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Our Missionaries Speak



WHEN WILL IT BE?

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There are four types of people in this world, so far as the coming of the Lord is concerned: 1. The millions who simply know nothing about this great event. 2. Those who know, but who scoff and ridicule such an idea. 3. Those who have wearied of waiting and lost hope. 4. Those who are like the apostles Paul and John who said: 2 Tim. 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing." Rev. 22:20 "He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly (or swiftly or speedily). Amen. Even so come Lord JESUS." Perhaps I should mention a 5th: those who believe that Jesus has already come. Even in Paul's day there were some who troubled the Christians with such a premature idea. You will find reference to this in the epistles to the Thessalonians. Our concern should be for all these groups, and it is up to us as individual Christians to accept the challenge to belong to the group number 4. If we truly "love His appearing" and can say "Even so come Lord JESUS," then our greatest worry should be a thing of the past — yet ever alert and eager should we be as we work, prepare and wait.

There are to be general and special signs pointing to the soon coming of the Lord. Let me list some of these and give you quotations:

1. **Disturbances in nature:** Signs in the sun, moon, and stars Lu. 21:25. Earthquakes in divers places and the sea and waves roaring Mat. 24:7.

2. **Distress and perplexity of nations:** Wars: Mat. 24:6; Famine and pestilence Mat. 24:7; Fear: men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things. Lu. 21:26.

3. **Budding of the fig tree, and of all the trees:** Lu. 22:29. A study of the new Jewish state and nation, and other new nations emerging.

4. **Spiritual recession:** Because iniquity shall abound the love of MANY shall wax cold Mat. 24:12; Falling away must come first 2 Thes. 2:3.

(b) Spiritual and moral conditions to be as they were in the days of Noah Mat. 24:37.

(c) Many false Christs and false prophets to present themselves even performing miracles Mat. 24:5, 11, 24.

(d) Man of sin to be revealed Mat. 24:12; 2 Thes. 2:3.

5. **A time of imminent destruction:** When they shall say peace and safety then sudden destruction cometh upon them. 1 Thes. 5:3. Except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved. Mat. 24:22.

6. **Possibly a great revival too:** Rev. 12:2, 5; Joel 2:23; Mat. 25:6; 24:14. Gospel preached to all nations.

Because God has given notice of the signs that will precede the coming of the Lord it is our duty to be posted, and up to date in reading them and understanding them. We should be like the wise men who read the signs of the first coming of the Lord JESUS. Notices and sign boards are not put up in public places to decorate the town — they are put up to notify the public of coming events. Road signs are not placed by the side of roads to make a change in scenery: they are warnings of what may be expected immediately ahead. So also with the prophecies we find in the Bible, they are there for a purpose and the Holy Spirit is here to help us understand them. How many prophecies are there of the coming of Jesus? What percentage of Bible prophecy is devoted to this one subject? If we are not careful we shall be like the antediluvians of Noah's day, they had 120 years notice and announcement by Noah, yet listen to this: "and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away..." Mat. 24:39.

THE PREACHER'S WIFE

There is one person in your church
Who knows your preacher's life;
She wept and smiled and prayed with him
And that's your preacher's wife.

The crowd has seen him in all this strength,
When glistened the drawn sword
As underneath God's banner folds
He faced the devil's horde.

But she knows deep within her heart
That scarce an hour before,
She helped him pray the glory down
Behind the closet door.

She's heard him groaning in his soul,
When bitter raged the strife,
As, hand in hand, she knelt with him—
For she's the preacher's wife!

You tell your tales of prophets brave
Who walked across the world,
And changed the course of history
By burning words they hurled.

And I will tell how, back of them,
Some women lived their lives,
Who wept with them and smiled with them,
They were the preacher's wives.

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