” strange clothes, long hair, and drugs.

Today, another generation is manifesting its despair in an epidemic of teenage cutting, drug use, racial tension, depression, suicide, and gender confusion.

What has changed is that today American society is legalizing and promoting some of those pathologies that lead inevitably to destruction.

Jesus Revolution hits a nail squarely on the head when Chuck Smith’s wife asserts, “Lies are always loud; the truth is quiet—and it is simple.”

Lonnie Frisbee was a complicated and flawed individual who was eventually removed from the Calvary Chapel leadership team. Nevertheless, he accurately discerned the condition of young people in the late 1960s: they were desperate. Chuck Smith was the gifted preacher who launched the

JESUS



REVOLUTION

Is this "retro revival" still relevant today?



Calvary Chapel movement, but he wrongly predicted that Christ would return and the world would end by 1981. Those glaring shortcomings did not diminish God's ability to manifest His presence in a mighty way. It just demonstrates that He always chooses to use "cracked pots" as vessels and conduits of His blessing. All of us are broken in some way—and in need of the amazing grace of God.

In the well-written and beautifully acted portrayal of this movement, Chuck Smith came to realize that ev-

God's power and presence. The question remains whether older saints confident in their own salvation and awaiting their own homegoing will celebrate and encourage what appears to be yet another outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16-18, citing Joel 2:28-29).



One of the most powerful images to emerge from the awakening at Asbury is the site of older saints serving, encouraging, and praying over young worshipers. The energy and enthusiasm of young Christians—and young people who were desperately seeking the Lord—was obvious to anyone who streamed to Asbury. The spiritual ripple that spread to other campuses around the country and the world was palpable to many. And the joy of seeing prayers for God's power to be displayed has been testified to by young and old alike.



Lonnie Frisbee

ery person who comes to depend on Christ—for salvation, for meaning, for eternal security—does so because they also are desperate.

RELEVANCE TODAY

The awakening that began at Asbury University in early February (reminiscent of the revival that was initiated there in 1970) demonstrates that young people are still desperate for

THE CHRISTIAN COUNTER-CULTURE

Followers of Jesus Christ have been counter-cultural throughout most of Church history. Christians in America

and the West felt quite at home during the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries, although denominational strife was evident even in most ostensibly-Christian nations.

Today, Christianity no longer enjoys cultural primacy. It is not even tolerated in large swaths of our society, and is under active attack in growing segments of academia, media, and the entertainment industry.

God is not stymied, shocked, or surprised, and He doesn't want us to be stunned, scared, or silent. His Good News is the only antidote for despair—and the only cure for sin. It is the power of Christ to those who believe—offering us the assurance of everlasting life.

