

THE LAST WARNINGSSSS

Text: Matthew 24:12

Key Word: Warnings

Key Thought: God's Last Warnings

*** A few years ago Sharon and I landed at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport for a stopover. An announcement came over the speakers that our boarding gate had been changed. We checked with an attendant and were told to get on the shuttle system due to the distance between the new gate. What a huge airport! Eventually a number of us arrived at our new destination. We quickly noticed that no one was working at the gate and no information was on the gate display board. I went to the next gate and inquired about our flight number and departure time.

"O Sir" the attendant said, "**you are at the wrong gate.**" After explaining that we were following the announcement of the gate change she said, "*I'm sorry, this happens frequently. You need to return to a gate just a few numbers down from where you were.*"

We frantically headed back and while approaching our departure gate we heard the announcement. This is the **last warning** for passengers boarding flight # (whatever it was) to check in at gate # (whatever it was). We made it by the skin of our teeth as the gate door closed behind us. Since then I've learned to follow my phone app for whatever carrier I choose to fly with. ***

There are many warnings we come across while travelling in life. Which ones do you trust? Lets consider some different types of warnings. In doing so, I'd like to go back a little bit in history. History is a process of interpreting evidence in a thoughtful and informed way.

I. HISTORICAL WARNINGS

A. Bolshevik/Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution took place in 1917 when the peasants and working class people of Russia revolted against the government of Tsar Nicholas II. They were led by Vladimir Lenin and a group of revolutionaries called the Bolsheviks. The new communist government created the country of the Soviet Union. History books tell us that the weakness of the provisional government along with **social and economic problems and a continual war** caused the people to rise up against the imperial government.

The popular Bolshevik slogan "**Peace, Land and Bread,**" was believed by the masses during the July Days (July 1917), uprising of workers and military forces. **The Bolsheviks were a radical far-left revolutionary party Marxist's faction committed to the ideas of Karl Marx.** The bolshevik regime killed 300,000 to 500,000 of the 1.5 million population.

I. HISTORICAL WARNINGS (Contd.)

A. Bolshevik/Russian Revolution (Contd.)

What began as the **Russian Civil War** ended in 1923 with Lenin's Red Army claiming victory and establishing the **Soviet Union**. They planned to abolish private property and enforce social equality, and believed that this revolution would soon sweep the world. **Socialist economists are critical of private property as socialism aims to substitute private property in the means of production for social ownership or public property**. They believed that the working classes would, at some point, liberate themselves from the economic and political control of the ruling classes. Lenin was unable to fulfill his promises. They simply formed another ruling class that has made the rich richer and the poor poorer. Their promised utopia never materialized.

The term “communist party” was popularized by the title of “**The Manifesto of the Communist Party**” (1848) by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

One of the major contributing factors that changed Russia from a country in unrest to a country in revolt was “**Bloody Sunday**.” Loyalty to the tsar Nicholas II was lost when his soldiers fired upon a group of people led by Georgy Gapon on 22 January 1905, who were attempting to present a petition to the tsar.

In political science, a revolution (Latin: *revolutio*, “**a turn around**”) is a fundamental and relatively sudden change in political power and political organization which occurs when the population revolts against the government, typically due to perceived oppression (political, social, economic). A socialist economy is a system of production where goods and services are produced **directly and solely for their use**, in contrast to a capitalist economic system, where goods and services are **produced to generate profit** (and therefore indirectly for use).

B. Communist Party

Between 1922 and his death in 1924, Lenin suffered a series of strokes which compromised his ability to speak, let alone govern. **His absence paved the way for Joseph Stalin, the Communist Party's new General Secretary, to begin consolidating power**. An early distinction between **communism** and **socialism** was that the latter aimed to only **socialise production** while the former aimed to **socialise both production and consumption** (in the form of free access to final goods).

“*The Communist Manifesto*,” published in 1848: “The history of all hitherto existing society is the **history of class struggles**.” Marx argued that capitalism, like previous socioeconomic systems, would inevitably produce internal tensions which would lead to its destruction. Just as capitalism replaced feudalism, he believed socialism would, in its turn, replace capitalism, **and lead to a stateless, classless society called pure communism**.

I. HISTORICAL WARNINGS (Contd.)

B. Communist Party (Contd.)

Annihilate all morality and all religion, establish Free Trade, centralize all communication by the government, annihilate Justice, Liberty, and Freedom all to support the monopoly of the **World Market**. Eliminate nationality, family and eliminate borders. Overturn and destroy the existing state of things! No one person has more power than the other. The utopia sought for is that all differences are silenced and equalized.

II. PRESENT DAY WARNINGS

It's only because of the disasters of history that I'm even going to mention the present day warnings. We are all in a **warning overload** yet we live in a world of **ostrich syndrom** even though they don't bury their heads in the sand. The females just turn their eggs. When an ostrich is scared they just fall to the ground and play dead.

Both the churches and the Jewish people began in the late 1930's by supporting the upcoming leader, Hitler, until they reached a tipping point of no return. It caused the greatest destruction in our world due to war which brought in a dictatorship with devastation to property and a massive loss of life.

The US is presently involved in what can be termed wars. Some began as peace treating but escalated quickly into combats. They have brought much toil and increasing conflict and growing hatred between nations.

