

“Where Are We In Time?” Signs of the Times as Jesus said

How do we recognize the sign indicated we are living in the very end of the age?

We will focus on the Gospels and what Jesus said were the “signs” of the end of the age as He was asked by His disciples.

Our focus will zero in on Jesus’ discourse of what He said would be the End time-signs leading to the wrap up of the ages.

Even in the early centuries, people were fascinated with information on end time events.

Reasons:

- The political turmoil with the Roman occupation of Israel and the world.
- In Israel, the Jews were looking for The Messiah who would come as their leader to free them from the oppressors and set up His Kingdom.
- The Christian believers were anxious as to when The Kingdom of God would be established.

Now, nearly 2000 years later, the same questions are being asked:

- Lord, when are You going to come and set up Your Kingdom?
- How will we know when it’s really time for the Lord to return?
- What are “signs” to let us know the wrap up of the ages is near?

Matt. 24 – Jesus gives us signs that are indicative that we are near the end of the age.

Background: Jesus is on the Mount of Olives with His disciples in a private moment [rare], they ask Him specific questions about the end times.

Matt 24:3 “As He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying: “Tell us, **WHEN** shall these things be? And **WHAT** shall be the **SIGN** of Your coming, and of the end of the **World**?”

The disciples asked the same questions that people are again asking today as to when and what are the signs of His coming and the end.

1. “Tell us **WHEN** shall these things be?”

“WHEN” = Grk. *pote* – a word seeking “**very specific information**; seeking a **definite, concrete answer.**”

- They were not asking for general information; they wanted specific, definite and concrete answers of **when** this will happen.
- What is the date, how will we know we are in that season/time of these events?

2. “WHAT will be the Sign?”

“WHAT” = Grk. *ti* – a word asking for *minute, miniscule detail; exactly; explicitly*, what will be the sign.

- They were getting more specific with Jesus, they wanted to know specifically WHEN and now WHAT will be the sign?
- How will we know the signs? What is there to look for to indicate the time is at hand?

3. When and What will be the SIGN?

“SIGN” = Grk. *simeion* – “a marker or sign to alert a traveler to where he is on a road; authenticating marks, or specific signs.”

- On almost all roads/highways/routes, there are signs or markers indicating the distance to a destination in KM or Miles and names to let us know how much further until we reach our destination.
- Because of these signs or markers, we can determine where we are on the road and how much further to the end of the destination.
- Jesus uses this word for **sign- *simeion*** to let us know there will be markers – authenticating marks, specific signs to alert us as to where we are on the prophetic road toward the end of the age.

What was the destination Jesus was talking about and the disciples were asking about?

v. 3- “Of the **end** of the world?”

- “END” Grk. – *suntelias* = “the **closure, summation, or wrap up** of the age.”
- “Something that is **mature or complete.**”

So they were asking: “When is going to be the “wrap-up or the closure of the age?”

- How will we know we are coming to the summation of all things, to the very – very end?
- They weren’t asking about a generalization of a large time period, they were asking for detailed information about specific signs on the road to tell them exactly **when** and **what!**

The disciples asked when the end of the WORLD would come?

- Use of the word WORLD is a misconception.
- The world will never end – it will be destroyed by fire to renovate/cleanse it and destroy all corruption; but it will be recreated new and believers will inhabit it for eternity. Go to 2Peter 3: 7, 10-13.

- The correct word is “*aionos*” and it does not describe the physical planet or earth or the world, but is referencing an “**age**” or **period of time**.
- “**When shall be the end of the age?”**

The 1st century disciples realized the age they were in, and we are now in also, would come to an end.

- This age, as all other ages, will have a concrete closure, a definite beginning and ending.
- Every age has ended and as it does, it gives birth to another age.
- The age we are living in, now described by many names: Church age, Last Days, Age of Grace.
- When this current age ends as the Lord comes for His church, it will give birth to a seven-year period known as The Tribulation.

But the question of both the disciples and people today is:

How do we know we are coming to the end of the age we are in?

- **When – What** – are the **Signs** to alert us to the time of the **End**?

v. 4- “And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you.”

- The disciples asked for a sign, but Jesus was going to give them several signs.
- As we see the signs Jesus gave to them, realize the fulfillment of these signs are happening in our time – right now.

1. The first sign Jesus gave that we have entered the end of the age is “To take heed that no man **DECEIVE** you.”

- Worldwide deception would be the first sign Jesus said would come upon us.
- Jesus was so sure this would happen at the end that He warned and urged people to “LOOK = Take Heed.”
- The intent of the words were so strong so to jar the minds of the listeners. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT HE WAS SAYING.
- Jesus said the authenticating signs that you are living at the end of the age is DECEPTION.

DECEPTION = Grk *planao* = “a deceptive, moral wandering; a people who have veered from a solid path; those who teeter on a dangerous moral path; to morally falter.”

