

End Time Signs

By Kenneth Parrish

You see it in the streets. You see it in movies and on television shows. A man holding a sign that reads 'The End Is Near.' You may have thought nothing about it. You may have thought that this person was a little off in the head. You may have even laughed at him for such nonsense. But how true is he? Could the end really be near?

It's true that no one knows the hour or time of the end. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:36, "*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*" If this then is the case, should we even be bothered by it?

The answer to that question is emphatically 'YES.' Jesus goes on to say, "*Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him*" (Matthew 24:42-44). Jesus is telling us to keep watch, to be ready so that when He does come, we will not be taken by surprise.

Jesus Himself gave us many signs to watch out for as the end time draws near. Some of them may have already been fulfilled. Here is a list of some of these signs:

- "*There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. Let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains*" Matthew 24:2,16. Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Roman Titus
- "*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world*" Matthew 24:21. This may be pointing to the long period of tribulation that took place during the Dark Ages. Over 50 million Christians were slain during this period that lasted over 1,000 years.
- "*Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened*" Matthew 24:29. On May 19, 1780 darkness fell over the New England area of the United States. It was not an eclipse and scientist, to this day, cannot explain it. The Connecticut Historical Collections quotes Timothy Dwight as saying, "The 19th of May, 1780, was a remarkable dark day. Candles were lighted in many houses; the birds were silent and disappeared, and the fowls retired to roost. ... A very general opinion prevailed, that the day of judgment was at hand."
- "*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come*" Joel 2:31. On the night of the "dark day" mentioned above, the moon became as red as blood. Milo Bostick in Stone's History of Massachusetts says, "The moon which was at its full, had the appearance of blood."
- "*And the stars shall fall from heaven*" Matthew 24:29. On November 13, 1833, a great meteor shower took place. The "falling stars" were so bright that a newspaper could be read by it. The sky was literally ablaze for nearly four hours.

- *“But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass”* Luke 21:9. This is one that we can just look in the daily paper to see.
- *“Even to the time of the end ... knowledge shall be increased”* Daniel 12:4 Knowledge is exploding in all directions, thanks to the Information Age. It is said that 80 percent of the world’s total knowledge has been brought forth in the last decade and that 90 percent of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today.
- *“There shall come in the last days scoffers”* 2 Peter 3:3. *“They will not endure sound doctrine; ... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”* 2 Peter 4:3,4. Take a good look around you to understand this one. Everywhere there are people who are denying plain Bible teachings. Even some religious leaders are denying the Creation, the Flood, the divinity of Christ, the second coming of Christ, and many other vital Bible truths. Secular educators teach our youth to scoff at the Bible record of these great truths. A recent poll discovered that only two percent of American student ministers believe in the literal second coming of Christ.
- *“In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits”* 1 Timothy 4:1. People today, including a vast number of the heads of nations, seek counsel from psychics and spiritualists.
- *“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* Matthew 24:14. Today, the message of Christ is being presented in more than 900 languages and dialects. Nearly 95 percent of the world’s population has access to this message. Satellites are beaming the message across the world by way of radio and television.

These are only a few of the signs and prophecies relating to the end times. Jesus will be coming back. *“This same Jesus ... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven”* Acts 1:11. *“The Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory”* Matthew 24:30.

The signs are there for all those who observe. Maybe the man in the streets is right – the end is near. Keep watch over your house, so that you may not be caught unaware when it does happen.