

Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Signs”

1st Wednesday in Advent
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church – Richville, MI
12-2-15

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Luke 21:25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.” This is the Word of the Lord. (Cross reference – Isaiah 5:30; 13:10; 17:12, Ezekiel 32:7, Joel 2:30-31, Luke 21:24, 26)

Illustration “Real or fake” (Show picture Crop Circles)



According to some estimates, crop circles appear every week somewhere around the world. The strange circles and patterns appear mysteriously overnight in farmers' fields, provoking puzzlement, delight, and intrigue for both locals and the news media. The circles are mostly found in the United Kingdom, but have spread to dozens of countries around the world in past decades. But who — or what — is making them? Crop circles usually appear in fields that provide reasonably easy public access, close to roads and highways. They rarely appear in remote, inaccessible areas. Because of this, the patterns are usually noticed within a day or two of their creation by passing motorists.

There are many theories about what creates crop circles, from aliens to mysterious vortices to wind patterns, but they all lack one important element: good evidence. Perhaps one day a mysterious, unknown source will be discovered for crop circles, but until then perhaps they are best thought of as collective public art.

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(1 - This massive 780-foot (238 meters) crop circle appeared in 2001 in the remote area of Milk Hill in Wiltshire, England. The elaborate design is composed of 409 circles that form a pattern called a double, or six-sided, triskelion, which is a motif consisting of three interlocking spirals. Credit: Handy Marks | public domain) (2 - People inspect crop circles within a golden wheat field in Switzerland. The photo was taken on July 29, 2007. Credit: Jabberocky /public domain)

(3 - Another triskelion crop circle. The symbol can be used to represent cycles, progress or competition. Credit: Thomas J. Sutter, Jr. | public domain) (4 - This design of three flying birds was created on Aug. 3, 2003, in the county of Wiltshire in southern England. The birds, which resemble swallows, have ever-diminishing circles trailing behind their wing tips. Credit: public domain) (Show living in the last days)



But some people look to these crop circles signs as an unknown forces or the work of the devil and the end time is at hand. People still think that the end time is coming in the future. If you remember your instruction, we are living the end time. Right now, right at this moment. You are living in the last day. Because you are living with the actual times events after Jesus return back to heaven and that is when the end time begin. While Jesus is teaching His disciples, he want them to live their lives as prepared for the end times, both the end of the world and the end of their time in the world.

I. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, **(Show end time events)**



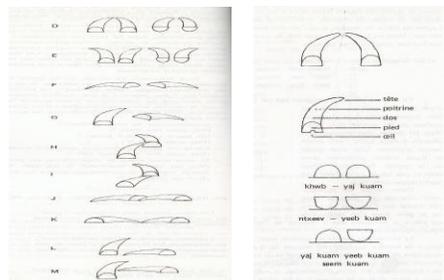
their are all sorts of phenomena signs that are just plain scary. We ordinarily do not fear the signs itself, so long as our faith are firmly stands on Jesus. But if we try to firmly planted our faith on others thing of this word, it will not be able to stand the test of time. The world that we live continue to have all sorted signs of disturbance, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, global warming, strong storms, and sickness that continue to scare us. They remind us of our fragility when compared to nature’s power.

This is why Jesus said, *“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.”* (Luke 21:25) **(Show Redeemed)**



To those that claim to have the knowledge or wisdom for interpreting the meaning of such signs will literally unable to find the truth or have peace. However, those who follow God’s teaching will be able to see such signs in a different light and not be afraid. They will be able to see them as opportunities for redemption. They can learn from them that the whole world is as fragile as the human being and one day it will be destructed but at the same time with faith in Christ will have peace forever and ever.

The Hmong people that still believe in the animistic faith regard sign as a part of their way of life. If the sign is good with no sickness, plenty of good crop and lives stock for the year, with health and wealth then the signs are good. **(Show Goat Horn – Kuam to read the sign for the future)**



They look for signs for the future. They either hire a shaman that can prophesize the future for them or ask a Buddhist monk to perform sign for the future. Let me give you an example. The Hmong shaman would use a goat horn to toss to the ground and read the future. If both side are turn the same then it is correct and if one side is up and one

side is down then it is not a good sign for the future. A Buddhist monk would perform magic that claim to have cause a infertile female to be pregnant. Recently I translated for a Hmong girl taking the permit test for driving. She’s from Laos and married to a young men living in Detroit, Michigan and only being in the US for two years. **(Show a Laotian Monk and Buddha)**



I ask her to why did she had a Laotian name “Souk” meaning “Lucky Buddha” and not a typical Hmong female name? She stated that her mom could not have any children after she bore her two older brothers for many year, so she asked a Buddhist monk to perform his magic so that her mom can conceive. After the Monk perform his magic, her mother later conceived and when she was

born the monk gave her the name “Souk” meaning it is a good sign from Buddha so it mean “Lucky Buddha.” But God’s Word say, *“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.”* (Psalm 127:3)

