

# Matthew 24:33 NASB

33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

#### Matthew 24:33 KJV

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Remember, the word *know* and *recognize* in the Greek in Matthews 24:33 is a command. You and I are commanded to know these signs to *these things* of His return.

We prove we love God by keeping His commands, Jesus said...

#### **John 14:15 KJV**

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

# John 14:21 KJV

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

There are more benefits of being obedient to God's commands as well which He shows by His love. Remember God is love and He is the Word. The Word tells us what is going to happen when we are obedient and disobedient. His Word is for you and I so we won't be in the dark to the signs of the season of His return.

# <u> 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 KJV</u>

- I But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
- 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
- 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
- 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

God's Word speaks about the righteous, those who it is their nature, not perfect people but perfecting and no iniquity. **God's Word contains many warnings about wickedness**. Those who obeyed the warnings from God, were spared the predicted consequences. God's Word defines the primary dictionary definition of the word "warn"...

# **Warn Defined:**

to tell (a person) of a danger, coming evil, misfortune, etc.;

God has always made known to His people *or warned them* about impending times of trouble, and given them time to prepare or escape...

**He warned Noah and his family** of the coming flood and directed them how to prepare to survive it.

#### Hebrews 11:7 KJV

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith

#### Hebrews 11:7 AMPC

7 [Prompted] by faith Noah, being forewarned by God concerning events of which as yet there was no visible sign, took heed and diligently and reverently constructed and prepared an ark for the deliverance of his own family. By this [his faith which relied on God] he passed judgment and sentence on the world's unbelief and became an heir and possessor of righteousness (that relation of being right into which God puts the person who has faith).

*He warned Lot and his family* of the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and told them to flee.

# Genesis 19:14 KJV

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

The son-in-laws scoffed at his warning, thought he was surely joking and not to be taken seriously about his warning of God's judgment and the way to escape before it was too late.

In Jude and 2 Peter 3, they both said that there would be scoffers at the Time Of The End not believing that judgment was coming or that their sin or iniquity (unrepentant sin) would lead to death. God is speaking to the Church. This is satan deceiving the believer and false teachers spinning what God said about grace and love...would God really kill you over a piece of fruit?

#### Genesis 3:1-4 KJV

- I Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

This is how many people will not make the Rapture - deception from their own reasoning and false teachers.

#### Genesis 3:1-4 AMPC

- I Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?
- 2 And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden,
- 3 Except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.
- 4 But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,

Satan reasoned with Eve, it's just fruit...is God is going to kill you over fruit? No, it's not about the fruit. He is judging you over obedience and those who obeyed the warnings from God were spared the predicted consequences.

Iniquity in the church and wickedness is just one of the multiple signs as verse Matthew 24:33 indicates, "when ye shall see all these things". The Bible speaks to the Time Of The End by commanding us to know the aligning of nations preparing for war, one world religion, one world economy, one world government and Israel becoming a nation again.

We can see Iraq, Syria and Lebanon becoming national news, which is the area of Mystery Babylon in the book of Revelation and the 7th Empire of Biblical history in the Book of Daniel. In Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, it tells us of the countries that will be against Israel at the End of Time which are the descendants of those found in the book of Genesis - as it was in the beginning.

Why is there a command to know the Word? Why does Jesus tell us to go back 2600 years ago to the book of Daniel and 4400 years ago to the time of Noah? Why does Jude tell us to go back and remember Enoch's prophecy of judgment by fire from 5400 years ago? Why does Peter say remember the words spoken by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the apostles?

#### **Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC**

9 [Earnestly] remember the former things, [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,

10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,

#### Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 KJV

9 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

10 Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

These *things* or *signs* of His return also include the spiritual state of many believers and the Church at the Time of The End.

# 2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

- 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

As a result of these perilous or spiritually difficult times, God has sent His witnesses to prophetically identify, "this is that", spoken of in Gods's Word. This form of prophecy is forth telling which is to bring forth or forward by identifying a prophecy that was foretold or forewarned about for a future time.

