

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible records external signs of Christ's Second Coming and describes the generation living before He comes

It will be like the days of Noah

(Matthew 24:37-38)

"37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark"

(Genesis 6:11-12)

"11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth"

Paul describes this generation to Timothy

(2 Timothy 3:1-9 ESV)

"1But understand this that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men"

(2 Timothy 3:1-9 The Message)

"1-5 Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people. 6-9 These are the kind of people who smooth-talk themselves into the homes of unstable and needy women and take advantage of them; women who, depressed by their sinfulness, take up with every new religious fad that calls itself "truth." They get exploited every time and never really learn. These men are like those old Egyptian frauds Jannes and Jambres, who challenged Moses. They were rejects from the faith, twisted in their thinking, defying truth itself. But nothing will come of these latest impostors. Everyone will see through them, just as people saw through that Egyptian hoax"

A world controlled by a generation:

- Without character (2 Timothy 3:1-3)
- Without conviction (2 Timothy 3:4-6)
- Without conscience (2 Timothy 3:7-9)

A GENERATION WITHOUT CHARACTER (Vs. 1-3)

- Lovers of their own selves - self-absorbed and childish
 - Stems from a carnal nature
- Covetous (money-hungry) with a lust for wealth
 - Addicted to living beyond their means
 - Never satisfied and always wanting more

(Ecclesiastes 5:10)

"He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; or he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity"

- Hoarders and not givers

(Jeremiah 17:11)

“As a partridge that broods but does not hatch, so is he who gets riches, but not by right; It will leave him in the midst of his days, and at his end he will be a fool.”

- Boastful (self-promoting), proud (stuck-up) and abusive

- How a generation looks at life is reflected in its music

- The music speaks of its attitude
- Today’s music is filled with sexual and rebellious undertones with images to corrupt the mind

(Romans 1:28-30)

“28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents”

(2 Peter 2:18)

“For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error”

(Psalm 10:3)

“For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD”

(Proverbs 25:14)

“Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain”

- Disobedient to parents (contemptuous of parents), unthankful or ungrateful

- This is an attack on the family unit and home life
- The high rate of divorce undermines family stability and authority of parents

- Unholy (crude) or profane or shameless

- They are blind to modesty
- Men and women do not respect or treat their body as the temple of the Holy Spirit

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

“19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body[a] and in your spirit, which are God’s.

- They abuse their body with drugs, alcohol and food

(2 Corinthians 7:1)

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”

- Without natural affection, truce breakers

- They are heartless - without human emotions or love
- Use people for their benefit
- Untrustworthy, unfaithful and untruthful
- No respect for law, promises and commitments.

- False accusers – slanderers

This is what the devil is called.

(Revelation 12:10)

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down”

- Incontinent – undisciplined and uncontrolled

- Given to pleasure and indulgence
- Given to passion and sexual craving – pornography is a bondage and needs deliverance
- Given to lust and lewdness

(Romans 6:12)

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts”

(Proverbs 16:32)

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city”

(Proverbs 21:17)

“He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich”

A GENERATION WITHOUT CONVICTION (Vs. 4-6)

- Despisers of those who are good or righteous.
 - Embarrassed to speak up for what is right and good, afraid to say no to wrong and sin
 - But bold to lie, speak evil and be corrupt

- Traitors - they betray family, friends and country.

(Mark 13:12)

“Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death”

- Heady and high-minded
- stubborn, reckless, hasty in judgment

(Ecclesiastes 5:2)

“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few”

(Romans 12:16)

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion”

(Psalm 73:6)

“Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment”

(Proverbs 16:18)

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”

- Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
 - Carnally minded and walks after the flesh.
 - Sees Christian activities as interfering with their social life.

- Having a form of godliness but have no power
 - Have the form but not the life that testifies of God's grace and power
 - Have the talk but not the walk.

(Romans 1:16)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"

(2 Timothy 3:5 ESV)

"Avoid (stay clear) of such people"

A GENERATION WITHOUT A CONSCIENCE (Vs.7-9)

- A generation without character, conviction and conscience will produce religious leaders who preach false religion and teach erroneous doctrine

- This makes room for worldliness and the flesh life

E.g. Jannes and Jambres - religious leaders who opposed Moses when he went to Pharaoh

(Exodus 7:11-12)

"11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods"

(Exodus 8:7)

"And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt"

(Exodus 9:11)

"And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians"

- William Barclay says, "The Christian leader will never lack opponents, there will be those who prefer their ways or ideas to God's. There will always be those who wish to exercise power and influence over people and who will stop to any means to do so"

- "Weak women" refers to women with no spiritual desire or are dead spiritually – sinful, immoral, not seeking the truth.

CONCLUSION

Billy Graham's Prayer for His Nation

- 'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.
- We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values..
- We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
- We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
- We have killed our unborn and called it choice.
- We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
- We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.
- We have abused power and called it politics.
- We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.
- We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
- We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.
- Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and Set us free. Amen!'