

Can Ye Not Discern The Signs of The Times?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

In **Matthew 16:3** Jesus asked the Pharisees and the Sadducees, "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" They were wanting to see a sign that would prove to them that he was the Christ. He had done many miracles and yet, they wanted something more. Wasn't cleansing a leper, healing a cripple, giving sight to the blind, and even raising the dead enough? What more could they hope to see?

Jesus noted that they could tell what the weather was going to be, but had no knowledge of the times and what was taking place right before their eyes. By seeing the sky and the conditions of the weather they could usually tell if the day would be calm, or stormy. Yet, in life they couldn't tell that prophesy was being fulfilled in their day. They claimed to know the scriptures and were experts in the law of Moses, but didn't see Jesus as the Messiah.

Like many people through the ages they had their own ideas of how the

Lord would come and what he would do on earth. Since he came quietly, born in humble surroundings, and without their knowledge, they didn't believe in him. If he had descended from the sky, escorted by angels and defeated Israel's enemies they would have been joyful. But, as he didn't appear like they thought he would, they rejected him. Those who reject him will, in the day of judgment, be rejected of him for their lack of faith.

If we look at life today we see that it is about the way that it was then. Men fail to look at what it going on in our world. Then if they do see what is happening in our world they often fail to make a connection to what God has said. What is going on is foretold in scripture. We have famines, earthquakes, wars, and other signs that the Lord told about. Those who don't know the Lord can't see that these things that take place in our day show that the Lord is soon to come back for his people.

Jesus could tell us what would take place today because he is the son of God. He was not a "Fortune Teller" guessing like men do, he is right 100% of the time. As his word says in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers,

false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." These things are happening now and are not by chance, or coincidence. God knew that as man turned farther from him that this would be the result.

When you were young, if you have many years on you, did you ever think that something as perverse as homosexuality would be accepted as normal and that there would be laws supporting this lifestyle? This and so many more things that happen in our day plainly show that the coming of the Lord draws near. Who would have thought that God would have been ruled as unconstitutional and that prayer in Jesus' name would be banned from many public gatherings? When I was a child in school some teachers had prayer before class. We ran in hallways, chewed gum, and awful stuff like that. Now since the Lord is not allowed to be mentioned, prayer is banned, and children are taught evolution, there is violence, shootings, assaults on teachers, and many other serious crimes in our schools.

Taking it all into consideration - can ye not discern the signs of the times?

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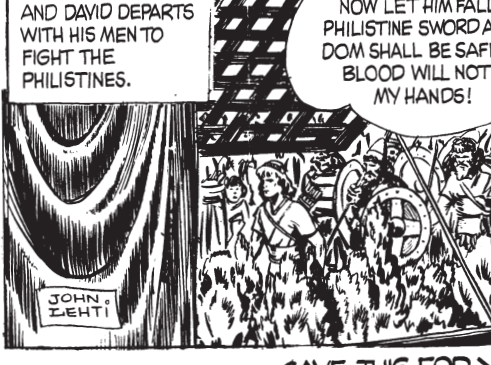
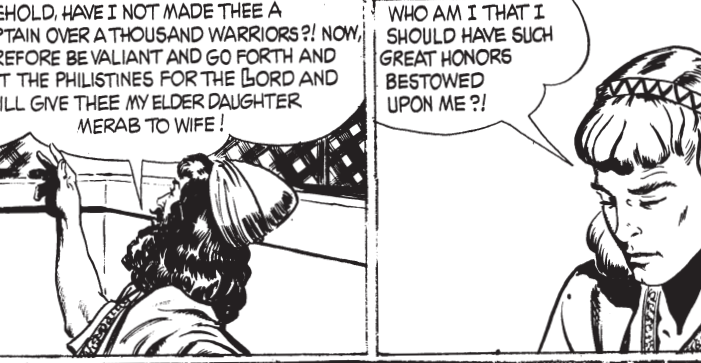
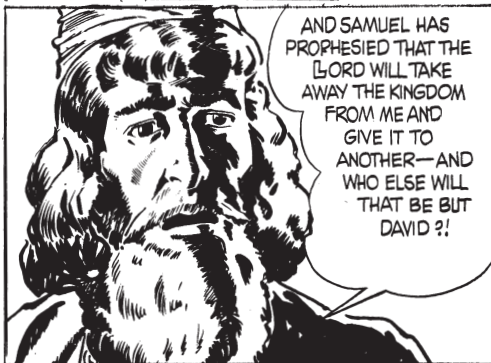
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