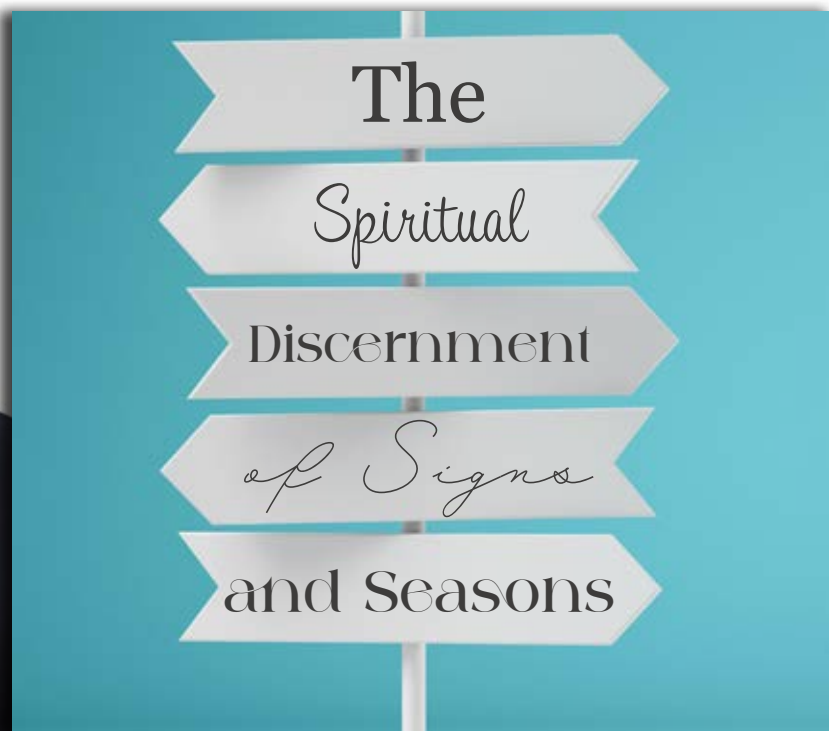
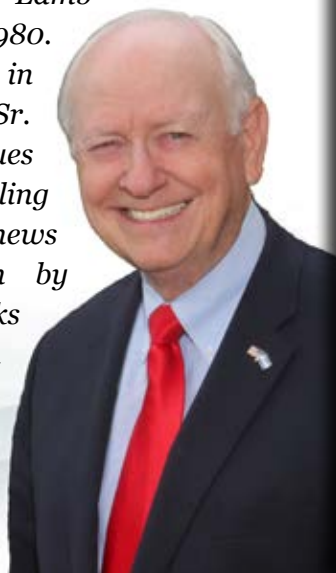
If you lament the trends in our society and lose heart in sharing the Gospel, Satan rejoices. But if you witness the deepening darkness and sense the gathering gloom, then decide to shine forth the love of Christ even more intentionally, you are acting as the faithful watchman God calls us to be.

The world will label you a fool—or a dangerous "troublers" (1 Kings 18:17). It will dismiss you as foolish (1 Corinthians 3:18-20). But we know better. We are not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

What a revolutionary idea! ♦

DR. DAVID REAGAN

David Reagan founded Lamb & Lion Ministries in 1980. Although he retired in 2020 as Director and Sr. Evangelist; Dave continues to stay faithful to his calling of sharing the good news of Jesus' soon return by continuing to write books and other material on God's prophetic Word. Dave also makes an occasional guest appearance on Christ in Prophecy.



The message of Lamb & Lion Ministries is: “Jesus is Returning Soon!” All of our outreach can be boiled down to that singular message. Most people who believe Jesus is coming again share one common question: When?

CAN WE KNOW THE TIMING?

Is there anything we can know about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ?

If you had asked me that question years ago, I would have said, “No, absolutely not! There is not one thing you can ever know about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.” But after over 45 years of intensive study of Bible prophecy, I’ve come to a different conclusion. When people ask me now, “Can we know when Jesus will return?” my answer is, “Yes and No.” No, we cannot know the date. Yes, we can know the season.

Now, when I say we cannot know the date that Jesus will return, I mean that with all my heart. The Bible makes it crystal clear we cannot know the date. In Matthew 24:36 Jesus Himself said, “of that day and hour no one

knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” We simply cannot know the date. Unfortunately, there are a lot of sincere people who are setting dates. I do not doubt their sincerity, but they are sincerely deceived.

WHY DATE-SETTING IS SO DANGEROUS

You see, Satan loves date setters because they bring discredit to Bible prophecy. You know how it works. Somebody sets a date. People get their hopes focused on that date rather than on their Savior, Jesus Christ. They become obsessed and run around all over the place talking incessantly about the date. The press picks up on the story and focuses in on the date. Then, the date comes and passes, and scoffers heap ridicule on those who believed in the date. The individuals who put their faith in that date are embarrassed, and they become embittered. They say to themselves, “I’ll tell you one thing, I’ll never do that again!” Then, when a responsible prophecy teacher comes along and says, “I don’t know the date, but I do know Jesus is coming soon,”

they say, “Oh sure, I’ve heard that nonsense before,” and they refuse to listen. They close their minds to God’s prophetic word. And Satan loves it.