#### Romans 10:8-18 KJV

- 8 But what saith it? The word is night hee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
- 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
- 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.
- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

- 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
- 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?
- 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- 18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

So, God has given us His Word, preachers and teachers to speak the whole truth whether it is welcome or unwelcome.

# 2 Timothy 4:1-5 KJV

- I **I charge thee** therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who shall judge** the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
- 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
- 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
- 5 But watch thou in **all things**, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry**.

God tells the pastors to preach the Word, the whole Word is the specific implication in verse 2. Because at the Time Of The End people won't want to hear the parts about sin and judgment.

God's Word said that the followers of Christ will scoff at what is sin at the Time Of The End. They don't want to hear the warnings even though that is the most loving thing a pastor could do which is done by preaching "repent Jesus is coming".

# 1 John 4:8 KJV

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

#### John 1:1 KJV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Yet people still will not believe that "their" sin is sin, even though they believe everything else is wrong there is one thing, one sin that they habitually do which is **called iniquity**, that they think they won't be judged for. Deceived, misled and prideful.

# **Iniquity Defined**

The Bible uses words such as iniquity, transgression, and trespass to indicate levels of disobedience to God. They are all categorized as "sin." The Hebrew word used most often for "iniquity" means "guilt worthy of punishment." Iniquity is sin at its worst. Iniquity is premeditated, continuing, escalating and

#### *Matthew 24:11-12 AMPC*

11 And many false prophets will rise up and deceive and lead many into error.

12 And the love of the great body of people will grow cold because of the multiplied lawlessness and iniquity,

There will be scoffers who twist the Word and gather to themselves false teachers who will mislead them. You can't mislead unless you are a leader. Jesus, Peter, Paul & Jude speak to this about who and what you are listening to. Paul said "even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse"!

Jesus said at the time of Noah & Lot so would it be at the Time Of The End. Last week we looked at alcohol and homosexuality which, at the Time Of The End, is definitely not just a problem in the culture in general but in the Church as well.

#### Luke 17:26-30 AMPC

- 26 And [just] as it was in the <u>days of Noah</u>, so will it be in the time of the Son of Man.
- 27 [People] ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, right up to the day when Noah went into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.
- 28 <u>So also [it was the same] as it was in the days of Lot</u>. [People] ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;
- 29 <u>But on the [very] day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed [them] all.</u> 30 That is the way it will be on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

Remember, right after being spared from judgment the righteous man, Noah got drunk. It was not his nature but sin still has its' consequences and something happened to Noah and that whole family as a result.

In Genesis 9:20-27 we read that Ham saw something that Canaan his son did to his father Noah and told Japheth and Shem. They covered up Noah but when he woke up he realized what Ham's son Canaan had done to him and cursed Canaan.

We know by reading God's Word that Canaan's children, one being Sidon settled in Lebanon and others by the name of Sodom and Gomorrah settled by the Dead Sea. Canaan's descendants were called the Canaanites and lived all throughout modern day Israel which tried to stop God's people led by Moses from entering the Promised Land.

With all the scriptures about homosexuality and drunkards (which history tells us what that standard of that is) not entering into the kingdom of Heaven you would think that followers of Christ wouldn't scoff at this but they do - willfully ignorant.

Just like it wasn't about the fruit in the garden with Adam and Eve, this isn't about the alcohol today. This is about obedience to whatever God says regardless of your natural feelings, the way you were raised, the culture, what your friends think is ok... if you are struggling with something that your friends are doing opposing God's Word - dump your friend(s).

# 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 AMPC

9 I wrote you in my [previous] letter not to associate [closely and habitually] with unchaste (impure) people—

10 Not [meaning of course that you must] altogether shun the immoral people of this world, or the greedy graspers and cheats

and thieves or idolaters, since otherwise you would need to get out of the world and human society altogether!

