

# *Are We Still Sleeping?*

*United States of America looks like another silent night  
As we're sung to sleep by philosophies that save the trees and kill the children  
And while we're lying in the dark there's a shout heard 'cross the eastern sky  
For the Bridegroom has returned and has carried His bride away in the night*

*America, what will we miss while we are sleeping  
Will Jesus come again and leave us slumbering where we lay  
America, will we go down in history as a nation with no room for its King  
Will we be sleeping, Will you be sleeping*

I recently shared a message with the church using the title and words from above from Christian contemporary artists, *Casting Crowns*. This is a cherished song of mine as the lyrics clearly point out how during the time of Christ's birth and crucifixion, people missed Bible prophecy being fulfilled. Then the lyrics pose the question asking if we will respond the same way to the signs of His return. We see the signs of the "Birth Pains" (**Matt 24:8**) spoken of what has been called the Olivet Discourse found in **Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13**. Allow me to briefly summarize some of Jesus' spoken words to His disciples:

First we have **The Rise of Deception (Matt 24:3, 11, 24-26)**. Jesus stated that many will come in His name and deceive the multitudes. Since the very early days following His ascension numerous people have come claiming to be Christ incarnate. Sun Myung Moon, Jim Jones, Alan John Miller, David Koresh, Wayne Bent, David Shaylor, and Krishna Ventathe are just to name a few and the list is extensive. We are also warned of the Great Deceiver (The Anti-Christ) who is also called the Abomination of Desolation, Man of Lawlessness, and the Beast that is coming as prophesied in **Matt 24:15, 2 Thess 2:3-4, and Revelation 13:4**.

Second we have **The Resurgence of Wickedness (Matt 24: 6-12)**. Jesus states that there will be wars and rumors of wars among the nations which will include mass destruction, famines, and widespread diseases. There will also be a growing hatred toward believers in Christ and to one another. People will be easily offended and there will be an epidemic of injustice, immoral behavior, crime, and godlessness. The love of many will grow cold and there is to be a great falling away of the faith as prophesied by Paul in **1st Timothy 3:1-5**.

Third we have **The Resilience of Nature (Matt 24:7, 29)**. Jesus spoke of earthquakes in various places, the sun becoming dark, the moon losing its light, and the heavenly bodies being shaken. There will be devastating hurricanes and storms as **Luke 21:25 states: "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea."**

But rejoice for we will see **The Return of the King (Matt 24:27, 30-31)**. At Christ's return lightning will fill the sky, all the nations of the earth will mourn, and a trumpet will sound and His faithful will be gathered together (**1 Thess 4:16-18**). We are encouraged to remain diligent

and faithful (24:13-14), and not to be alarmed (24:6) for our redemption is coming as it says in Luke 21:28, ***“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*** No one knows the day or hour of Christ’s return but we know the Rapture is coming so we are to keep alert! (Matt 24:36-37, 42)

**Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13** are the most straightforward chapters in the whole Bible on end times’ prophecy for the Believer. Please take heed to what is written and do not ignore these chapters or take them lightly. We are talking about the most difficult and challenging days ever for Christians. I encourage you to read it, reread it, and read it again. Study it, think about it, and pray over it, and be persuaded that it will all take place. As the time gets closer, we may be part of that last generation of Christians on this earth that sees every one of these verses come true just like He prophesied. If we are not part of the last generation, then it may be our children, or our grandchildren, or friends, or fellow church members. It is our duty and commission to tell them what is to come and to share the Gospel of Christ.

**1st Thessalonians 5:6-10** says: ***“So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.”***

Fight the Good Fight,

*Bro. Andrew*