The closer we get to the Rapture, the more of these date setters Satan is going to deceive. The effect will be like the person who constantly yells, “The wolf is coming, the wolf is coming, the wolf is coming!” Although the false messenger continues to shout a warning, people grow frustrated and decide to ignore the message. And then the wolf comes.

So, while we cannot know the date Jesus is coming, we *can* know the season of the Lord’s return.

WE CAN KNOW THE SEASON

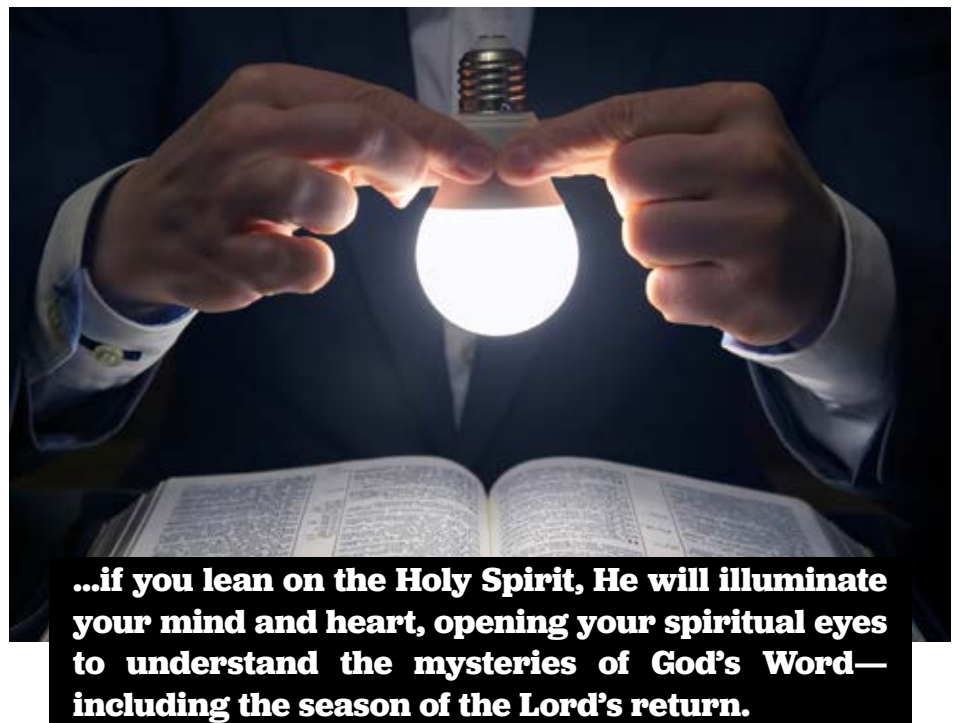
One of the most important Scripture passages that proves we can know the season of the Lord’s return is in Paul’s letter to the Thessalonian church. In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 he wrote, “Now as to the times and seasons, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.”

Notice that for most of the world, Jesus' coming will be "like a thief in the night!" Verse 3 says it will occur while people are saying, "Peace and safety!" At that time, Paul says, "Destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape."

But too many Christians stop reading at verse 3 and never get to the fundamental point found in verse 4. Underline that crucial verse in your Bible. Don't ever forget it. The verse proves beyond a doubt that you and I can know the season of the Lord's return. 1 Thessalonians 5:4, says "But you brethren, believers, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."

Now, what does that verse tell us? Paul is saying Jesus is coming like a thief in the night. But not for the brethren, not for Christians. He's coming like a thief in the night for the world. He's coming like a thief in the night for pagans. He's coming like a thief in the night for those professing Christians who do not have any personal relationship with Him, who have never really been born again, and who refuse to believe and study the Word of God.

What do you think Paul means when he says, "We are sons of light and not of darkness"? I think what He's referring to is the fact that if you are truly a born-again child of God, you have the Holy Spirit residing inside of you. The Holy Spirit is the Person of God who inspired the Bible. So if you lean on the Holy Spirit, He will illuminate your mind and heart, opening your spiritual eyes to understand the mysteries of God's Word—including the season



of the Lord's return. And so the Bible says point blank, Jesus is not coming as a "thief in the night" for those who know Him and those who love Him.