- Describes people who once walked on a solid moral path with principles in their life; but now the times have changed and they’ve been led astray or they’ve morally wandered, lost their bearings; and now they are teetering on a morally dangerous cliff.

- Jesus was saying in this time before the end of the age, people in general and nations worldwide will enter into deception and wander from the basic premise they once had built their lives upon.
- They will leave the time tested Biblical principles and exchange them for new ideas, beliefs, compromises, more tolerant, not as decisive about moral issues attitudes.
- WOW – is that not ever descriptive of today’s mindsets among the world.
- But, what’s dangerous and sad, it has become the mindset of many **believers** who once held to Biblical ethics and standards, and now have left those principles and exchanged them for deception.

2Thess 2:11 “For this cause [because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved – 2Thess 2:10b], God shall send them strong **delusion**, that they should believe a lie.”

- **Delusion** = “a straying from orthodoxy or piety; to deceit, to deceive, error.”
- A strong delusion will be rampant as a sign at the end of the age upon the human race.
- It will be a delusion or a confusion of morals: people will be confused.
- We see this now – people are morally confused as to their gender, now those who are confused and attempting to push their confusion on the rest of us to accept it as normal or an acceptable way of living.
 - News report just two weeks ago reported of drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools and bookstores. “Drag Queen Story Hour – DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models. In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real.” Dragqueenstoryhour.com
 - The battle is on in Gloucester, VA over transgender use of restrooms.
 - Target stores refuse to re-evaluate their stance of “gender friendly restrooms” where men are free to use ladies rest rooms and dressing rooms and vice versa. THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS WHERE MEN WERE CAUGHT TRYING TO SEE WOMEN, YOUTH AND KIDS DRESSING OR NAKED AND HAVE TRIED TO SEDUCE THEM!

Rom. 1:17-32 foretold today’s worldwide moral crisis and explains the problem to those with spiritual understanding:

“God shows His anger from heaven against all the evil and wrong things that people do. Their evil lives hide the truth they have. This makes God angry because they have been shown what He is like. Yes, God has made it clear to them. There are things about God

that people cannot see—His eternal power and all that makes Him God. But since the beginning of the world, those things have been easy for people to understand. They are made clear in what God has made. So people have no excuse for the evil they do. People knew God, but they did not honor Him as God, and they did not thank Him. Their ideas were all useless. There was not one good thought left in their foolish minds. They said they were wise, but they became fools. Instead of honoring the divine greatness of God, who lives forever, they traded it for the worship of idols—things made to look like humans, who get sick and die, or like birds, animals, and snakes. People wanted only to do evil. So God left them and let them go their sinful way. And so they became completely immoral and used their bodies in shameful ways with each other. They traded the truth of God for a lie. They bowed down and worshiped the things God made instead of worshiping the God who made those things. He is the one who should be praised forever. Amen. Because people did those things, God left them and let them do the shameful things they wanted to do. Women stopped having natural sex with men and started having sex with other women. In the same way, men stopped having natural sex with women and began wanting each other all the time. Men did shameful things with other men, and in their bodies they received the punishment for those wrongs. People did not think it was important to have a true knowledge of God. So God left them and allowed them to have their own worthless thinking. And so they do what they should not do. They are filled with every kind of sin, evil, greed, and hatred. They are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, lying, and thinking the worst things about each other. They gossip and say evil things about each other. They hate God. They are rude, proud, and brag about themselves. They invent ways of doing evil. They don't obey their parents, they are foolish, they don't keep their promises, and they show no kindness or mercy to others. They know God's law says that anyone who lives like that should die. But they not only continue to do these things themselves, but they also encourage others who do them.”

Romans 1:18-32 ERV

Norm: these are my personal notes, not for the slide. Thanks,

If you are in a trap of any sexual sins, I want to say something to you:

- God loves you and gave His Sons life for you and for you to be free.
- WOWC loves you and does not condemn you.
- I want to find ministry for you that is away from this church, for your confidentiality sake.
- If you will contact me, I will get information of ministries to you.

END OF MY PERSONAL NOTES!

Jesus described the time as being a time of moral abandonment due to people abandoning Biblical principles. When you lose your morals, you lose your anchor and you drift. When you take God's Word and principles out of your life and the life of society, the enemy comes in with a substitute of unrighteousness and perversity.

The Seven Mountains of: Family, Religion/Faith, Education, Government/Law, Media/News/Commentary, Arts/Entertainment, Business/Economics are being affected by the destruction of morality due to deception.

This shouldn't take us off guard because Jesus told us this would be the first and foremost sign of the end of the age.

It will be prominent – people will begin to think wrong and their morals will be confused. This will only increase as we see the day approaching!

v.5 This delusion and deception will attempt to find its way into the Church/Body of Christ.

