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Bible Study Series-II

APOCALYPSE AND SIGNS OF END TIMES

"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Mt.24:33-34).



INTRODUCTION

Reading daily newspapers and watching television news channels, we come to know that the banks are collapsing, industries are failing, fear is spreading all over the world; unemployment is increasing at a faster rate and the world is standing at the crossroad waiting for a superman to emerge who can protect, lead and take out of this global crisis.

If we open our eyes wide to see what is happening around the world, we learn that **this generation** (than never before) is witnessing - great distress among nations with perplexity; false claim as Christ, prophets & teachers; wars and rumors of war; increasing natural disasters; fearful sights from heaven; famines and the population explosions; roaring of seas and raging tides; increase in wickedness, adultery, corruption and violence; a generation of knowledge and the troubled earth. In the world map we also see the nation 'Israel' is reborn (1948), citizen 'jews' who are gathered from far ends of the world. The building up of its cities, its eastern gate, and its 'Temple' (destroyed in 20 AD) in Jerusalem 'the city of peace' has already started. The search for the 'Ark of the Covenant' of the LORD of HOSTS and training of Rabbis for offering sacrifices are other sure prophetic signs being fulfilled in this end times. We also witness that this country 'Israel' and chosen people of God are surrounded by many hostile nations. But still this small country 'Israel' is able to withstand all invasions and deadly terrorist attacks by the power of Almighty God. Therefore fulfilling the prophecies of the Bible today, the United Nation (UN) and powerful countries of the world are striving hard to sign a peace accord between Israel and neighboring hostile countries (in middle east) including archenemy Palestine.

The reemergence of Roman Empire; in the form of European Union as 'ten horns', formation of African Union, and Asian Union (SAARC countries) and much talked about North American Union are known to the world. Today, the world is moving towards preparing a unique national identity card, a single world currency in order to form a one-world government/ order and a common World Trade Organization (WTO) for trade among nations; all these are signaling toward the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ or rapture of the Church as foretold in the Holy Bible.

The distress button has been pressed. All over the world we see fulfillment of Biblical prophecies as the sign of the end times. Apocalypse or pronouncement made by Jesus Christ 2000 years ago and by His prophets of Old Testament times in the Holy Bible are being fulfilled in front of our eyes. Jesus Christ told us that there would be a specific generation who will see prophecies occurring at the same time.

JESUS CHRIST GAVE 'SIGNS' FOR TWO GENERATIONS

In Mt.12:38, we read that the evil and adulterous generation at the time of Jesus Christ sought 'sign'. Christ gave them the sign of the prophet Jona - three days and three nights in the Whale's belly. So shall it happen with the Son of God 'Jesus Christ'; three days and three nights in the earth. If this prophesy has been fulfilled word by word at the time of that evil generation, then **I strongly believe that our generation is going to witness the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the rapture of the Church. The Word of God provides us appropriate hints to it.** *Jesus said, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Mt.24:33-34).*

Readers, this is the generation in which we see the spiritual and satanic warfare is at its peak. Lucifer and its satanic forces are worried and angry on one hand that the world is going out of their control. On the other hand the Holy Spirit is anxiously waiting to take up the bride "Ecclesia" which has been caring for 2000 years.

WHY BELIEVERS SHOULD KNOW THE SIGNS OF END TIMES

Most people, even believers are ignorant what they are watching is in fact fulfillment of Biblical prophecies. The question arises, why we as Believers should know about the signs of end times. The signs of end times will help believers to be assured of their redemption, to be a watchful and alert the nonbelievers to escape from the great tribulation.

- i) **Believers Assured** - Christ has assured the believers saying, *"when these things come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."* (Lk 21:28). The author of Hebrew therefore writes (Heb 10:25) *as you see the day approaching, do not forsake assembling together but keep on exhorting more and more one another.*
- ii) **Believers' Watchfulness** - Jesus Christ said *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be"* (Mt 23:36,37). Just as people of Noah generation knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; and also as heaven was opened and fire and brimstone was rained on Sodom and Gommorah; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. In Lk 21:34-36, Lord Jesus Christ said *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."*
- iii) **Nonbelievers Alerted to Escape from the coming Great Tribulation-** Now, all those who do not believe on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, will have to pass through the great tribulation. For the '**Great Tribulation**' will be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written in the Bible may be fulfilled (Lk 21:22). Jesus said in Gospel of Mathew *"for then shall be 'great tribulation', such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened"* (Mt.24:21,22). The time has come, in fact its already gone, we all as believers should have become powerful witnesses of the coming 'Kingdom of God'. Tell the multitude of unbelievers around us to be ready to escape from the 'Great Tribulation' we should thus snatch many souls from hell fire, - the second death which is meant for Satan and its army. Each and every believer as an Ambassador of the 'Kingdom of God' has the duty to spread the Gospel (Good Spell) of Salvation proclaimed by our King 'Jesus Christ' to the utmost part of the world.

FOREORDAINED DIVINE ORDER IN THE END TIME

The great heaven-ward call to the 'Ecclesia' or 'Church' is very near. The Sabbath year (Year of Rest) for the 'people of God' primised in Heb 4:9 is at hand. The Author of Hebrew writes to the believer "*let us Labor, therefore, to enter into the rest, lest any man fall unto unbelief. In this end time there shall be scoffers 'walking after their own lusts, saying, where is the promise of coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"* (Heb 4:11). But believers, Apostle Peters writes the "*Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" (2 Pt 3:9).

Today, He that hindereth is '**The Holy Spirit**', first the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way (2Thess. 2:7), and then the 'man of sin' or 'the son of peridiction' i.e. AntiChrist will be revealed. He as superman will reign over the Nations of the World for seven years. In the latter three and half years of his reign, the great tribulation will intensify. But "*if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (1Thess. 4:14-17).

I would like to tell the readers who have not got the assurance of this great redemption, that this world will not exist too long but Jesus Christ will come soon. You can be one among the millions of other saved ones' in the 'Kingdom of God'. This is the appropriate time for your salvation. It is written in all religions, that this world is going to end soon. My Hindu friends say that 'Kaliyugh samapt hone wala hai' or 'Evil generation is going to end'. My Muslim friends say that 'Kayamat ka din ane wala hai'; the Day of Judgment is approaching. If Jesus Christ the judge is coming where will you go? What will happen to your Soul? The Bible says it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement fixed (Heb 9:27). Everybody after death will be judged and sent either to eternal Heaven or eternal Hell. Jesus Christ said ' I am the Way the Truth and the Life' no man can attain Heaven except through me. Believer in Him had gone to Paradise.

Readers, you can change your destiny. God loves you very much. He has loved the world so much that He gave his only begotten Son 'Jesus Christ' to mediate that whoso ever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). **Would you like to accept this Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. If so, repeat the following prayer.**

Prayer for Salvation - 'Almighty God the Father in Heaven, I accept that I am a sinner, I also accept that you have sent your only begotten Son Lord Jesus Christ to be punished for me, the cursed death on the cross for my sins. Lord, forgive my sins. I know that you have risen from the dead to live and can take me to heaven.

**Thank you Lord Jesus for the great work of Salvation in my Life.
Father, In Jesus name I ask.' Amen.**

References

1. The Bible, Kings James Version
2. Mathew Henry's Commentary
3. John Wesley's Explanatory Notes
4. Jon Darby's Synopsis
5. The Last Chronicals of Planet Earth, Published By Frank J. Dimora, September 2008.
