**Signs of the end** dkm March 2022
Not so long ago, it was Christians who were laughed at for their doomsday predictions. Today, such predictions are coming from climate change activists- but it seems only God is laughing at them (Ps 2:4), because he has said, ‘While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night, shall not cease’ (Gen 8:23). But God, or Jesus, has told us about the end of the age, and told us about signs that point to the end- the end being the passing away of the present heavens and earth, and the establishment of the kingdom of God with Jesus as king.

Just on two years ago I wrote about the Lord ‘shaking the earth’- a viral pandemic has just been declared. I took these words from Hebrews 12 which refer to us receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. I also referred to the words of Jesus in Luke 21 writing: ‘We are living in the Last Days, in which he [Jesus] says there will be signs such as famine and pestilence or disease (Luke 21:11). When God gives signs it is for the purpose that we might look and pay heed, that we might confess our sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Without Jesus you will be without an ‘Ark’ when the end comes’.

That was two years ago, and just now we think we are coming out of the pandemic, or pestilence as Jesus would call it. But who has paid heed to this sign? Have you? Many have grumbled and despaired rather than repented and believed in Jesus Christ as Lord. Did we fail to preach the gospel? Church doors were closed but preaching continued on line, and we believe that many continued to hear the gospel, and that God continues gathering in his elect. Tragically, there are those, like the sons of Eli the priest and Judas, for whom there is no atonement. But for you, this is the day of salvation; the end dear reader is near!

As signs of the end being near, Jesus pointed to false prophets (Luke 21:8). Has there ever been more false prophets in the world than there are today? We keep hearing about conspiracy theories, but the so-called conspiracy theorists say those accusing them are telling lies; so who is telling the truth? Thankfully, we do have one who tells the truth, namely Jesus Christ. I hope you are finding an anchor for your mind and soul in Jesus and the words of the Bible that he affirms.

Back to the signs spoken of by Jesus. After false prophets, he refers to ‘wars and commotions’ (Luke 21:9). But the age of wars has passed has it not? Modern man is too advanced to think about going to war and killing innocent people- right? The theory of evolution, which concluded that man was evolving for the better, was actually used by Hitler to dehumanise any who did not belong to his race. And while our western world fights racism in its ‘wokish’ way, the rest of the world pursues its ‘master race’ ideals. When ‘master race’ meets ‘master race’ there will be war, just a Jesus said. ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom’ (Luke 21:10). Not so long ago we were facing ‘master religion’ terrorists, and this idea continues. Christians are being persecuted by various religions, including Islamists, Hindus, communists, and humanists; Jesus spoke of such persecution as a sign of the end of the age (21:12).

‘There will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences’ (21:11). Climate change activists are blaming droughts, floods, famines, storms, bushfires and almost every natural disaster on climate change- as yet they do not include earthquakes and volcanoes! But it is clear from history that such disasters have around for a long time; weeds became a problem for Adam, and I suspect droughts and floods and famines have been around since the Fall. There was a worldwide flood in Noah’s day, and Abraham went to Egypt because of a severe famine. Jesus goes on to speak of ‘great signs from heaven’ (21:11). In Matthew these signs are linked more specifically to the coming of Jesus on the clouds of heaven (Matthew 24:29).

The signs Jesus gave his disciples referred, in the first instance, to God’s judgment upon Jerusalem- the discussion was sparked by him saying of the temple that, ‘not one stone shall be left upon another’ (21:6). But ultimately, they refer to his return on the clouds of heaven. They are signs for us to take note of today. They are signs to remind us that Jesus will return and that this world will end.

But we do not despair as we see these signs in the world today, as we emerge from two years of pandemic, and as war breaks out in Europe. Jesus tells us of these signs so that when we do see them happening we will be reminded that Jesus is coming again, so that we will stand firm in the unchanging truth of God’s word. He wants us to be assured of his power to uphold us, and he wants us to be telling the world the truth of the gospel. At no other time in history has the world needed to hear the gospel more than it does today.