“For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

Many – *polloi* = “A great multitude” Not a few = multitudes.

- Many assume these would be cult or guru type figures leading people astray claiming to be the messiah.

“Many will come In My Name”

- Yeshua Ha Mashiach or Jesus Christ = Yeshua/Jesus were His name; **Mashiach** or **Christos** were His titles which meant **“Anointed or Sent One.”**
- Many have claimed to be Christ or Messiah – they are claiming Divinity that only belongs to Yeshua or Jesus.
- Many will try to come **on** the Authority of My Name – Jesus was saying.
- They will attempt to come **ON** the reputation of My name – claiming they are Anointed.
- Using His reputation and His name to build their own ministries, feigning to be His representative and being an imposture of His anointing.
- Jesus said to **be careful** – not everyone who shows up saying they are anointed ARE NOT ANOINTED BY GOD. They may be anointed, but it may come from another source not God.
- BEWARE this deception that will take over the whole world will try to find its way into the church. One by one, believer by believer, leader by leader – creeping in.
- Jude says in the last days: Jude1: 3-4 “It was needful to me to write to you and exhort you that you should **contend** for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- “Contend for the faith” means to “to struggle for - fight for, defend, protect, stand up for.”

Those who come to deceive will be about themselves, to build up their own egos, lives, ministries. Yet failing to teach time tested truths of scripture.

- Rather than instructing people in the principles of God’s Word, they will teach self-help, motivational messages that only stir people up to excitement and fail to give them the meat of God’s Word that enables us to stand during the difficult times of life and bring Glory and Honor to God and His Kingdom.

2Tim. 4:3-4 “For the time will come [it’s here now] when they will not **endure sound** doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they **heap** to themselves teachers, having **itching ears**; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to **fables**.”

- **Endure** = “To hold oneself up against, to measure oneself by” – measure yourself by the Word of God, not your own or man’s opinion/philosophy of you.
- **Sound doctrine** = “To be uncorrupt, in health, safe teaching, whole learning.”
- **Heap** = “Accumulate, gather.”
- **Itching ears** – “They want their ears/hearing tickled/scratched with new things, pleasant, self-placating words to make them feel good about themselves and situations.” No bad news allowed in their hearing. No reality.
- **Fables** – “Tales of fiction, untruths.” Always a good ending story.

Because of the lack of teaching; God’s people are deluded and don’t know what they believe about issues the Bible is clear facing society today.

- Because believers don’t know what the Bible says, they don’t take a stand on the issues of the day, such as abortion, transgender issues, civil laws to protect society etc.

1Tim. 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaks **expressly**, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...”

- Paul deals with the same issue.
- “**Expressly**” *rhotos* – “Explicitly, undeniable, unmistakable terms.”
- “No room for doubt or misunderstanding”
- The Holy Spirit is speaking without misunderstanding that in the **latter times** = final end, the conclusion- when time is gone and the end of the age is very near; **Some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their consciences seared with a hot iron...
- “**Some**” = people in quantity= notable and visible, people we know, people we are familiar with and have heard.

- **Holy Spirit says this is going to happen! Alerting us to this event.**
- **“Depart from the Faith”** - He doesn't say they will abandon the faith, but they will depart from the faith.
 - **Depart** = *aphistemi* = “To change positions, a slow, methodical departure.”
 - Transition caused by compromise that happens slowly, by becoming more tolerant, open to new ideas, under pressure from society to change one's views or beliefs to become acceptable.
 - This is people who are **lured away** from their position of faith and been deluded by the deception that is in the world pulling on them.
 - They got too close to the whirlpool of the cesspool of life.
- The church [as a whole-the Body of Christ] is being tested to see if we will compromise our stand:
 - Change our position on moral value of sexual ideas.
 - Our values of life on abortion, fetus cloning etc.
 - Accept transgender way of life as normal, healthy family.
 - Become more tolerant/inclusive of alternate lifestyles so we don't hurt anybody's feelings or turn anyone away from the church.
 - Allow people who don't totally accept time tested, Biblically based teachings to be in leadership and influence others.

All for the sake of gaining or keeping a crowd, becoming more appealing to people's liberated concepts according to today's world standards.

I really believe that every true Christ follower should have a Biblical World View. What does that mean?

- It means that every aspect of life: Faith, Marriage, Family, Children, Money/Stewardship, Social/Friends, Political, Education should be based on Biblical teachings that direct us to honor and obey God as The Creator and Christ as our Savior.

The question for you and I to answer today is:

1. Have you allowed yourself to be lured away by the deception Jesus said would be rampant in the time become the end of the age?
2. Where have you allowed yourself to slip? Do you see any danger in continuing down the path of compromise?
3. What will you do about it today?
4. Will you determine to “Contend for the Faith” as Jude admonishes you?