



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, November 30th, 2017.

Topic: THE TIMES OF THE SIGNS

TEXT: Acts 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION: We have been talking about the times of the sign, but one thing need to be understood if these signs are going to make sense to us. If we do not want some of us to be more confused or to think that these signs are results of evolutionary trends/ social transitions, we may have to first answer the question 'is Jesus is coming again or is this world as we see it now ever going to pass away?'

We have heard skeptics say that it is delusional for many Christians to begin to talk about the second coming of Christ or the end of the world. Some have said it is the deceit been preached by Christians to keep people under moral control. Many stories have been made out if it. It is worse especially in the time we live in when conspiracy theories are made up on daily basis that we find it hard to sieve the facts from lies. So today we are going to start by examining the idea if Jesus is actually going to return.

IS JESUS COMING AGAIN, IS THIS WORLD REALLY GOING TO COME TO AN END

Is Jesus coming again? Is this world as we see it going to pass away? These are questions that because many have found them difficult to comprehend or answer have come to believe that they will never happen. Like I said during the introduction, many have come to conclude that these are conjectures of some smart philosophers designed to put humanity under moral check. Many will die for and with this belief. Some have even formed their philosophies in order to counter Christianity. They ask questions like which is the true religion as there are many religions on earth.

If you are a careful student of religion, you would have found out that there are some similarities in many religions. What has made Christianity unique however is that the Christians have said that Jesus is the only way. No other religion has said their progenitor is the only way. Also, many other religions refer to Jesus as one thing or the other while Christianity never refer to the progenitor of any other religion. Also, many religions will agree with you that Jesus was a perfect man. Some will call Him the perfect master. We the Christians know that Jesus is God. Due to the length of time that we have been talking about the return of Jesus, people have come to the conclusion that it will never happened. It is also very interesting that some of the world's religions talk about one of their personalities coming back and the future life.

One of the major aim of today's study is to find out if Jesus is going to come again and thereafter we will begin to discuss some of the signs.

The feelings that existed in the time of the Apostles. **II Peter 3:3-4, Matthew 24:48-50**

Apart from the not too direct prophecies of **Gen 22:18**, one of the early prophecies concerning Jesus was given by Balaam in **Numbers 24:17**. After the book of Numbers, the next Prophet that made the birth of Jesus clearer was the Prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 7: 14**. In the story told prior to this verse, Israel and Syria formed an alliance against Judah and Isaiah prophesied that they will not prevail against Judah. King Ahaz was asked to choose a sign to confirm that God will deliver Judah. But when Ahaz will not choose any sign, Isaiah gave the prophecy in **Isaiah 7:14**. At that time and even now, the prophesy could not be possible without a supernatural intervention. If this is possible, you must therefore know that the deliverance of Judah is possible. After this, there was another prophecy by Prophet Micah indicating where He was going to be born. **Micah 5:2**.

Daniel spoke about the stone in Daniel. **Dan 2:34-35**. He also referred to Him as the Prince of princes in **Daniel 8:25**. Who are these princes? Daniel often referred to certain princes as controllers of territories (territorial spirits or the one that rules over certain territories) that is as having territorial powers. **Dan 10:13, 20-21; 12:1**. When he therefore refers to the prince of princes, he was obviously referring to the one that had the overall powers.

(Isaiah also referred to Him as a Prince, referring to Him as the Prince of Peace). So as per Nebuchadnezzar's dream which was interpreted by Daniel, we knew there was going to be a super power who he referred to as the Prince of princes. The word of Daniel tells us clearly that this Prince of princes was going to be a personality not some magical invincibility. You will notice that Daniel used a capital P for the word 'prince' in Daniel 8:25 so he knew exactly who he was referring to.

Now from what we have studied, we have seen that the birth of Jesus was mentioned as far back as in Numbers which was written about 1428 BC, Isaiah prophesied about 750 BC, Micah, about 730 BC and Daniel prophesied about 600 BC. So, the story about the birth of a Messiah was not a new story to the generation that lived in the time of Numbers. What was new to the generation that lived in Isaiah's time was how He was going to be born. In Micah's generation, what became new was where He was going to be born. Now considering the number of generations that passed before the prophecy was fulfilled, do you still think that the return of the birth of Christ is a made-up story? Think of the generations that passed between the prediction of His birth and when He was really born and then think of the generation that has passed between when His second coming was prophesied and now. Based on this comparison, do you still see the second coming of Jesus as a made-up story? It took about 2000 years for the prophecy told to Abraham was fulfilled. Abraham and many generations died before the prophecy was fulfilled.

GOD'S TIMING VS MAN'S TIMING.

God does not look at time the way we look at it. That a thousand of years have past as par the world's timing is just a few hours before God. **Psalms 90:4, II Peter 3:8**.

MORE SIGNS OF HIS COMING

On your own, think of the peculiar happenings in the world today that indicates that something is not really right with the world.

1. Church hatred **Matthew 24:9, Mark 13:9/Luke 21:12, John 16:2**, It has become a past time for some people to ridicule Christians.

2. Church principles and God's institutions under attack. Name some church principles that are under attack. Pure religion (**James 1:27**), Marriage **Gen 5:2, Gen 1:27**, Homosexuals **Lev 18:22**, church doctrines, **II Tim 3:1-5**.

How are God's institutions been attacked?

e.g. Institution of Marriage –

Attack on our homes

1. Men losing their headship, Eph 5:23,
2. Children disobeying parents, II Tim 3:2
3. Women will lose compassion. Titus 2:3-5

Other signs

1. Churches are becoming entertainment centres. II Tim 3:4
2. Justification of Iniquity Matthew 24:12.
3. Unserious believers: **Matthew 24:12, Matthew 24:37-39**

CONCLUSION: The bible says these things were written for us I Cor 10:11. Having heard these things, are you taking them seriously or you have become too familiar with them that they do not move you anymore? Some of us now have switches that we could turn off at will when things are been said that we do not want to hear.