Several things have been troubling to me since my younger years. As I look back, I see major changes in the educational system. What began in the halls of higher education with the introduction of socialist ideals has grown to include our elementary schools (public and Catholic) and recently into preschool care. In the warnings of medical dangers has been forcing us to adapt to a new idea of "social distancing."

Teenagers adopted "social distancing" with the craze of technology that is backed by social gurus infiltrating and influencing their thought patterns. Preschoolers love attention. They will line up to have you read "their" book. If one has a "bobo" they all search their skin for a mark. They don't like waiting in line. What began with a change of social structure in our colleges and universities is carefully being adapted to encompass all ages according to a new socialist agenda that is doomed to fail like all the past attempts have.

Venezuela is a modern example. In 2016, Venezuela entered hyperinflation. The inflation rate reached 274% in 2016, 863% in 2017, 130,060% in 2018 and 9,586% in 2019. Since 2016, the overall inflation rate has increased to 53,798,500%. The nation is in chaos. Starvation is rampant. It is a total disaster of socialist ideals.

II. PRESENT DAY WARNINGS (Contd.)

Here are a few of my escalating concerns before my final thoughts of Biblical warnings. It's only since the 19th century that the term "illegal immigration" came about. There were no laws making it illegal. There has never been a "melting pot" for immigrants or multiculturalism in the true meaning of the words. Now all countries have borders, democratic or dictatorship rule. Many have constitutions. You need a passport to cross borders legally.

Both Europe and the North America have been overtaken by illegal immigrants. It has moved quickly from the term refugees to migrants and now undocumented immigration. Border agents are being seen as a detriment to many socialists. Lets get rid of ICE, border agents and police. Lets start chopping away at our constitutions and enter a new world accord. Why not a one world government with one leader that will bring peace, harmony and prosperity for all. Lets get rid of private property. Religious beliefs simply bring division. Lets make it a new world law to stop propagating our divisive beliefs.

While we are at it lets make illegal drugs now legal. It will create freedom and plenty of jobs. What about medical services and education that is free for all. Lets rethink what is right and what is wrong. Why not just get rid of the word "wrong" like we have the word "sin." Its goes against emotionally healthy people. Any and all forms of sexuality need to be accepted. We are who we are. Don't dictate who we should be. Stop controlling us. Let us control ourselves. Lets rename "babies" to "fetuses." What possibly could go wrong with it. The government should pay for it like everything else. But lets continue to stifle Christian organizations, churches etc.

Have you noticed our jails are getting full of innocent people? Peaceful demonstrators we're told. Lets rehabilitate them without suggesting their thoughts and actions have been wrong. People are just prejudice.

We are just full of phobic disorder like **Nomophobia** - "*fear of being without mobile phone coverage.*" **Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia** is one of the longest words in the dictionary — and, in an ironic twist, is the name for "*a fear of long words.*" I could go on and on with Present Day Warnings but I'm sure you get the point.

III. BIBLICAL WARNINGS

A. Lovers of Themselves

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

- 2. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,*
- 3. without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,*
- 4. treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—*
- 5. having a form of godliness but denying its power.”*

II Timothy 3:1-5

B. Materialism

“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

- 18. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.*
- 19. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.”*

I Timothy 6:17-19 NLT

C. Violence

According to the WHO (in 2002) 1.6 million people are killed every year due to violence. This does not the number of people who are injured and suffer from a range of physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health problems. Moreover, violence places a massive burden on national economies, costing countries billions of US dollars each year in health care, law enforcement and lost productivity.

III. BIBLICAL WARNINGS (Contd.)

C. Violence (Contd.)

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,”

Matthew 24:12

D. Moral Decline

“In my own lifetime the divorce rate has doubled, the rates of teen suicide and violent crime have both tripled, and births out of wedlock have sextupled. With less than 5 percent of the world’s population, the US has almost a quarter of the world’s prisoners (about the same number of Russia and China combined). We have become accustomed to homeless people sleeping in parks and under bridges, something virtually unknown in my childhood. The leading cause of death are self-inflicted, the side effects of tobacco, obesity, alcohol, sexually transmitted diseases, drugs and violence.”

Philip Yancey

“Vanishing Grace - Whatever Happened to the Good News?”

P. 154

E. Multiple Signs

Deceptive Teachers - *Matthew 24:4,5,11*

Wars and rumours of Wars - *Matthew 24:6*

Nation against nation: *Matthew 24:7*

Kingdom against kingdom - *Matthew 24:7*

Famines and earthquakes - *Matthew 24:7*

Persecution - *Matthew 24:9*

Loss of faith in God - *Matthew 24:10*

The gospel will be preached in all the world - *Matthew 24:14*

Great Distress (unequaled) - *Matthew 24:21*

Fearful Signs in the heavens - *Matthew 24:29; Luke 21:11*

Pestilence - *Luke 21:11*

Weighing down with carousing, drunkenness, and anxieties of life - *Luke 21:34*

Shaking of heaven and earth - *Hebrews 12:26*

III. BIBLICAL WARNINGS (Contd.)

“Instead of seeking a sign, seek the fulfillment of the signs, Jesus Himself. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). Jesus is the answer to the sign you seek, and He is the only one who can truly save and satisfy.”

Dave Jenkins
Christianity.com

“Shake us to Wake us”

Lisa Bevere

C:/My Documents/WPWin(X9)/Sermons.2020/Hope/Matthew 24:12 .wpd

Date: July 5/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Prepare the Way

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