There's a similar passage in Hebrews 10:25: "Do not forsake our assembling together as is the habit of some, but encourage one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." What day? The day of judgment mentioned in verse 27 — the day when the Lord will return. It is the day referred to in verse 31 where we are warned that it is a "terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Note again verse 25 where it says that we are to encourage one another "as we see the day drawing

near." That means we can tell something about the season in which we're living. It means we don't have to be totally ignorant about the timing of the Lord's return.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BLESSED HOPE

The point again is that No, we cannot know the date; but if we exercise the spiritual discernment God's Word tells Christians we should have, then Yes, we can know the season.

My friends, Jesus is coming soon, which is why every day I cry from the depths of my heart, "Maranatha!" Come quickly, Lord Jesus! ♦



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Robert Jeffress is the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Dallas. His “Pathway to Victory” television program impacts lives around the world for Christ. He will speak on “A Rising Darkness in the Land” at the Lamb & Lion Annual Conference on Friday evening, June 9th.

WHY STUDY BIBLE PROPHECY?

Why should we study Bible prophecy? Many people think prophecy is not relevant today. They prefer to talk about topics like how to improve your marriage or how to have a better prayer life. Let me share three reasons it's important for us to understand Bible prophecy.

PROPHECY IS A MAJOR THEME OF THE BIBLE

First of all, prophecy is a major theme of the Bible. One way to know what's important to God is to know what subjects are covered the most in His Word. And prophecy is a major theme. For example, did you know there are 1,800 references in the Bible to the Second Coming of Christ? In the New Testament, one in every 30 verses has to do with the return of Jesus Christ. In fact, 23 of the 27 books of the New Testament deal with the subject of Christ's return.

And in the Old Testament, for every prophecy about the first coming

of the Messiah, there are eight verses about the second coming. Clearly, the return of Jesus Christ is a major theme in the Bible, which is why we need to understand it.

PROPHECY HELPS US INTERPRET AND APPLY THE BIBLE

Second, Bible prophecy helps us interpret and apply the Bible accurately. You cannot fully understand the Old Testament prophets, the teachings of Jesus, or the epistles without understanding prophecy. Prophecy is the framework on which we hang the rest of the Bible. Let's look at two illustrations of that, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

The first example is Isaiah 65:20: “No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred

will be thought accursed.” Isaiah is talking about a time when infants won't die, and the average life span will be one hundred years. What time is Isaiah talking about? He obviously isn't talking about now. Even with our advances in medicine, babies still die, and few people reach the age of one hundred. Was Isaiah talking about heaven? No, Revelation 12:4 says there won't be any death in heaven. So what time was Isaiah talking about? He was talking about a future period called the millennium, when Jesus will reign on earth for a thousand years. During that time, the curse of sin will be partially removed. You can't understand that without knowing Bible prophecy.

The second example is Matthew 25:35–40. Jesus said, “I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.” Then the righteous will

