

Signs of the Times

by
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In Matthew 24:7, Jesus spoke of perilous times just before His return. **"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."**

Nations refer to ethnic groups. Our world is in tur moil as ethnic people fight ethnic people. Over 50 wars are in progress right now. In many places, millions are experiencing famines - not due to over population or the lack of food produced, but due to corrupt governments and dictators. Aids is not the only pesti lence. Other sexually trans mitted diseases, hepatitis, and tuberculosis are rampant. Many bacterial diseases have mutated to superstrains that cannot be treated with antibiotics.

On the other hand, on the day of Pentecost, Peter announced the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, **" I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."** Joel 2:28

We are beginning to experi ence a great revival - much of it in other countries - but the river is starting to flow in our country. For about six years, the Lord has profound ly impressed me that this revival will be mainly with young people. Often when I minister in small towns, I have called those under 21 forward for special prayer and anointing. These young peo ple are radical. Some older people may be shocked at their boldness and zealousness, but I love it! I recently read about a church here in Denver where 15 year olds are having prophetic dreams and 10-11 year olds are prophesying.

"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." Malachi 4:5-6. I believe there is an Elijah anointing in these last days that will cover and bless this generation. The church must defend these cho sen young people. Instead of showering these young people with material things, we, as parents and grandparents, must shower them with bless ings, prayer and Godly teach ing and examples.

God is very concerned about generations. There are 1,314 passages of scripture that speak about parents and children. There are 2,208 verses concerning a father's relationship to his son and 1,426 passages that have instructions to fathers. One of the areas of instruction must be in spiritual warfare. Young people today are bombarded with the occult in the form of games, movies, television and "out in the open" cultish practices.

Every Christian must know how to put on the whole armor of God and be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. We live in an evil day, and we must learn to have the shield of faith in place in order to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one. More than ever, we must use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The "sword" - the Rhema or "Spirit-spoken" Word of God - is the offensive weapon. It can be proclaimed as a statement or as a blessing.

In Acts 19, the city of Ephesus had a riot. The greedy, demonized pagans cried with one voice for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." Diana or Artemis was the mother god of fertility, and the spirit behind this idolatrous image had a stronghold over the city. I have a friend who recently went with several thousand Christians to the ruins of Ephesus in modern Turkey. They proclaimed, "Jesus is Lord" for over four hours!

Every year during the Kansas Invasion, people from Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska walk through the town of Rexford and pray and proclaim the Lordship of Jesus. We use the homes, school, bank, businesses, fields, etc. as points of contact to proclaim God's blessings over the whole United States. It may seem like a "simple" ritual, but as banner-carrying, singing, praying, faith-speaking warriors in the Lord's army, we believe it has a profound effect on our nation.

About four years ago a raging Midwestern tornado came directly toward this little town of about 150 people. It seemed certain that the town would be destroyed. A resident took these pictures (see tornado pictures) standing in the opening to his storm cellar. Just as he closed the door, the tornado made a right angle turn and spared all the buildings. Is that a "sign in the sky"? Also note the sheep grazing in the foreground. They are not even looking up, and usually sheep are "spooked" by such a storm. I believe it is a lesson for us. Our Good Shepherd is ever watching over us and our Hope and Rescue is in Him.

Are you resting in peace - continuing in faith like those sheep - until He comes?

There are other signs of the soon-coming of our Lord . Devastating earthquakes have killed tens of thousands. Floods, hurricanes, and disastrous tornados have increased around the world. Yet, just as Jesus prophesied, our world, as in Noah's day, goes on with life as usual. In fact, the apostasy or failing away is happening, especially in America and other developed nations where seminaries teach liberal theology. Evolution, abortion, euthanasia, and feminism all lead society away from God.

II Thessalonians 2 gives much information concerning the failing away and the rise of the lawless one or the Antichrist. However, we can comfort and encourage one another to serve the true and living God, **"and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."** I Thessalonians 1:10.