

“SIGNS OF THE TIME - DETERIORATION OR RESTORATION?”

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INTRO: Are bad things happening a sign of the times – a sign of Christ’s soon return? Imposing eschatology on Scripture rather than allowing Scripture to form eschatology.

My three eschatology non-negotiables: **1) Jesus is Coming, 2) Be Ready & 3) Be Victorious.**

Conflicting Eschatological Beliefs – Christ’s Imminent Return vs. a great last-days revival before Christ returns.

- The imminent Return of Christ vs. the signs of the times.
- When did Christ’s Imminent Return become Imminent?
Not until the Spirit came (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:8) & Peter got old and died (Jn. 21:18-19). Did Israel have to first become a nation in 1948? Do things have to get worse and worse?

Questions for Consideration:

1. Did Jesus expect us to be effective at fulfilling The Great Commission of discipling all nations (Matt. 28:18-20)?
2. Is Jesus coming back for a glorious church (Eph. 5:27)?
3. What do Isaiah 9:7 & Acts 3:20-21 mean?

The Parables & The Parousia (Matt. 13): Jesus used parables (stories) to reveal kingdom mysteries to those with open hearts while concealing from closed hearts (vv. 10-17).

The Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23).

1. The seed fell on 4 soils – 4 types of hearts:

- A. Walking paths – hardened heart. Reject gospel (vv. 4, 18-19).
- B. Rocky soil – superficial heart – receives the gospel but falls away when persecution/tribulation comes (vv. 5-7, 20-21).
- C. Thorny soil – distracted heart – receives the gospel at first but falls away because of the cares of the world (vv. 7, 22).
- D. Good soil – bears much fruit (vv. 8, 23).

2. The results: While 4 soils, the majority of seed would be sown on the good soil & produce far more than was lost.

- A. What happened to the seed sown in the book of Acts (2:41, 47; 4:4, 32; 5:14, 28; 6:1, 7; 8:4-8, 14; 9:31, 35, 42; 11:21; 12:24; 13:45; 14:1, 4, 6; Col. 1:5-6, 23)?

CONCLUSION: Jesus is coming! Be ready! Be victorious! Be good soil! Be teachable! Be busy fulfilling The Great Commission!