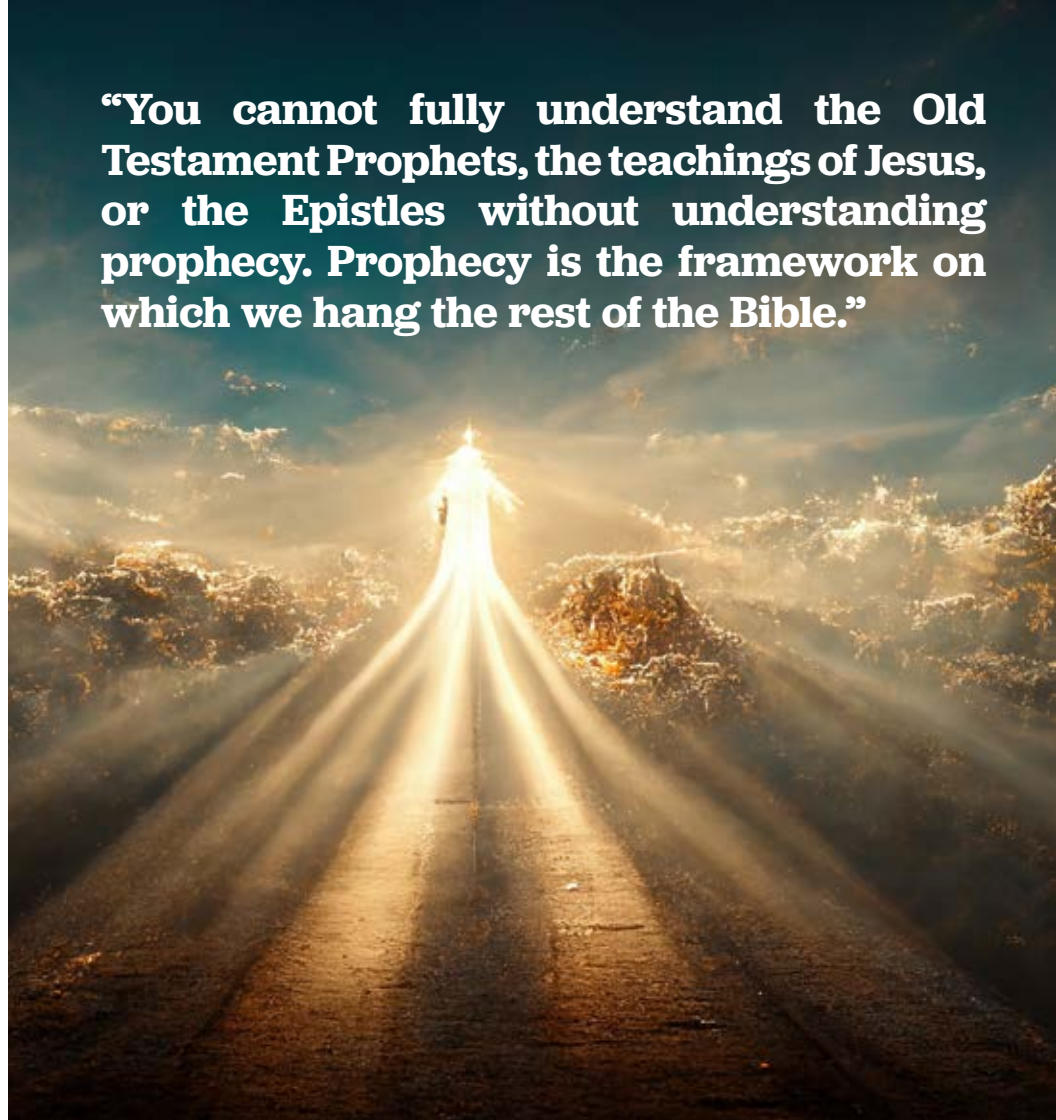
answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

You cannot fully understand the Old Testament Prophets, the teachings of Jesus, or the Epistles without understanding prophecy. Prophecy is the framework on which we hang the rest of the Bible.

I once heard somebody say, "I'm a Matthew 25 kind of Christian. My faith is centered around taking care of the least of these." Now, we should be merciful to those who are in need. That's certainly the fruit, the evidence of being a Christian. But is that the core of the Christian faith? Is doing good things for the least of these the heart of Christianity? Is that what the apostles proclaimed and gave their lives for? No, doing good for others is the evidence of Christianity, but the core of Christianity is repentance from sin and the forgiveness of God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

When Peter preached that great sermon on Pentecost that resulted in more than three thousand people being saved, what was his message? Feed the hungry and you shall be saved! Clothe the naked and you shall be saved! Visit those in prison and you shall be saved! No. Acts 2:38 tells us his message: "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

"You cannot fully understand the Old Testament Prophets, the teachings of Jesus, or the Epistles without understanding prophecy. Prophecy is the framework on which we hang the rest of the Bible."



