

UNIT 2

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*Christ's return will be unexpected by the careless and the indifferent;
it will be expected, but not predicted, by the watchful.*

I/ Signs Evidencing the Grace of God

A. The proclamation of the gospel to all nations

Isaiah 52:7-10; Matthew 24:14

i. Already

ii. Not yet

The missionary preaching of the gospel to all nations is, in fact, the outstanding and most characteristic sign of the times. It gives to the present age its primary meaning and purpose. The period between Christ's first and second coming is the missionary age *par excellence*. This is a time of grace, a time when God invites and urges all men to be saved...This sign of the times, therefore, should be a great incentive for missions. It lays on every generation since Pentecost the solemn duty of bringing the gospel to every nation. —Anthony Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future*

Romans 10:14-15

B. The salvation of the fullness of Israel

Romans 11:25-32

i. Already

ii. Not yet

II/ Signs Indicating Opposition to God

A. Tribulation

Matthew 24:1-3, 9, 15-22

i. Already

Mark 13:9

- ii. Not yet

2 Timothy 3:12; John 17:15

B. Apostasy

The Bible gives us these warnings so that we might not jump ship when persecution happens. “Hey God, I never signed up for this! I thought Jesus was supposed to solve my problems, not create new one. Isn’t Jesus supposed to bless his followers with health and prosperity?” Suffering tests our faith, revealing who’s really committed to Jesus and who merely looks to him as a kind of heavenly Santa Claus. Jesus warned that many would fall away when persecution came. —Jeramie Rine

Matthew 24:10-12, 23-25

- i. Already

- ii. Not yet

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

C. The Antichrist

III/ Signs Indicating Divine Judgment

A. Wars and Rumors of Wars

Matthew 24:6-7

B. Natural Phenomena

Matthew 24:7

C. Wickedness and Lawlessness

2 Timothy 3:1-5

“I never lay my head on the pillow without thinking that perhaps before I awake, the final morning may have dawned. I never begin my work without thinking that He may interrupt it to begin His own. And every night before we go to sleep, we ought to say, ‘He may come tonight.’ Every day when we get out our tools and go to work, ‘This may be the last day’s work I’ll do.’” –G. Campbell Morgan