



First Baptist Church of Cypress
The Signs of The Times (part 2)

Mark 13:14-23

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Last week, I hope you were encouraged to study the Signs of the Times as events that has occurred during the Church Age “Resurrection — 2nd Coming”. We are in the Last Days right now & despite all the tribulations that have come — the deception of false teachers, the wars, persecutions, natural disasters, pestilence, denial of Christ, and all obstacles to the spread of the gospel — God’s message will ultimately penetrate every part of the globe. I believe without a doubt this current pandemic is a sign of the times.

Prophecy is still being fulfilled as it says in Hebrews 10:25 “do not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”. If Jesus is coming back, now is the time to trust in the Word to gather more, not scatter more. Learning God’s written prophecy is important and helps us know and share the gospel, but it should never distract us from knowing and sharing the gospel.

The Signs of The Times are:

- 1. DECEITFUL Teachings of False Leaders (v. 5, 21)**
- 2. FALSE FEARS of Wars & Earthquakes (v. 7-8)**
- 3. PERSECUTIONS that can Break Resolve (v. 9-13)**

Mark 13:14-20

*“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **15** Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, **16** and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **17** And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **18** Pray that it may not happen in winter. **19** For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. **20** And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.*

21 And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. **22** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. **23** But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand."

4. WAR in JUDEA causes the Temple's destruction. (v. 14-20)

- Jesus commands us to FLEE and PRAY. (v 14, 18)

5. A Great TRIBULATION in the Last Days. (v 13-20)

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." **2 Peter 3:9**

"God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil." **2 Timothy 2:26**

"God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." **1 Timothy 2:4**

"Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God." **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

- God's WRATH shall be poured out upon the earth.

6. DECEITFUL Teachings of False Leaders (v. 5, 21)

- Jesus warns us to Be on Your GUARD.
- Satan does NOT take it easy on those who SEEK God.

If you are thinking, "Pastor, I'm not too sure about these signs". Know that Jesus has told us everything we need to know and do. Your life is meaningful & purposeful! You may wish you were born in the good ole days as some were or hope you were not facing current struggles of financial burden, relationship issues, illness, fear, addiction, depression, etc. But God has placed you in this moment of history for a purpose. He has a plan for you now & your future. As the late Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias said, "There is no greater discovery than seeing God as the author of your destiny."