If that's the heart of Christianity, then what was Jesus talking about in Matthew 25? In this passage, Jesus was teaching about the end times. The disciples asked Him, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). In Matthew 25:35–40, Jesus was referring to the 144,000 Jewish witnesses who are saved during the tribulation. Even though those witnesses are protected by God, they suffer, they are imprisoned, and they are denied food and drink. Jesus was saying to that future age: "How you treat these witnesses of Mine reveals whether you are truly saved. When you feed them, clothe them, and take them in, it is a sign of your love for Me."

You can't understand that teaching of Jesus if you don't understand

how it fits into Bible prophecy. Prophecy is the key to interpreting and applying the Bible correctly.

PROPHECY MOTIVATES US TOWARD GODLY LIVING

Third, Bible prophecy motivates us toward godly living. The reason God tells us about the end times is not to satisfy our curiosity; it is to increase our obedience to Him. Realizing that everything around us is coming to an end ought to motivate us to live godly lives.

Revelation 22:7 says, "Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book." Understanding Bible prophecy should motivate us to obey God. That's why we study prophecy. ♦

**Even so, you too, when you see these things happening,
recognize that He is near, right at the door.**

Mark 13:29

TIM MOORE

SIGNS OF THE TIMES





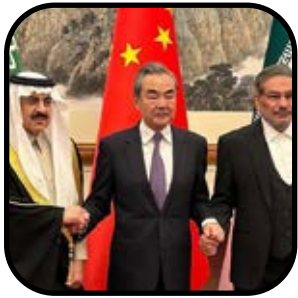
NATURE

- ▶ Not to be deterred by the repeated discrediting of the climate alarmist cause, those who warned of an impending ice age and then global warming have shifted to an amorphous “climate change”—as if the weather is not constantly in flux anyway.
- ▶ Storms and tornadoes recently tore through Mississippi, wiping entire towns off the map and devastating many lives.



SOCIETY

- ▶ Demonstrating the insanity that is infecting formerly Christian nations, police in Birmingham, England, arrested Isabel Vaughan-Spruce in December for praying silently in front of a closed abortion facility; radical abortion advocates in America want to impose the same penalty here as well.
- ▶ Emblematic of a disturbing trend in schools across the nation, teacher, Mandy Jung (a self-described anti-capitalist activist in Saint Paul, MN) made national news for encouraging her students to disrespect all authority and embrace anarchy.



WORLD POLITICS

- ▶ While the Biden Administration dithers, China has convinced Saudi Arabia to reestablish diplomatic ties with Iran, a dangerous appeasement given Iran’s threats and hatred toward Israel and the West.
- ▶ By mid-2023, India will have overtaken China as the most populous nation in the world; Chinese aspirations for global power will drive it to become increasingly belligerent.



TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ The collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) demonstrated the ability for social media to foment Americans into mob frenzy—a technological Achilles Heel that is susceptible to foreign or malign manipulation.
- ▶ American intelligence officials warn of advancements in Artificial Intelligence by China and Russia that may put the U.S. at a strategic disadvantage; AI itself is fraught with grave risks, including autonomous robotic “slaughterbots.”



ISRAEL

- ▶ Israel’s left-wing political parties (with vocal support from the American Left) pushed back against Prime Minister Netanyahu’s effort to reign in the activist Israeli Supreme Court.
- ▶ The Biden administration’s antagonism toward Israel’s Netanyahu-led government is straining US-Israeli relations as hot spots flare up throughout the Middle East.



WILL YOU BE ABLE TO RESIST THE BIG GREEN DRAGON?



Jan Markell is the founder and director of Olive Tree Ministries, headquartered in Minneapolis, MN. She rightly discerns the human inclination toward spirituality and worship—and the misguided tendency to worship nature or the creation instead of nature's God, our Creator. You can follow her ministry at olivetreereviews.org.

