

The Strategy of Satan Part 6 *Signs of the Times*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug. 18th

2 Cor 2:11 *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

Reflection: Some of Satan's devices include:

- Removing the "Strong man" as the leader/protector of the family. Mark 3:27
- Removing Marriage as the foundation of Society. Heb. 13:4; Mal. 2:14-16
- Removing the Scriptures (God's Word) as the Standard of Society. Ro. 1:28
- Removing the church (God's People) as the Salt & light (Hope) of society. Mt 5:13-16

What is Satan's end game? He's setting the stage for the last days! (Rev. 12,13)

Direction: God's word provides many clues about what the last days will look like.

1. A Great Spiritual Apostasy. 1 Tim. 4:1 *"in the latter times some shall depart from the faith..."*

2 Tim. 4:3,4 *"they'll not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers ...And they shall turn away their ears from the truth."*

2 Thes. 2:3 *"that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first"* (apostasia: forsaking truth)

A. Only 37% of "Christian" Pastors and 6% of "Christians" Have a biblical world view!

1) The rest have a syncretistic world view! **"The amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought"** (See 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Cor 11:13-15; Jude, 2 Peter 2)

B. 1 Tim. 6 warns us to beware of and avoid:

1) Those who promulgate: *"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth."* vs 5

2) Those who embrace / promulgate False reasoning: *"profane and vain babblings, and False "Science" and oppositions of science falsely so called:"* Vs 20

3) When Greed (1 Tim 6:10) teams up with false reasoning & false science (1 Tim 6:20);

"Which some professing have erred concerning the faith." 1 Tim 6:21

This produces an inevitable drift from God resulting in:

2. A Great Moral Decay. 2 Tim. 3:1-4 *"In the last days, perilous times will 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..."*

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A. Right and Wrong have been turned upside down! See Isaiah 5:20-24

Selfishness and Sin produce:

3. Increase of Wars. James 4:1-3; Rev. 6; Mt. 24:6;7 *"wars and rumours of wars..., Nation shall rise up against Nation... These are the beginning of sorrows."*

These are the beginning of sorrows."

A. 92 countries are currently involved in 56 armed conflicts, more than any time since WW2.

4. Resettling Israel in her own land Mt. 24:32 *"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is*

yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. "

A. Remember the fruitless fig tree in Mt. 21; and Luke 13:6-9

5. Increased Angelic (and Demonic) Influence

1 Tim 4:2 *"in the latter times...giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, speaking lies..."*

Daniel 12:1 *"at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for ... thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble..."*

Rev 18:2 *"Babylon...is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit..."*

A. Much of what's happening in our culture is demonic! Lk 17:26-30

6. Increased Tribulation. Dan 12:1; Mt 24:7 *"Famines, Pestilences, earthquakes..."*

9 Then shall they deliver you up ..., and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake..

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world ... 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

7. Increased (Instant) mis-Information Dan 12:4 *"Knowledge shall be increased."*

Da'at: cunning, ignorantly, unawares: Deception! (Gen. 2:17)

2 Tim. 3:13 *"Evil men and seducers (goes: wizards) shall wax worse and worse, Deceiving and being deceived"*

Mt 24:4 *"Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come ...saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 11 for many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 24 there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

Conclusion:

In the midst of all this, there is also increased opportunity!

Dan. 12:3 *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."*

In this hour of darkness, it's our time to Shine! (Esther 4:14) *"for such a time as this?"*

Eph. 5:14 *"Wherefore ...Awake thou that sleepest, ...and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."*

Application:

What is God's Will for us in the face of our challenging culture?

2 Tim. 3:13 *"Evil men...shall wax worse and worse... 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and been assured of, ... 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

Ph 2:15-16 *"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life"*

Make much of God's Word, and He will make much of you!

Isaiah 6:8 *"I heard the Lord say, Whom shall we send, and who will go for us. Then said I Hear I am, send me!"*

Joshua 1:8 *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."