



Wells of Salvation Ministries

Sermon Outline 7

Author: Edmund E. Wells

“Signs Of The Times”

Scripture – Matthew 24:32-51

Text – Matthew 24:3

Introduction:

To many, the Second Coming of Christ is a fairy tale, a myth. To others, it is a vague distant, obscure event. To those who read the signs it is an approaching reality.

I. Increase Of Travel And Knowledge

1. Daniel 12:4 – “Shut up the words and seal the book even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased”
 - A. Within the last 100+ years, machines have replaced animal power
 - Sailing vessels → steam, gas, diesel power ships
 - Stage coaches and carriages → trains, buses, subways
 - Horses → automobiles, trucks and tractors
 - Hot air balloons → planes, jets, rockets and spacecraft
 - People across the sea are now our neighbors
 - Paves way for Antichrist
 - Man has means to travel, but is not getting anywhere
 - Pacing to and fro like caged animal
 - B. Poor have ready access to plentiful knowledge
 - Public schools, colleges, Bible schools, Sunday schools
 - Mass media sources – radio, television, press and Internet
 - Interactive computer learning

II. Perilous Times

1. 2 Timothy 3:1 – “...in the last days, perilous times shall come.”
 - A. Physically
 - Diseases
 - Heart trouble, cancer, polio, AIDS, West Nile virus, MRSA, drug-resistant forms of disease, fear of Avian (Bird) flu
 - Pestilence
 - Corn borer, grasshoppers, boll weevil, blight, zebra mussels, introduction of several non-indigenous creatures across the world
 - Famine
 - Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, typhoons
 - B. Politically and socially
 - Insecurity of governments
 - Communism, socialism, religious and totalitarian states, tribalism, anarchy

- Vacillating codes of morality; conscience seared
- International distrust and distress
 - Armies, arms, atomic bombs, nerve agents, biological warfare, increasingly sophisticated / lethal precision weapon systems

III. False Doctrines

1. 1 Timothy 4:1 – “...in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils...”
 - A. Cults – old and new
 - Denying Deity of Jesus Christ
 - Worshipping created things rather than the Creator
 - Our day presents a virtual smorgasbord of religions and schools of belief – whatever you want it’s out there!
 - B. Modernism
 - Denying miracles and inspiration of the Word

IV. Apostasy

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – the day of the Lord shall not come, “except there come a great falling away first.”
 - A. Laodicean lukewarmness
 - Half-hearted service (5 foolish virgins)
 - B. Receding faith
 - In God (multitude of backsliders)
 - In Second Coming

V. World-Wide Evangelism

1. Matthew 24:14 – “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, then shall the end come.”
 - A. Church faithfully fulfilling mission
 - Jonah preached 3 days – most nations have much greater witness

Oh, Church of Christ behold at last
 The promised sign appear:
 The gospel preached in all the world,
 And lo! The King draws near!

- B. Electronic media evangelism

VI. Rich Men

1. James 5:8 – “Ye have heaped treasures together for (in) the last days.”
 - A. Mighty financial wizards – Rockefeller, Ford, Carnegie, DuPont, Gates
 - B. If Adam had lived until now and accumulated \$10,000 per year, he would still fall short of some of today’s great fortunes

VII. Israel

1. Luke 21:24 – “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled
 - A. Zionist movement
 - Orthodox – devout, prayers
 - Reformed – agnostic
 - Ready to receive Antichrist
 - B. Israel accepted as a nation – 1948
 - C. Six-day war
 - D. Annexation of Jerusalem into Israel – 1980

Conclusion: Christ is coming soon. Time’s clock is about to strike. Before another day -- the sky may split, grave stones may topple, and radio, television, newspapers, magazines and Internet announce exodus of Christians from the world similar to Israel from Egypt. Let’s be prepared!

Postscript – Throughout his life, author Ed Wells expressed hope that he would be alive for the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But God had something better planned for Ed. We believe Ed is now preparing to accompany the Lord from the other side, when he returns with His saints to receive faithful believers – a joyous meeting in the air! With every day that goes by, we are one day closer to His return!

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