To the secular left, climate is king. Maybe I should say, it is a god. Environmentalism has become a religion. People enthusiastically worship mother earth and scoff at God the Father. This has been a fifty-year process that officially began in the early 1970s with Earth Day. The left decided that anyone who disrespected the earth was suspect.

So, how far will they go? Many voices are warning of climate lockdowns coming soon.

I am quoting online journalist Michael Snyder who writes, “Climate change lockdowns are here, and if people don’t respond very strongly to this, it is likely that we will soon see similar measures implemented all over the western world. The elite have always promised to do ‘whatever it takes’ to fight climate change, and now we are finding out that they weren’t kidding.”

Snyder continues, “Over in the UK, residents of Oxfordshire will now need a special permit to go from one ‘zone’ of the city to another. But, even if you have the permit, you will still only be allowed to go from one zone to another a maximum of 100 days per year.”

He concludes, “Oxfordshire County Council yesterday approved plans to lock residents into one of six zones to ‘save the planet’ from global warming. The latest stage in the agenda is to place electronic gates on key roads in and out of the city, confining residents to their own neighborhoods.”



If you Google this story on the Internet, you will be told it is all fake news! Be assured, that means the hard-left Silicon Valley does not want you to have all the facts and to know what’s coming!

Covid lockdowns set the gold standard. Many felt they could trust government to be for the people. Nothing could be further from the truth. Government is for advancing a control agenda and not much else! And now the lockdown mentality resurfaces for the green dragon.

Criticizing today's green agenda does not make one anti-environment and in favor of dirty air and water! Because mankind was created in His image, God gave men and women a privileged place among all creatures and commanded them to exercise stewardship of the earth (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:6-8).

So how has the Church responded to this? Beginning 25 years ago, too many churches jumped on the climate change bandwagon. Articles today on the website of the National Association of Evangelicals feature a push to recycle and twist what the Bible says to suggest we are "killing the Planet." They state that "loving the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) has climate implications.

Mind you, this is the National Association of Evangelicals and not the National Council of Churches, known for such leftist thinking and theology. What happened to the NAE's once-solid focus on winning the lost while there is still time? This has been the focus of evangelicalism my entire life. Social justice and climate issues are pushing this aside.

I would think that the evangelical pulpit would be stating the obvious: God controls the weather, and man has nothing to do with it.

WORSHIPING THE CREATION

The climate conference called COP27 was held in Egypt in November, 2022. It revealed a cultish agenda, insisting that the world adopt ten new commandments for climate justice and repent from climate sins. Conferees also called for a new covenant—a covenant between man and creation. If they could only understand that God has already promised a new heaven and a new earth.

Yet 120 nations were in attendance doing their due diligence for the earth. The media downplayed the event, so only a few outlets gave it serious attention. Fortunately, many online sources revealed the bizarre behavior the world thinks is normal.

Stewardship implies caretaking, not abusing. We are to intelligently manage the resources God has given to us, using all diligent care to preserve and protect them.

But, now this has become a green dragon! And this, just like Covid, could change our entire way of life and rob us of even more freedoms. Are people going to roll over and cave to new rules and regulations and even be immobilized with new forms of lockdowns? Governments and self-proclaimed "experts" do not know best.

I believe this will be the left's big push in 2023 and beyond. We will be persecuted for our carbon footprint, for not heating with solar panels, and for the kind of car we drive. Yes, this is leftist lunacy, but it also qualifies as what the Bible calls an end-time strong delusion (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

And some churches will go along with this! I encourage them to be about the business of winning souls while there is still time and spending very little time worrying about our carbon footprint. Satan has masterfully deceived our churches to get their focus off of eternal issues and onto a hundred distractions. ♦



Beginning 25 years ago, too many churches jumped on the climate change bandwagon.

YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVIVAL?

