

# Signs of the Times

Jan. 23, 2005 (AM) – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

#6 In Series: “Now Is The Time”

Matthew 16:3

---

Mt 16:3 And in the morning, [It will be] foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O [ye] hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not [discern] the signs of the times?

---

## I. MEN SEEK AFTER A SIGN

- A. Mar 8:12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.
1. Why should this generation in which Jesus was living seek after a sign? They have many signs of the time of Jesus' coming.
    - a. They have the prophecy from Mal 3:1 ¶ Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.
    - b. They have the prophecy from De 18:15 ¶ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;
    - c. They have the prophecy of Isa 40:3 ¶ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. -This is a prediction of the ministry of John the Baptist.
    - d. Jesus actually read his own prophecy to them in the synagogue from Isa 61:1 ¶ The Spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to [them that are] bound;
    - e. Lu 11:30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.
  2. These were seeking for their own sign, not one that God would give of his own.
    - a. Mr 8:11 And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him.
    - b. 1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

## II. THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH

- A. His Birth
1. Lu 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this [child] is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;
- B. His Works
1. Joh 5:36 But I have greater witness than [that] of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that

the Father hath sent me.

C. His Scriptures

1. Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

D. His Coming

1. Mt 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
2. Mt 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

### III. THE TIMES CONSIDERED

A. Time of Reformation

1. Heb 9:10 [Which stood] only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed [on them] until the time of reformation.

B. Time of Sojourning

1. 1Pe 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning [here] in fear:

C. Time of Departure

1. 2Ti 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

D. Time of the Dead

1. Re 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

### Conclusion

Can you read the signs of the times? Do you know about the Savior who came and gave his life for our sins? Do you know that he is coming again? Let's read one last passage:

Matt. 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. 38 ¶ Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it is his sign for every generation, for every time. It is the sign for now. Will you today believe and trust in him that he died, was buried and rose again the third day to pay for your sin?