SIGNS OF HIS SOON RETURN April 19, 2020

THE GREAT SIGN

**MATTHEW 24: 1-3, 32-36**

1. **Good Sense about Christ’s Return (v.35-36)**

\*four basic facts to keep in mind…..

1. Jesus IS coming back – v.35

Acts 1:9-11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” NKJV

1. Jesus is NOT coming back every Friday – v.36

Mt 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

1. Scripture is deep and layered

2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as* they were moved

by the Holy Spirit. NKJV

 \*Only one interpretation, but several applications: plain, practical, personal, prophetic

 \*Prophecy can be explicit or implicit, in clear statement or in typology

 \*Some prophecies have multiple fulfillment, esp. re. Israel and Jerusalem

1. Christians are on the welcoming committee, not the planning committee!

Mt. 24: 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. NKJV

Mt 24: 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. NKJV

1. **Great Sign of Christ’s Return (v.32-34)**

\*we cannot know the day and hour (or year) of His return, but we can know the season – summer

 is nigh

\*Israel is the fig tree (see Hosea 9:10; Joel 1:7) …the nation was reborn in 1948; Jerusalem and the Temple Mount were reclaimed in 1967: Jerusalem was recognized as the eternal capital in 2017.

Hosea 9:10 “I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor and separated themselves to that shame; they became an abomination like the thing they loved. NKJV

Joel 1:7 He has laid waste My vine, and ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white. NKJV

1. As a sign to the nations, Israel was Judged and Scattered – a Spectacle to the World!

Deut. 28:64-66 “Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. 65And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. 66Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night and have no assurance of life. NKJV

Jer 18:15-17 “Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And

they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, *From* the ancient paths To walk in pathways and not on a highway, 16To make their land desolate *and* a perpetual hissing; Everyone who passes by it will be astonished And shake his head. 17 I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show them the back and not the face In the day of their calamity.” NKJV

Ek 20: 23-24 Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries, 24because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers’ idols. NKJV

 \*not just in Old Testament times, but in the centuries since Christ –

Lk 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. NKJV

1. As a sign to the nations, Israel has been Preserved and Gathered – a Miracle to the World!

Ek. 37:11-14 Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ 12Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken *it* and performed *it,*” says the Lord.’ ” NKJV

Jer. 31:35-37 Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts *is* His name): 36“If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the Lord, *Then* the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever.” 37Thus says the Lord: “If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the Lord. NKJV

 The story of Jacob-Israel can be the story of every person: separated from God by sin,

 spared by His mercy,

 SAVED by HIS GRACE!