A REASON FOR CELEBRATION AND HOPE

TIM MOORE

One of the most common questions we get at Lamb & Lion Ministries is whether we think America will experience another nationwide revival. Our consistent answer is that we do not see how our culture would tolerate—let alone be receptive to—a major spiritual awakening. That is not to say that God could

not do a mighty work. With Him “all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

We also see no evidence of a major revival in the End Times. If anything, we expect growing apostasy and more virulent rebellion against God. That is why Jesus asked rhetorically whether the Son of Man will find faith on the Earth when He comes again (Luke 18:8).

Still, we fully expect that the Holy

Spirit will continue transforming individual lives as men and women embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. At times, gatherings of people will be convicted as the Holy Spirit moves and ministers mightily. During the Tribulation itself, many people will trust in Christ—including a great remnant of the Jewish people. The hope that lives will be impacted for eternity is what motivates us every time Lamb & Lion Ministries holds a conference or offers a series of prophetic messages.

In early February, there was a spiritual outbreak at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. Many were quick to label it a revival, reminiscent of the Great Awakening that swept the American colonies in the 18th Century and the revival that originated at Asbury in 1970. Others were quickly skeptical, dismissing this present in-



cident as rooted in emotionalism and wishful thinking.

One of the most influential American pastors during the Great Awakening in the 1700s was Jonathan Edwards. Many people are familiar with his famous sermon entitled, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” Delivered in 1741, the title was much more dramatic than the tone in which Edwards preached. Soft-spoken but impassioned, Edwards offered a clear description of the inevitable destiny that awaits every sinner who rejects God’s free gift of salvation. His message pricked countless hearts and helped spark a revival that swept America even before its founding.

In response to criticisms about the emotional and “bodily” effects the revival was having on new converts, Edwards wrote “The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God” in 1741. Based on the Apostle John’s admonition to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God” in 1 John 4, he laid out 5 marks of genuine revival:

- Jesus Christ is exalted
- The Holy Spirit prevails against the influence of Satan’s kingdom as sin and repentance is emphasized in preaching
- The Bible is exalted and held in high regard
- The Spirit of understanding and truth opposes spirits of falsehood
- Love for God and man is promoted

By all accounts that have come to me personally, those marks were present in what happened at Asbury. I say that as someone who has a personal connection to the school (one of my daughters graduated from Asbury) but who has been concerned about the drift that Asbury and many other Christian colleges have allowed in recent years. In other words, I am

not inclined to jump on a bandwagon without carefully applying John’s test.

Clearly, lives were impacted for the Kingdom of God. I’ve heard from friends who testify that the Spirit of peace and unity was clearly present—even as Jesus was exalted continually and reverence for the Word of God permeated everything that happened in the orderly gatherings. Although some outside voices have tried to hijack the moment for their own misguided purposes (including an effort to promote the misguided New Apostolic Reformation), university leaders within the faculty and student body were careful to maintain order that adheres to Scripture. Those inclined to self-absorbed outbursts were smothered with love but not allowed to monopolize the moment.

There is a sense in which time will tell whether lives were changed for the long haul. But that is always true. Many individuals express faith in Christ during a moment of crisis or emotionalism only to quickly fade back into an ungodly routine. Jesus spoke to this in His parable of the sower. Some seeds fall in rocky places. They immediately spring up, but quickly wither away because they lack any root (Matthew 13:3-10, 18-23).

Only God knows which seed will take root and produce much fruit. Many of us could testify that our own lives looked barren and unproductive—until a seed of Truth fell in our heart and the life-giving Living Water flowed into us. Our job is to scatter seed. Our privilege and joy is to praise the One who provided the seed and makes it grow.

Has the Gospel taken root in your heart? Are you “indeed bearing fruit...a hundredfold...sixty...[or] thirty”? (Matthew 13:23)

Let’s not scoff that some seed is wasted or some hearts are rocky or thorny. Let’s rejoice in the Sower and His perseverance to see that the seed of the Gospel is scattered. And, let’s be thankful for His patience with those of us who are endeavoring to produce fruit. ♦

*Our job is to scatter seed.
Our privilege and joy
is to praise the One who
provided the seed and
makes it grow.*





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