

Signs of the Times

Joshua 5:13-15 [NLT] – *When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, “Are you friend or foe?”¹⁴ “Neither one,” he replied. “I am the commander of the Lord’s army.” At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. “I am at your command,” Joshua said. “What do you want your servant to do?”¹⁵ The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did as he was told.*

Matthew 24:4-8 – *And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.⁷ For **nation will rise against nation**, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

- **“nation”** – ETHNOS; ethnic group.
- **Virgil:** We will see an increasing division of society into racial and cultural enclaves. Those who draw their identity from these natural sources will be seduced into their respective warring camps.

Acts 17:26 [NLT] – *From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.*

- God sees us as all descending from one man – Adam.

I Corinthians 10:32 – *Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,*

- God sees mankind based on their relationship to Him.

Galatians 3:26-29 – *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- No distinctions – not even male & female.

- We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I Peter 2:9, 10 – *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

II Corinthians 5:14-17 – *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. ¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

- **Vs. 16, 17 [NLT]** – *So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

I Corinthians 16:13, 14 – *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done with love.*

- **Virgil Stokes:** For Christians, we have but one injunction: to love one another as Christ loved us. Anything else is sin.
- **Note:** my attitude is MY ATTITUDE!

I Timothy 2:1-3 – *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

I Thessalonians 5:9 [NLT] – *For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.*

- **Virgil Stokes:** My plea for preachers and parents: Teach and reassure your kids. They are being inundated with information for which they have little context. As the Return of the Lord approaches, wars and rumors of war will increase. That is

frightening. Racial strife will increase. That is frightening. Natural calamity will increase. That is frightening. Take time to teach your kids what this all means. Teach them to do the right thing. By all means, teach them that God has us covered.