



The teaching of the Gospel constitutes one of the major signs of the end time. The Church is to preach the messages of the Three Angels, and the first message is the Gospel. As seed-sowing is to the harvest, so is the Word of God to soul winning and points to the signs of the times. Ofttimes people forget that it is not evangelists, pastors or teachers who save people, but that the "Gospel is the power of God unto salvation." The gospel must be taught and received. The Word of God is the "Sword of the Spirit." The keen cutting edge of that sword is the truth that "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh," and that it will be for all the world to see and hear.

The strong appeal of the signs of the Times (the last days) is that it offers comfort and hope. It will give people the knowledge of being able to meet again with loved ones at the resurrection. God has used these signs to teach people the present truth of these last days. This exclusiveness, while comforting, was also given as a warning to those who imagine that they can receive eternal life in some other way than prescribed in the Bible. The most remarkable conversions of our time are traceable directly to the signs of these last days. The signs that we observe prove with-

out a shadow of a doubt the validity of the Bible.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." Acts 3:19-23.

Truly, all signs throughout the world today are omens of the coming of this prophet, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Jesus left this world by ascending to his Father in heaven, he said he would come again. But many events would transpire as foretold by the prophets, also war and rumors of war would continue until he returned. After the fulness of time was accomplished, he said he would come with clouds and every eye shall see him. Rev. 1:7; Luke 21:25-31.

Certain conditions were to exist first. Jerusalem was to be trodden down by the Gentiles for a long period of time, and there was to be distress of nations, with much fear in the hearts of men (Luke 21:24-26). See also Jer. 16:14-19; 31:8; 32:37-44; Isa. 41:18; 61:4; 62:1-7. These events are now being fulfilled.

Consider the sign of the fig tree. "When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, we know that summer is nigh; So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." (Matt. 24:32, 33; Jer. 24; Luke 21:29). The cursing of the fig tree was the sign of the cursing of the Nation Israel. After this He said: "Ye shall not see me until ye shall say, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." The fulfillment of this prophecy is in Zech. 12, "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for Him as one mourneth for His only Son." The Lord has returned His people to the promised land and has given them green leaves today on the fig tree, but they are waiting for His second Advent for them to have blossoms and fruit. The Lord then opens a fountain in Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness. It is THEN, and only then that this covenant promise comes true. It is one

of the greatest signs of these days. Israel is protected in every war and skirmish with their enemies. The Lord is watching them, for they "are the apple of His eye."

The Lord said through Daniel, chapter 12:4, that in the time of the end, knowledge would be increased and many would run to and fro. It is plainly seen today that knowledge has everywhere increased, and wonderful machinery has been invented to do all kinds of labor; people ride without horses, talk without wires, travel under the water and fly like birds. People are running to and fro, and we are in the time of the end. Daniel's prophecy was to be closed and sealed **until the time of the end.**

Signs in the social world as foretold in Luke 17:26-30 are surely being fulfilled today. Is not the social world intoxicated with pleasure, revelry and fashion? The minds of the people of the world are almost wholly absorbed with material things, buying and selling, eating and drinking, and having a good time. They are like the people before the flood and at the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, they have to a great extent forgotten God.

We have before us today a world sick with fearful doubts, a world of troubled nations. The people are

moving, drifting steadily against their will, toward some hideous catastrophe. Everyone wishes for this trend to stop. The world is infected with a cancer that can not be cured or cut away. "Fear and Perplexity" (Luke 21:25-27). Practical men everywhere are admitting that it is the end and that looking into the future is like looking into immeasurable darkness.

Today the world fears war, and yet fears the problems of peace perhaps more. This is the time for all men to repent. This is the time when the Children of God should build up their faith in God. For the only help that will come now is from the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). There will be great efforts for peace made. At the same time there will be a great arms race and war machinery built up. The world is in a strange paradox, it is altogether unprecedented in history, when the world is dominated by war and extraordinary preparations for war and by the great zealotry for peace and great concerted efforts for peace. The Bible says that when this time of peace and safety is on everyone's lips, then sudden destruction by war comes on all nations (I Thess. 5:1-3).

Signs in the industrial world were foretold by James in chapter 5:8-13. There never has been in the world's

history such a massing together of wealth. There are many rich people today, more so than has ever been seen before.

In the religious world, we have signs also. Read II Tim. 3:1-5, 13. People do not want to listen to God's Word, His plan of salvation and the way of life. They would rather hear blind guides tell something that sounds pleasant. However, few are religiously inclined.

In these last days, there is a great lack of faith. The parable of Luke 18:1-8 indicates that the prayer of faith is what Jesus had in mind as being a scarce article in these days when there are so many shortages. People have a form of Godliness, but deny the power of God. People have a great lack of love (Matt. 24:12). Scoffers are growing more bold for they seem to have numbers on their side (II Peter 3:3,4). The theory of Evolution is being taught. More and more of the Bible is being denied. Many say that miracles are only fairy tales. Such incidents as the Flood of Noah are only folklore. The Second Coming is totally disregarded. But soon these scoffers will cry for the rocks and mountains to hide them from the ONE that sitteth on the cloud and cometh to judge the scoffing world.

Now let us look at another scripture, for here we also find signs of our Lord's soon coming. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness and of gloominess. Also for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come" (Joel 2:1, 2; 1:15).

The day nor the hour of Christ's coming no man knows. Of the times and seasons of His Second Coming no man knows, (Acts 1:7; I Thess. 5:1, 2; Mark 13:32). But Jesus taught us things that we might know when this even is near, "even at the door," and "When ALL these things" come to pass, we are to know that His coming is near. Are you watching? Are you ready to meet the Lord in the air, and ever be with the Lord?