Hi John and Doves, Herewith PART 3 of my study for your information, Blessings, EAR

The fig trees of Israel and the end time generation — Part Three

Part One: The fig trees of Israel, and the end time generation (fivedoves.com) April 28, 2024.

Part Two: The fig trees of Israel and the end time generation — Part Two (fivedoves.com) May 5, 2024

Note: On a single page, accompanying Part One of this study, I have collated the three Gospel records of what Jesus said about the signs preceding His Parousia/Second Coming. I suggest that you print out the scanned page (colour print), containing the scriptures on which these studies are based, and keep it on hand as we explore the highlighted/coloured topics on that sheet, which signify Christ's return.

On that amalgamated sheet there is a list of events that precede Jesus' *Parousia*, (Second Coming) recorded by Luke (below, also by Matthew and Mark), which Jesus described as *The Beginning of Sorrows* (cf. Matt. 24:8 Mark 13:7–8), implying that these things must happen, but the end is not yet:

'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. (Luke 21:10-11)

But then in Mark 9:9–23, there is an interlude; Jesus describes the tribulation that His followers will experience during the time of the Gentiles and the Christian Church era, while **the gospel is preached to all the nations** (Mark 13:9–23); then Jesus' dialogue returns to the signs... that will herald **His coming in the clouds with great power and glory**. (Mark 13:24–32)

However, while most of the sorrows (above) can be applied to familiar events during the 20th Century, via two world wars, devastating earthquakes, famines and pandemics that have affected and killed tens of millions of people around the world; it is this last one—*fearful sights and great signs from heaven*—which seems to reach an inflection point where the (man provoked) wars, famines and pestilences, and the usual recurring earthquakes, cross into the overwhelming <u>heavenly signs and unusual phenomena</u> that are beyond the influence of mankind.

Of such a nature are the Aurora Borealis and Aurora Australis that have been lighting up our skies world-wide, this week, and there may be many more to come during this <u>year's peak period of the Sun's Solar maximum</u>, in its eleven year recurring cycle, when Coronal Mass Ejections (CME's), Solar flares, and Coronal holes (black areas that release powerful solar wind streams) become numerous and frequent, with the potential to damage earth's magnetic field via geomagnetic storms that can create havoc in civilisation's electrical grid.

Part Three—The Generation that sees... the Celestial Signs:

The sun will be darkened

The moon will not give its light

The stars of heaven will fall

The Sea and the waves roaring

The powers in the heavens will be shaken

The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven

Strangely, we now have a paradox facing the people on earth, who remain alive after **those days** of **tribulation** have run their course, when the above sequence of events occurs. The paradox for that generation is: an apparent awareness—or lack of awareness—of the dangers soon to envelope them.

As in Jesus' statement in the scriptures being studied: one group is urged to watch and KNOW the signs that will grow into large indicators that the approaching summer (i.e., kingdom of God) is near—at the doors; while the other group—who will see the same celestial signs, and the sign of the Son of man appearing in heaven—can only mourn when they see the sixth sign (the sign of the Son of Man) appear, and finally realise what is happening; because previously, (just like the generations in the days of Noah and Lot), they seemed to be oblivious to the perils that will soon engulf them.

The difference appears to lie in whether or not they KNOW what the signs mean... or whether scepticism, distractions, and lack of interest in *the signs* have overwhelmed their discernment and judgment! So, in these three very similar Gospel accounts, there are references <u>to tribulation</u>, to <u>strange phenomena</u> and <u>celestial events</u>, as well as to <u>floods</u>, <u>fire</u> and <u>brimstone</u>, which are apparently observed by two <u>different groups of people</u> who will—in one generation at this time—be living together on the earth!

<u>First</u>, the <u>general ungodly population</u> (who don't seem to care or comprehend what the celestial signs portend), and <u>second</u>, the <u>elect of God</u>, who are watching, waiting and discerning, who will KNOW exactly what the signs (that precede the Second Coming of Jesus Christ) are all about! These two groups are distinguished by the use of the pronouns **they** or **them**, referring to the ignorant or unsuspecting casualties and victims of those disasters, and **you** in Mark 13, Matt. 24, and Luke 17 and 21 (above) referring to God's elect who read these scriptures. Thus, there are a few things to note...

