

THE END IS NEAR

AUGUST 5, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

We're living in unprecedented times. Covid-19 has changed the landscape of our society. Empty shelves, schools closing, bars and restaurants limited, churches are live streaming, sporting events canceled or altered, the home is the new workplace, weddings and funerals postponed, no visitation in hospitals or nursing homes, movie theaters closed and masks being worn. Is Covid-19 a sign that the end is near, or is it a precursor to things to come? What about the Spanish Flu of 1918?

One Major Sign ACTS 3:19-21

Restitution means the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner. **ACTS 1:5** Israel lost it all. In AD 70, Jerusalem fell and the Jewish people were scattered. The end can't come before the time of Israel's restitution: 1948 - Israel became a nation; 1967 Jerusalem became the capital; 1989 Jews returned to Israel; 1992 cloud busting produces the latter rain; 2000 the desert blossoms as the rose (**ISAIAH 35:1**). Now, plans are drawn up for the rebuilding of the third temple and restoration of animal sacrifices.

What Jesus Taught

MATTHEW 16:1-4

Jesus criticized the Pharisees for not discerning the signs of the times. No clearer sign was right before them, but they couldn't see it. So Jesus points them to Jonah.

MATTHEW 24:3-8

Signs to look for knowing they would not experience them. In **Verse 3**, they ask three questions: When will these things be? What will be the sign of your coming? What will be the sign of the end of the age?

MATTHEW 24:36

Date setting is foolish in light of what Jesus said. A research team used scripture, history, science and astronomy to determine the year. They concluded we entered 6001 last March. They believe Jesus will come this Fall Feast of Trumpets.

MATTHEW 24:37-44

Jesus taught us to "be ready". Plan as if He's not coming soon, live as if He's coming tonight.

MATTHEW 24:7

Covid-19 isn't a sign, but can be a precursor or forerunner of the pestilence (fatal epidemic disease) that will come in the tribulation.

EZEKIEL 39:11-13

Forerunner to burying dead bodies for seven months. **REVELATION 16:8-11, 6:8, 9:18** One plague kills 2 billion people.

Lessons to Learn

- 1.) Everyone's vulnerable. Coaches, celebrities, athletes, politicians, young, old, rich or poor, no matter the race, or gender, everyone is vulnerable. **JOHN 16:33 AMP**
- 2.) The uncertainty of life. **JAMES 4:13-16** We live in the most highly developed and powerful nation on earth. Yet, a tiny germ can bring it to a halt. **PSALMS 39:5 HCSB**
- 3.) Our dependence on God. **PSALMS 42:5** What anchors the soul in times of trouble is God's promises and faithfulness. **JOHN 16:33 AMPC** It's in Christ that we find hope and healing.
- 4.) Nothing is more important than salvation. **REVELATION 13:15-18, 14:9-11, 16:1-2, 2 CORINTHIANS 6:2**
- 5.) The need for humility. **DANIEL 4:33-34, 1 PETER 5:5** It's when we humble ourselves before God that He restores and heals.