

# Signs of the Times

based on *The Promise of the Future* Cornelis Venema, (Banner of Truth, 2000)

NOTE: This study sheet is brief. Studying each Bible passage listed will yield further understanding

## The Source of our study :

Read Mark 13, Matthew 24-25; Luke 21 for description of most of these

THE TIME OF THE SIGNS----THERE IS OVERLAP, MOST OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY

## Signs of the Present working and triumph of God's Grace

1. The Preaching of the Gospel Mark 13:10; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:39. (Sermon 10-12-08)
  - a. Jesus is not a postmillennialist. The entire world will not be converted. Jesus says go and preach the gospel. Don't speculate about the golden age on the one hand, or the moment of rapture on the other (as the pre-millennialist does). The gospel will bring grace and also serve as a testimony against all who reject it.
2. The salvation of "all Israel" (Romans 11:1-2, 25-27)
  - a. The Gentiles are saved through Israel, not apart from her (Romans 1:16)
  - b. A revival will occur within ethnic Jews who will become Christians
  - c. The goal of "Israel" in God's plan is NOT a political kingdom, but conversion and membership in the eternal Kingdom of Christ which now is and ever shall be

## Signs of the Conflict between Christ and the Antichrist

1. Tribulation (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 2:19-25)
  - a. The prominent place of suffering in the Christian life means.....?

(These next three signs seem to occur together at the climax of world history. Just as the general tribulation intensifies to a Great Tribulation before the END, apostasy leads to a Great Apostasy)
2. The Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:15-22)
3. Apostasy (Matthew 24:24; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2)
  - a. Do we see 'lawlessness' today? What does this mean for how soon Christ will return?
  - b. May we be content or complacent with the status of the church? (1 Cor. 10:1-6)
  - c. There will be a great falling away FROM WITHIN THE "CHURCH" (2 Thess 2:3-4)
    - i. Examples????
  - d. Put not your trust in princes—including ecclesiastical princes! Christ is ready to remove the church that falls away from the faith (Revelation 2:5)
4. The Antichrist (Mark 13:21-23; 1 John 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2)
  - a. DO NOT think you can identify him with certainty. Be not afraid for Jesus will consume him with the breath of His mouth and destroy him with the brightness of His coming (2 Thess. 2:8)

## Signs of God's Judgment anticipating the Great Judgment

1. Wars and rumors of wars (Mark 13:7-8)
2. Famine and earthquakes and Pestilence
  - a. Jesus does not predict specific ones. They don't tell us *when*, only *that* He is returning
  - b. These events are not freaks of "Mother Nature" (Romans 8:22)
3. The battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16, 17:14; 19:19; Ezekiel 38-39)
  - a. What is the blessing of seeing all these fierce kings of the earth rise up against Jesus?

Concluding Thought: Do all these signs show that God has lost control? Why or Why not?