Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet - October 1, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of The Last Days Topic: The Signs of His Coming.

Main Text: Matthew 24:1-36

Key verse: Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: That Jesus Christ is coming again is one of the core Biblical certainties, and one of the great doctrines about Christ, the Messiah. This second coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned over three hundred times and in over two hundred chapters of the New Testament! Also, Bible scholars state that the teaching about Jesus' second coming occupies one in every twenty-five verses from Matthew to Revelation! No wonder "Jesus is coming soon," is probably one of the most often repeated slogans by gospel preachers big and small. And should be rightfully so because, Jesus' second coming is the blessed hope of believers. And as Jesus said in Matthew 24:33, the signs are there for all to see.

1. Read Matthew 24:6-7. (a) What signs are mentioned in these verses that will indicate His coming is imminent? (b) In reference to these signs, our Lord Jesus said, '... these things <u>MUST</u> take place...' What does our prayer for peace in the world say about us in relation to the purposes of God? (c) The command concerning wars and rumors of wars is 'don't panic' (NLT). To what extent do you see believers obeying this command? Why or why not?

Wherever one is in the world today, one cannot escape the prevalence of wars and rumors (news) of wars, of nation rising against nation. Natural disasters are also on the increase. In fact, new records are being set each year of these natural disasters and their attendant impact on society (depressing economies and rising poverty, psychological pressure). But that is not all the indicators of Christ's return. In Matthew 24:5, He said, 'many men claiming to speak for me, will come and say, "I am the Messiah!" (GNT). And we are witnessing these things across continents. Recently, over two hundred bodies were discovered in mass graves in the forests in Kenya. They were victims of some religious leader who advocated fasting until you meet Jesus!

2. (a) Which of the signs listed in Matthew 24;4-5, 9-12 are we seeing in our societies today? (b) Discuss the matter of 'sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold' as a sign of His coming. See Matthew 24:12. (c) What can we do to stay burning hot for Christ and endure sound doctrine? See Matthew 24:13

All the signs Christ gave as indicators of His return are everywhere in the world today: The proliferation of false prophets, false messiahs, miracles, signs, and wonders. In the ensuing confusion caused by these false prophets, sin is now 'in your face.' The result is that many hitherto Christian nations now need to be re-evangelized, while other Christians have become and are becoming lukewarm in their walk with God. We see Christian ministries and ministers increasingly becoming business ventures, churning out huge profits for their leaders. But the final sign Christ points to is His coming, which will be preceded by the darkening of the sun and the disappearance of the heavens. But He says, no one knows the day or the hour when these things will happen (Matthew 24:36).

3. (a) Let a few participants share how the idea of Jesus' imminent return makes them feel and why. (b) In Matthew 24:32-35, 42-51, Jesus used analogies and stories to drive home the fact of His coming. What is the implication(s) for us today? (c) Amid the signs of His coming is the preaching of the gospel (Matthew 24:14). What do you think it will take for the Gospel to continue to be preached despite the increase of sin, rising hostility towards the gospel and declining interest in true Christianity? See also Ephesians 6:14-20.

Prayer: "Dear Lord Jesus, it is clear to us that Your second coming is imminent. The signs You told us about are everywhere for all to see. Please help me to live prepared to give a good account of my life and stewardship of my assignments here on earth. Amen