People are looking for the physical sign of this word to tell them the future. (Show red and dark sky)



In 1987, I remember it clearly while I was a senior at McDowell High School, Marion, North Carolina. That day was a normal day just like any others day in High School. But after lunch the sky turn dark and the cloud turn red that you can see it in the sky. By lunch time, half of the school student has been check out. People were saying that the end time is here because of the word say in Luke “*There will be signs in the sun...*” If the

world end today, they want their family to be together. And the next day the sun and the sky remain the same and nothing happen. And as of today, 28 years later still nothing happen.

- II. People still predict signs that God will return this day or that date. But God’s World said, “*But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*” (Matthew 24:36, Mark 13:32) When Jesus say, “*There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.*” (Luke 21:25) In a sense, the world will be fill with fear, panic, and probably be paralyze because of Jesus make use of such apocalyptic word that put a sudden change to people. Those that doesn’t have faith in Christ will always live on the edge of not knowing whether to live and believe the unseen or to believe the physical of the world that people claim to be able to tell the future through signs in the sun, the moon and the stars.

(Show picture of Nostradamus)



Nostradamus, (December 14, 1503 – July 1, 1566) born **Michel de Nostredame**, is one of the world's most famous authors of prophecies. He is most famous for his book *Les Propheties*, which consists of rhymed quatrains (4-line poems) grouped into sets of 100, called Centuries. Nostradamus enthusiasts have credited him with predicting a copious number of events in world history, including the French Revolution, the atom bomb, the rise of Adolf Hitler and the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Detractors, however, see such predictions as examples of vaticinium ex eventu, retroactive clairvoyance and selective thinking,

which find non-existent patterns in ambiguous statements. Because of this, it has been claimed that Nostradamus is "100% accurate at predicting events *after* they happen".

(<http://www.nostradamus.org/bio.php>) But Jesus already said, “*Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.*” (Luke 1:10) So whatever Nostradamus predict, it was already said by Jesus and Nostradamus use Jesus word that such thing will happen. (Show Rev. Moon)



Rev. Sun Myung Moon a Korean religious leader and founder of the Unification Church and his members has been called “Moonies”. The followers of Rev. Sun Myung Moon consider Rev. Moon to be the Lord of the Second Advent called by Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday at the age of 15 on a Korean Mountainside. Rev. Moon claim to be the Messiah; claims to have succeeded where Jesus Christ failed; and predict one world Global Religion. (By Richard N. Osling AP Religion Writer August 27, 2001)

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predictions_and_claims_for_the_Second_Coming_of_Christ)

You see many people claim to see sign of the future and self-claim of themselves to be the messiah. Jesus said, “*Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.*” (Luke 1:8) (Show Jim Jones and Dave Koresh)



Many people today follow many cult leaders and end up dead: Jim Jones poison his follower and also found dead in Jonestown, Guyana, South America. David Koresh was the American leader of the Branch Davidians religious sect, believing himself to be its final prophet. He was kill during the raid in Waco, Texas. (Waco, Texas 1993 raid)

III. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Jesus said, (Show Matthew 24:35)



“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:25-26, 32-33, 27-28)

(Matthew 24:35)

For those who can say that they can see such earthly signs are examples of sin for others and of themselves. How could they be? But they are signs of what sin can do and does do, depend on the person belief. Humans do that all the time because they think that the sign is pointing to their sin of disobedient or not doing according to the signs that they claim them they will be punish. People live in a constant fear and the day seem to be longer and the night are shorter. They lost their believe, trust, and not sure who can give them hope. (Show the realm of signs, wonders, and miracles)



When human try to use earthly signs, wonders and miracle for the future of the world, it is confusing and never know if it will be true or false. When it happen then people will say, “See, it is true” but when it doesn’t come true than people are confuse and depress even to the point of not having any hope. But there is hope. The Old Testament predict prophecies and signs about Jesus and Jesus came

in the New Testament and fulfill all the signs and prophecy of the Old Testament. Jesus said, *“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.”* (Luke 21:25) Signs for the end time is hear. We are living the end time and we must be prepare and keep watch for His return. (Show the end time in the word of Jesus)



However, while we are waiting, Jesus said *“At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”* (Luke 21:27-28) We don’t need to be afraid because we know that our sins had been paid by Christ. While we wait for His return we can continue to do His work by telling others about Christ salvation because they are many who are not ready for His return and His salvation. And when Jesus return you will stand

before His righteousness forever. Jesus points out the signs of the time so you can judge for yourselves and see how you can put all your complete faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ. Because He already conquer the world, and when He return, you will be with Him forever and ever. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen