

## **'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'**

### ***(The Life of Christ Series)***

#### **Gospel of Luke**

#### **Signs of the Times**

We live by signs. Stop signs, road signs; signs telling us what to do and what not to do. Signs that advertise, campaign, and warn us, silently scream at us all day long. Most of the signs we see can be ignored without consequence, but some signs better be paid attention to or we will live to regret it.

The road signs of prophetic history lined the centuries before God the Son's first coming – where He would be born, what He would do, even how He would die. Unless a person chose to foolishly ignore the prophetic signs (which most did), there was absolutely no excuse for not recognizing God's One and only Messiah and Savior. Some followed the signs to Jesus and safely arrived at the cross and the salvation provided by Him there. But most raced through life recklessly, literally *hell-bent* on ignoring the signs and the Savior to their own eternal demise. Even when He was standing right in front of them as the *living Sign* sent by God Almighty, performing miracles and wonders, their willful spiritual blindness sealed their doom.

On Judgment Day, some will no doubt protest '*But we didn't see any signs!*' They will have no excuse – they will hear the Judge say on that day: "The signs were there all along, but you deliberately chose to ignore them or in some cases, even twist them to say something other than what God has clearly said in His Word". That was then, at His first coming as Savior of the world; He, as well as all He said and did, WAS 'the sign of the times.'

Here we are again at the next important prophetic intersection of history; Jesus is coming back again, soon (***Revelation 22:7, 12-15***)! How can you be so sure, you say. The signs of the times say so – Israel is in their land again with Jerusalem as their capital (***Daniel 9:24-27***), upheaval in society and governments around the world prove the Holy Spirit is lifting His restraint of all evil things to come (***2 Thessalonians 2:5-10***), apostasy of professing believers as they leave good churches for more entertaining ones or no church at all is on the rise (***1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 4:1-4, 1 John 2:18-19, Revelation 3:14-21, etc.***), global disorder militarily, financially, morally, environmentally, and spiritually is escalating daily (***Revelation 6:1-11***), just to mention a few of the plethora of flashing, billboard sized warning signs today.

Lawlessness, immorality, and perversion abound with impotent religious systems that mask problems rather than solve them biblically (***Matthew 24:10-12, 23-24, etc.***). The signs of the times that Jesus is coming are all around us every single day, in the news, in nature, in our degenerating culture, in world events, especially in Europe and the Middle East. Wise people will notice that the signs are there to warn you, alarm you, and direct you to repent and seek the Lord Jesus as Savior prior to His second coming as Judge. You can choose to ignore, mock or vandalize the signs if you like, but you will regret it like those foolish infidels when Jesus came the first time.

Don't say on Judgment Day, '*Lord, I didn't know!*' He will tell you: '*No! You certainly could have known and been ready if you had only paid attention to 'the signs of the times'.*' By the way, this article is just one more *sign* to remind you that we are now about 3 minutes closer to Christ's coming than you were when you started reading it. Don't delay! Come to the cross! Come to the Savior! Let Christ *sign* your name into the Book of Life as forgiven by repenting of your sin and receiving Him into your heart in prayer, by faith, right now. **PTL**

#### **'Sign Language of the Savior'**

#### ***(Prophetic History Speaks Loud & Clear)***

#### **Luke 11:29-32**

**Synopsis:** The Lord Jesus Christ has come south after about 2½ years of preaching, teaching, and disciple training in Galilee. Only a few months remain until Passover when He will sacrifice Himself as the '***Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world***' (***John 1:29***). Staying on the other side of the Jordan River during this time in a region called Perea (*region beyond*), Christ will make a few trips into Judea and Jerusalem for ministry and teaching around the '***Feast of Dedication***' (*or Hanukkah*) in late December (***John 10:22-23***). Christ's enemies are just waiting for Him, so they can confront, criticize, and condemn Him for upsetting their religious systems and traditions.

A single miracle in which a blind, mute, demon-possessed man is healed by the Lord (*Luke 11:14 & Matthew 12:22-23*) ignites the religious leaders' verbal wrath against Him. Following the crowd's exuberance over the miracle and the healed man's statement about Jesus being the '*Son of David*' (*Matthew 12:23*) the Pharisees condemn Him for partnership with the devil (*Luke 11:15-16*) which Jesus refutes as illogical, foolish, and blasphemous, putting them in danger of committing '*the unpardonable sin*' (*attributing to the miracle they just saw Jesus do in the power of the Holy Spirit*) to Satan (*Matthew 12:31-32, Luke 11:17-23*). Making matters worse, scribes and others present join the Pharisees in challenging Jesus to perform a *sign miracle* to prove He is the long-expected Messiah (*Luke 11:16, Matthew 12:38*). Jesus refuses to entertain them calling them a '*brood of vipers*' (*Matthew 12:34*), that are in serious trouble on Judgment Day (*Matthew 12:35-37*). After correcting a woman who tried to exalt the Virgin Mary (*Luke 11:27-28*) Jesus tells all present to keep watching; there's an ultimate *sign miracle* coming – '*the sign of Jonah*'...

### **The Sign of Jonah (Jesus)** (Comparing Matthew 12 with Luke 11)

#### **Matthew's account:**

"(Jesus) answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah"  
(12:39)

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (12:40)

"The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here" (12:41)

"The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here." (12:42)

#### **Luke's account:**

"... (Jesus) began to say, "This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet"  
(11:29)

"For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation"  
(11:30)

"The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here"  
(11:32)

"The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon and indeed a greater than Solomon is here"  
(11:31)

### **The Sign of Jonah is 'Jesus'**

<p><b><u>Jonah the prophet</u></b> (3 days &amp; nights in the fish) <i>Regurgitated from the deep</i> <i>Sent to preach to Gentiles</i></p>	<p><i>Jonah 1-3</i></p>	<p><b><u>Jesus the Son of Man (God)</u></b> (3 days &amp; nights in the grave) <i>Risen from the dead</i> <i>Gospel to Gentiles (Church Age)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Nineveh, Assyria</u></b> <i>Non-Jews repent</i> <i>40 days 'til destruction / averted</i></p>	<p><i>Jonah 3:4-10</i></p>	<p><b><u>Jerusalem, Judea, Israel</u></b> <i>Jewish people do not repent</i> <i>AD 70 (40 years later) / Jerusalem destroyed</i></p>
<p><b><u>Ninevites / Judgment Day</u></b> <i>Raised as witnesses against unrepentant</i></p>	<p><i>Matthew &amp; Luke</i></p>	<p><b><u>Church Age Unsaved / Judgment Day</u></b> <i>Raised to be condemned for rejecting Jesus</i></p>
<p><b><u>Queen of the South (Sheba)</u></b> <i>Raised as testimony against unsaved</i></p>	<p><i>1 Kings 10:1-9</i></p>	<p><b><u>All Unsaved from the 'ends of the earth'</u></b> <i>Raised to condemnation –</i> <i>didn't come to Christ</i></p>

"Most assuredly I (Jesus) say to you, he (or she) who hears My Word and believes in Him Who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life ... the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth ... to the resurrection of life and the resurrection of condemnation ... As I hear, I judge..." (the Lord Jesus Christ / *John 5:24-30*)