"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives…and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."

Nate Saint, missionary martyr

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, GA USA

THE LAST DAYS

LESSON FOUR

SIGNS OF THE TIME

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"

Matthew 24:3

Redemption Draweth Nigh

Gorden Jensen

Years of time have come and gone since I first heard it told
How Jesus would come again some day.
If back then it seemed so real, then I just can't help by feel
How much closer His coming is today.
Wars and strife on ev'ry hand, and violence fills our land,
Still some people doubt He'll come again.
But the Word of God is true. He'll redeem His chosen few.
Don't lose hope. Soon Christ Jesus will descend.
Signs of the time are ev'ry where,
And there's a brand new feeling in the air.
Keep your eyes upon the Eastern sky.
Lift up your head. Redemption draweth nigh.

Some of the "Signs of the Times" concerning the End of the Age were prophesied thousands of years ago. This is not an exhaustive list but a few examples.

1. **People will run to and fro** (Daniel 12:4-*But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase*).
2. **The Spirit will be outpoured on all flesh** (Joel 2:28-*And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; You sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams. Your young men shall see visions*).
3. **There will be universal apostasy** (2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4-*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by the word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God*).
4. **The Gospel will be watered down with preachers preaching the doctrines of men rather than those of God** (Matthew 15:9 & Mark 7:7- ***And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men***, Hebrews 13:9a-*Do not be*

carried about with various and strange doctrines…, 1st Timothy 4:1-*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,* 2nd Timothy 4:3-4-*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers, and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables*).

5. **False prophets and false christs will arise and deceive many** (Matthew 24:11-***Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many***, and Matthew 24:24-***For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect***).
6. **Good will be called evil, and evil will be called good** (Isaiah 5:20-*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*).
7. **The Gospel will be preached to all nations** (Matthew 24:14-***And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come***, and Revelations 14:6-7-*Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-saying with a loud voice, "Fear*

God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water").

8. **Worldly knowledge will increase** (Again Daniel 12:4-*But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase*). With the advent of the internet, it is estimated that our cumulative knowledge is doubling every 5 years.
9. **Israel has been restored (1948) as a political state** (Deuteronomy 30:3-…the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you, Jeremiah 29:14-*I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places from which I cause you to be carried away captive,* Ezekiel 36:24-*For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land*).
10. **Earthquakes, floods, famines, plagues, diseases will come** (Matthew 24:7-*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes, in divers places).* An estimated 925 Million people went hungry in 2010. We have seen relatively new diseases come, which are very difficult to cure, such as Ebola, and diseases with no real cure, such as AIDS. Earthquakes are reported frequently as well as

floods. Unlike we are taught, the scripture does not say these things will increase. It just says they will be present in the last days in divers places.

11. **Wars will increase to a level where war is practically in every land and there will be no peace** (Matthew 24:6-***And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet***).

12. **There will be an increase in wickedness, murder and crime**-***Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake***, Mark 13:9-***But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them***).

13. **People will not believe the signs of the times. Even some Christians scoff at the 2nd Coming of Jesus in this generation** (2nd Peter 3:3-4-*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"*, Matthew 16:1-4-*The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them,* ***When it is evening, ye say, "It will be fair weather for the sky is red." And in the morning, "It will be foul***

weather today, for the sky is read and cloudy." O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. *And He left them and departed*).

14. **Christians will be increasingly persecuted** (Matthew 24:9-***Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you, and ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake***, and Mark 13:9-***But take heed to yourselves; for they shall deliver you up to councils, and in synagogues ye shall be beaten, and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them***).
15. **There will be unusual phenomenon which the Bible refers to as Signs and Wonders in the heavens** (Mark 13:25-***And the stars of heaven shall fall and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken***).
16. **Lawlessness and Sin will abound and the love of many shall grow cold** (Matthew 24:12-***And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold***).
17. **The Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world indicating there will be increased missionary work** (Matthew 24:14-***And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come***).

18. **The Lord God will use His people, especially the Remnant Company, which is sold out to Him, to make His enemies His footstool** (Psalm 110:1-*The LORD said unto my Lord, "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool*).
19. **Perilous or difficult times will come.** (2nd Timothy 3:1-5 Living Bible-*You may as well know this too, Timothy, that in the last days it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian. For people will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to parents, ungrateful to them and thoroughly bad. They will be hardheaded and never give in to others; they will be constant liars and troublemakers and will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel and sneer at those who try to be good. They will betray their friends; they will be hotheaded, puffed up with pride, and prefer good times to worshiping God. They will go to church, yes, but they won't really believe anything they hear. Don't be taken in by people like that*).
20. **The days will be like the days of Noah and the days of Lot** (Luke 17:26-32-***And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise, also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought,***

they sold, they planted, they builded, but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away, and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife). (We will cover this more extensively in the next lesson.)