The signs described by Jesus are <u>all these things</u>; i.e., the tribulation, a cluster of celestial events: a darkened sun, a dull moon, stars falling, the sign of the Son of Man, the gathering of the saints, the sound of a trumpet, then a description of a fig tree's growing habits, indicating that summer is approaching! Although Matthew adds the sudden <u>weather deluge</u> in the days of Noah (as an example), while Luke similarly refers to <u>fire and brimstone from heaven</u> (as in the days of Lot), it is noticeable that during these two events there is <u>no mention of</u> righteous Noah or righteous Lot actually <u>seeing these calamities</u>... This may be because these events are historical and <u>we all know what happened</u>; i.e., out of all the inhabitants living in those places—at that time—only Noah and Lot and their families were saved! Also, it is doubtful if either <u>Noah</u> or <u>Lot</u> actually <u>saw the destruction occurring</u> because Noah had been safely shut up in the Ark for <u>seven days</u> (an implied warning period) before the flood came (Gen. 7:10, 16); while Lot had already turned his back on the devastation occurring behind him, on <u>the day</u> he escaped to a 'little nearby city' that was outside the range of the fire and brimstone that fell from heaven onto the inhabitants of Sodom! (Gen. 19:12–22)

But even more importantly, although warnings were given by righteous Noah and Lot—who lived godly lives in the midst of those wicked generations—each of those ancient events (Gen. 7:5–22; 19:12–22), ought to be taken-to-heart by **this modern generation**, as examples of the dire destruction that Jesus predicted would come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth... from which they may, or may not escape. (Luke 21:35 above).

See my letter Dec. 17, 2023: THE SNARE CATCHES THE WORLD BY SURPRISE (fivedoves.com)

Those ancient generations of wicked and godless people (just like the present and future generation of ungodly people; cf. 2 Peter 2:4–11 below), who were so focussed on their every-day earthly affairs (cf. Matt. 24:32–39; Luke 17:26–30 [above], and on their *filthy conduct and lawless deeds*, cf. 2 Peter 2:7–8), that they laughed about the signs and warnings preceding the sudden destruction of their habitat and themselves! E.g., Lot's two sons-in-law thought he was joking, until fire and brimstone fell on their heads!

So it appears that similarly, in the end time, both groups of people—the righteous (elect of God), and the wicked (ungodly/accursed) children—will be living together on earth in one generation, when **all these things occur** relatively quickly; including <u>spiritual things</u> about which most of those living in that

generation will be totally ignorant! So, Paul writes that the **Day of the Lord** will come [suddenly] upon those people as a thief in the night...

For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then <u>sudden</u> destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thess. 5:3)

But you brethren, [i.e., the elect of God] are not in darkness, so that **this Day** should overtake you as a thief, (1 Thess. 5:4)

Note: Strong's Greek word No. 160, aiphnidious, which means sudden, unexpected and unawares.

Therefore, on <u>this Day</u> for these two separate groups of people—according to the Apostle Peter—the outcomes will be entirely different; the truly righteous can be assured:

...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations...

AND to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries... But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following Balaam... who loved the wages of unrighteousness... These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (2 Peter 2:9–17)

Thus, both Peter and Paul indicate that the signs preceding the *deliverance* of the elect of God at the return of Jesus Christ—and the *destruction of the ungodly*—will occur simultaneously for the end time generation on the dreadful Day of the Lord. The fact that Jesus infers the <u>likelihood</u> of <u>his Disciples</u> (at that time) actually <u>seeing all these things that were reserved for the end time</u> reinforces his later statement, that the living <u>elect of God will see them</u>, and they would therefore <u>know the season</u>; but <u>only His Father knew what would happen on that day</u>, and <u>when IT</u> would occur. (1 Thess. 5:4)

Consequently, Matthew and Luke both record <u>the uncaring attitudes</u> and <u>ignorant behaviours</u> prevalent among those who lived in the days of Noah and Lot toward the destruction that engulfed them because they had <u>ignored all the signs and warnings</u>. Jesus said such behaviours would be universal among yet another <u>uncaring generation</u> in the end time! Thus, the reference to <u>seeing all of these things</u> is a prelude to the sudden 'catastrophic' separation of good men and women from the evil generation, which will occur at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Without doubt, as shown by the signs above, the celestial signs will have an effect on the earth and the oceans, with the Sea and the waves roaring...

There is much more research that I need to do on this topic yet, and I would also like to see what <u>celestial signs will be written in the heavens next week</u> (when additional sunspots turn toward earth), before I conclude this subject. Keep your eye on the sky... for now!

Maranatha, Blessings, EAR