

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America New Year

February 2021

Signs of the Times

Matthew 24:3 As He (Jesus) 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 the end of the world?" Jesus answered and said "Take heed that no man deceive you." He then goes on to tell them what can be expected to happen in the end times. Matt 24:4-51 and also Luke 21:8-36 and Mark 13:5-27

We are seeing much that Jesus says is going to take place in the fulfillment of time. There is much confusion and unrest, as rioters and protesters take matters in their own hands. Men's hearts failing them for fear of what may be ahead. We are seeing persecution, sufferings for the Name of Christ, pestilences, famines, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires and presently, a world-wide corona virus that is causing many to live in fear and bondage and has changed the lives of people all over the world.

In our nation we are witnessing solid foundations crumbling; marriage is not given its God ordained place in society. Marriage outside of the union of one man and one woman is an abomination before God. The lives of the most innocent of us are being snuffed out as though they have no value. What is good has become evil and what is evil has become good. It is as Isaiah 5:20 states "Woe to them that call evil good and good evil, that put darkness for light and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight".

The freedoms that God has given to us are being trampled. Much of the world no longer holds as sacred the Word of God.

Though Jesus speaks of what persecution we as Christians may endure, He gives us the assurance that He will be with us. In Matthew 10:19-20 He states "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not you that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Luke 21:14-15 He will grant us the mouth and wisdom to answer our adversaries. The sermon on the mount in Matt.5:11-12 states "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in Heaven for so they persecuted the prophets which were before you.

By God's grace and strength, we need to stand firm and uphold the Word of God. and pray that we might be a light in this darkened world.

Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation as the time nears for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We do not know when this will be but the signs are before us. It was not given even to Jesus to know the day of the end of the world. Mark 8:32 says "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." Mark.8:35-37 "Watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning: Lest He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

It is especially a time for God's people to pray for this nation and our leaders when we see what is happening. In II Chronicles 7:14 God spoke to Israel through Samuel "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sins and heal their land." This exhortation can apply for our present time.

May God be with us all. God's Peace

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