Il But now I write to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of [Christian] brother if he is known to be guilty of immorality or greed, or is an idolater [whose soul is devoted to any object that usurps the place of God], or is a person with a foul tongue [railing, abusing, reviling, slandering], or is a drunkard or a swindler or a robber. [No] you must not so much as eat with such a person.

12 What [business] of mine is it and what right have I to judge outsiders? Is it not those inside [the church] upon whom you are to pass disciplinary judgment [passing censuring sentence on them as the facts require]?

13 God alone sits in judgment on those who are outside. Drive out that wicked one from among you [expel him from your church].

God loves you and I so much that it is not His desire that any should perish (2 peter 3:9). So, He is warning us on how to deal with someone who calls themselves a Christian - this is big, this is a hard truth, but, it is Love.

Now, lets see what the Word has to say about the days of Lot which deals with the descendants of Canaan, sons of Ham, and two of those descendants were Sodom and Gomorrah.

# **Iniquity and Wickedness**

Drunkenness and homosexuality were a problem at the time of Noah. So we shouldn't be surprised at the Time Of The End when these are 2 big issues today in the Church. The Bible calls them wicked or wickedness and to no longer call them sin leads to iniquity. Iniquity is unrepentant sin.

# Ezekiel 16:49-50 KJV

49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, (you cant judge me) fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

50 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

The city of Sodom is very corrupt. The old men and young men are practicing sodomy (Genesis Chapter 18 &19) which is why the city was named the way it was.

#### Genesis 18:20 KJV

20 And the Lord said, Because the <u>cry</u> of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

#### Genesis 18:20 AMPC

20 And the Lord said, Because the shriek [of the sins] of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is exceedingly grievous,

#### Genesis 18:20 NKJV

20 And the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

The word *cry*, coming up before God, means *shriek* or *outcry* which is used in the AMPC and the NKJV. The outcry of what is happening in Sodom and Gomorrah is very great. The Bible says their sin was *grievous* which in the Hebrew means heavy weight or a heavy burden.

Let's go back to the book of Jasher and see what Jewish history reveals about the time of Sodom and Gomorrah...

#### **Jasher 19:1, 3**

1 And the cities of Sodom had four judges to four cities, and these were their names, Serak in the city of Sodom, Sharkad in Gomorrah, Zabnac in Admah, and Menon in Zeboyim.

3 And by desire of their four judges the people of Sodom and Gomorrah had beds erected in the streets of the cities, and if a man came to these places they laid hold of him and brought him to one of their beds, and by force made him to lie in them.

The Book of Jasher is also known as the "Book of the Upright One" in the Greek Septuagint and the "Book of the Just Ones" in the Latin Vulgate. The Book of Jasher is a collection or compilation of ancient Hebrew songs and poems praising the heroes of Israel and their exploits in battle. The Book of Jasher is mentioned in Joshua 10:12-13 when the Lord stopped the sun in the middle of the day during the battle of Beth Horon. It is also mentioned in 2 Samuel 1:18-27 as containing the Song or Lament of the Bow, that mournful funeral song which David composed at the time of the death of Saul and Jonathan.

These cities had 4 judges who were corrupt and approved of this lifestyle. These judges approved of having beds built in the streets so when a stranger came into the city it was lawful to rape that stranger in the street. That is how bad the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah had become. Public sodomy in the street and judges saying it was normal lifestyle and that it was ok or lawful.

# **Genesis 19:1-5 GNT**

- I When the two angels came to Sodom that evening, Lot was sitting at the city gate. As soon as he saw them, he got up and went to meet them. He bowed down before them
- 2 and said, "Sirs, I am here to serve you. Please come to my house. You can wash your feet and spend the night. In the morning you can get up early and go on your way."

But they answered, "No, we will spend the night here in the city square."