21. **Increased satanic power** (Revelation 16:13-14-*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty,* Revelation 12:12-*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea, for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*
22. **Deception** (Matthew 24:4-5: *And Jesus answered and said unto them,* ***"Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, 'I am Christ' and shall deceive many."***
23. **Offense, Betrayal, Hate will characterize the world** (Matthew 24:10-***And then shall many be***

offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another.)

An Overview of the Signs

By Dr. David R. Reagan

I. Signs of Nature
(Matthew 24:7; Mark 13: 8; and Luke 21:11)

1. Famine
2. Earthquakes
3. Plagues
4. Signs in the Heavens
   (Unusual weather, new discoveries in space, UFO's, etc.)

II. Signs of Society
(Matthew 24:12,37-39 & 2 Timothy 3:1-4)

1. Lawlessness
2. Violence
3. Immorality
4. Greed
5. Selfishness
6. Hedonism
7. Rebellion
8. Despair

III. Spiritual Signs

1. Negative
    1. False Christs & Prophets and their cultic groups (Matthew 24:5,11,2-4; Mark 13:6,21-22; and Luke 21:8)
    2. Apostasy in the professing church (2 Thessalonians 2:3; and 2 Timothy 3:5, 4:3-4)
    3. Widespread heresy in the church (2 Timothy 4:1-4)
    4. Movement toward a one world religion (Revelation 17)
    5. Persecution of true believers (Matthew 24:9-10; Mark 13:9,11-13; and Luke 21:12-19)
    6. Outbreak of demonic and occultic activity (1 Timothy 4:1)
2. Positive
    1. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)
    2. Revival of Davidic worship (1 Chronicles 16:1-39; Psalm 150; and Amos 9:11)
    3. Worldwide evangelism (Matthew 24:14 and Mark 13:10)
    4. Understanding of Bible prophecy (Daniel 12:4,8-9)

IV. World Political Signs

1. Re-establishment of Israel. (Ezekiel 36:22-37:1-2; Zechariah 12:1-6; Matthew 24:32-34; Mark 13:28- 30; and Luke 21:29-31)
2. Arab hostility toward Israel (Ezekiel 35:1-36:7)
3. Russia as a menacing power to Israel (Ezekiel 38:1-39:16)

4. Asian nations capable of fielding an army of 200 million (Revelation 9:15-16 and 16:12)
5. Wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6-7; Mark 13:7-8; and Luke 21:10)
6. Kingdom against kingdom — that is, civil wars and ethnic wars (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; and Luke 21:10)
7. Reunification of Europe (Daniel 2:41-44, 7:8, 24-25, and 9:26)
8. Movement toward a one world economy (Revelation 18)

Technological Signs

1. Nuclear weapons. (Matthew 24:22; Luke 21: 25-26; and Revelation 6:8, 8:7 and 16:2)
2. Television and satellite transmission (Revelation 11:3-12)
3. Robotics (Revelation 13:14-15)
4. Computer and laser technology (Revelation 13:16-18)
5. High speed transportation (Daniel 12:4)

VI. The Accelerator Sign

1. Population explosion (Revelation 9: 15-16 and 16:12)
2. Increase in knowledge (Daniel 12:4)
3. Increase in violence (Matthew 24:12)
4. Increase in transportation (Daniel 12:4)
5. Rapid disintegration of society (2 Timothy 3:1-4)
6. Signs in general to be like birth pangs, that is, increasing in frequency and intensity (Matthew 24:8)

VII. Signs of Israel

1. Regathering of the people (Isaiah 11:10-12 and Ezekiel 37:1-12)
2. Re-establishment of the state (Isaiah 66:7-8; Zechariah 12:1-6; and Matthew 24:32-35)
3. Reclamation of the land (Isaiah 35:1-2,7 and Ezekiel 36:34-35)
4. Revival of the language (Zephaniah 3:9)
5. Resurgence of the military (Zechariah 12:6)
6. Refocusing of world politics (Zechariah 12:2-3)
7. Reoccupation of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2-6)

God never pours out His wrath without warning because *"He does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus said that when we see all these signs come together, He will be *"right at the door,"* ready to return (Matthew 24:33). God is warning, and Jesus is at the gates of Heaven waiting for His Father's command.

Are you ready?