

12 Foreshadows

Hope U - October, 2022

Week 2

There are six things *not* to be “ignorant” (the Greek word: agnoia - from which we get the English word “agnostic”) about in God’s word:

1. Spiritual gifts, the work of the Holy Spirit: *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed”* (1 Corinthians 12:1).
2. Typology: *“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ”* (1 Corinthians 10:1-4).
3. The mystery of Israel: *“Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins”* (Romans 11:25-27).
4. God’s timing: *“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”* (2 Peter 3:8-9).
5. Satan’s devices: *“So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs”* (2 Corinthians 2:11).
6. The Rapture of the Church: *“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord*

in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

A review of last week:

1. The super sign: Israel
2. The rise of globalism
3. Movement toward a one-world government
4. Building a united European empire
5. All-invasive technology and surveillance

Continuing our journey and more signs/foreshadows:

The next sign: The Progression Toward a One-World economy

Trends:

1. Closing the gap between developed and underdeveloped nations
 - China and the BRI (the Chinese are everywhere!)
 - The rich and the poor separation
 - Increasing connectivity among the nations
2. The move toward a cashless economy
 - Everything is done electronically
 - The abuse of this is what is concerning
 - The wealthy nations will need to stabilize the weaker ones (think Greece which equals control)
3. The possibility of a one world currency grows greater
 - The only answer as economic woes become greater

What could cause this? An international debt crisis!

- In the USA: 2008 and now
- Around the world
- A desire for a global reset? (Remember WEF)

Revelation 18 and Babylon the Great: a world economic empire in the last days

Reminder: God owns everything! None of this is catching him by surprise. This is his world.

The Next Sign: The Descent into Moral and Spiritual Corruption

Like the Days of Noah - a 120 decline during his preaching of righteousness: *“If he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with*

seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5). Yet no one listened.

Devolutions: “While evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13).

The Causes of Moral and Spiritual Corruption:

1. The rejection of God (The rise of atheism in USA—already in secular Europe and beyond. Think Argentina, Ireland, Iceland - when abortion laws passed and how passionately people celebrated)
2. And love of self: *“For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy” (2 Timothy 3:2).*
3. The lusts of flesh: *“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21).*
4. The decline of the Church: 1) False teachers: *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15).* Practically every book in the Bible warns us as well - read Jude through these lenses. More will be shown in the next sign; 2) Those who call themselves Christians are no different than the world. A holy church is the same as a common/secular church, believing the same (Word/World; Christ/culture).

The answer:

1. Seek God's truth
 2. Live God's truth
- Reminder: Jesus is the Truth. Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).* Rest in his eternal love and truth.

The Next Sign: The Proliferation of Deception

- 1) There are false teachers and those who speak lies.
- 2) Deceitful workers are all around us: *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. ¹⁶ I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if*

you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would^[a] but as a fool” (2 Corinthians 11:13-17).

- 3) The Great Deception and The Great Falling Away. Jesus said so: *“And Jesus answered them, ‘See that no one leads you astray’” (Matthew 24:4). “And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray” (Matthew 24:11).*
- 4) Peter’s description: *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2:1).*

- How to discern?

1. Filter through God’s Word: *“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men” (Acts 17:11-12).* Be Bereans.
 2. Test the spirits by looking for holiness and purity: *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).* Listen to the Holy Spirit. He will speak to you: *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).*
 3. Know the truth: God’s Word. Study apologetics.
 4. Be under the teaching of those who hold tenaciously to the truth of God’s Word and its absolutely inerrancy.
 5. Look for unabashed teachings about who God is, Jesus is, hell, judgment, the fear of the Lord, the cross, the Holy Spirit, sin and salvation.
- Truth is truth. It never changes. A key understanding: Truth by its very definition is exclusive. And always be ready to turn the tables! If someone says, “I don’t believe Jesus is the only way,” state, “Well, that’s a truth claim!”
 - Reminder: Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom. And he will give it to you abundantly: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (James 1:5).*

The Next Foreshadow: The Assault on Truth

- Controlling speech and the way people think
- Intimidating people from speaking up
- Satan is a liar: *“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies”* (John 8:44).
- Jesus called Satan *“the ruler of this world”* (John 12:31). It's what Satan offered Jesus through the temptations (Matthew 4:1-11).
- The ways Satan is working specifically in our culture:
 1. Words will be banned
 2. Words will be redefined
 3. The suppression of thought and censorship - Truth Commissions (but they get to define the truth!)
 4. Tolerance is the highest virtue
 5. Nobody's feelings can be hurt: hate speech can't happen
 6. The redefinition of evil as good and vice versa: *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”* (Isaiah 5:20). *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes”* (Judges 21:25).
 7. Abortion as an example. Father John Powell: “If this doesn't bother you, what will?” People have *“seared consciences”* (1 Timothy 4:2). Nations will be judged for how they have treated their weakest and most vulnerable.
 8. Sexualizing kids (recent Boston Children's Hospital: kids know to transition in the womb!)
 9. Control of the media - especially the Internet
 10. Key question: Who gets to decide truth? *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth”* (John 17:17).

- Remember: Truth is truth. Truth, by its very definition is exclusive. Be ready to turn the tables on those who say something like they don't believe that Jesus is the *only* way. Say to them with love: "That's an exclusive truth claim."
- Reminder: God will prevail. His truth is forever. Time and truth travel together. His will be done. On earth, as it is in heaven.
- The longer I live, the more I believe the road to heaven is narrow.
- The gospel once again. It is the power of God to change any and all lives for God's glory.
- The Bible once again: its unity and plan.
- Look up! Speak up! Be salt and light. Always be ready to give an account of the hope that lives in you. This is your testimony!
- Regularly read the signs of the times around you.
- Let's end by reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11:

"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,^[a] you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children^[a] of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."