- 3 He kept on urging them, and finally they went with him to his house. Lot ordered his servants to bake some bread and prepare a fine meal for the guests. When it was ready, they ate it.
- 4 Before the guests went to bed, the men of Sodom surrounded the house. All the men of the city, both young and old, were there.
- 5 They called out to Lot and asked, "Where are the men who came to stay with you tonight? Bring them out to us!" The men of Sodom wanted to have sex with them.

There were 2 angels that came into Lot's house. Men came at night and tried to break the door down because they wanted to gang rape these 2 men/angels. Let's keep reading...

#### Genesis 19:6-9 AMPC

- 6 And Lot went out of the door to the men and shut the door after him
- 7 And said, I beg of you, my brothers, do not behave so wickedly.

8 Look now, I have two daughters who are virgins; let me, I beg of you, bring them out to you, and you can do as you please with them. But only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.

9 But they said, Stand back! And they said, This fellow came in to live here temporarily, and now he presumes to be [our] judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them. So they rushed at and pressed violently against Lot and came close to breaking down the door.

When Lot says don't do this thing they respond with what sounds like what's on the news and in many churches today... who are you to judge? They went on to say if you don't give us what we want we will do worse to you - which is gang rape.

When individuals become involved in that lifestyle and become so violent that they make threats against the righteous, that is when the wrath of God is going to get poured out on America like you and I have never seen.

Based on God's Word, in His wrath to protect the righteous, He will come down and in His judgment He will cause an earthquake, judgement by fire... something will happen that will cause massive destruction. Only the righteous will recognize it as the wrath and judgment upon a terrible iniquity.

The main issue at the Time Of The End is going to be sodomy or same sex relations/marriage. How do I know that? Because God's Word tells us something about it...

# **Daniel 11:37 KJV**

37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

In the Islamic world it is very common for older men to have sexual relations with younger boys in places like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq but they don't call it homosexuality. The antichrist will be coming out of this Islamic background even though in Islam you are not supposed to be homosexual which in places like Iran you are killed for having sexual relations with the same sex.

But, in areas of the Islamic world we know that this takes place and is permissible and in other countries it is not. It also takes place in the Catholic Church even though the Bible says it is wrong - yet there will be a one world religion and government coexisting and will have to be in agreement with "things".

# Revelation 11:3-13 KJV

- 3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
- 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.
- 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

# 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

# 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Those who did not obey the warnings from God, were not spared the predicted consequences, that is why they were full of fear. The scoffers realized that they should have had faith and acted upon it or repented. As a result judgment came immediately, that same hour on those who came up against righteousness just like judgment came upon Sodom the moment Lot and his family left it was consumed with fire. That fire was God's wrath from His judgment and the earthquake and the slaying of the seven thousand was God's wrath. He is patient, but don't mess with the righteous.

Something interesting is taking place regarding Revelation 11:8 and the gay community. The LGBTQ community is wanting to make Jerusalem the gay capital of the world.

#### Revelation 11:8 KJV

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called **Sodom** and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

This will happen at some point in the future according to this prophecy in which the city of Jerusalem will be known as the spiritual Sodom. With the one world religious leader and the one world governmental leader ruling from Jerusalem you can see how a world wide gay community could have an office in Jerusalem.

Now, the Bible tells us something in Revelation Chapter 9...

#### Revelation 9:20-21 KJV

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

It says that men *repented not* or did not repent (iniquity) of their fornication. The Greek word for fornication here in this passage is *pornea*, which means all forms of sexual perversion. Sex outside of marriage, prostitution and homosexuality etc.

The Bible says that men and women won't even repent in the Tribulation because the bondage of homosexuality is going to be so bad. Knowing that judgment is coming, knowing the Rapture already took place, watching the 2 witnesses going up into heaven, they still won't believe that God will judge them by eternity in Hell or by fire.

So, we have the drunkenness issues of the days of Noah, the homosexuality issues of the days of Lot and the third issue is the shedding of innocent blood.

That is where we will pick up next week...