

How should we see trying situations and times?

God speaks to us one main way today - Heb 1:1-2 - In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

People tend to want signs concerning what's going on while there are more than enough signs with the times themselves - Matt 16:1-4 - The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but YOU CANNOT INTERPRET THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Jesus clearly said there will be only ONE sign given - Matt 12:39-41 - 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! BUT NONE WILL BE GIVEN IT EXCEPT THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The wise see REAL danger and respond accordingly - Prov - 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

What "Trying situations" and "Trying times" ARE NOT

We tend to incorrectly use this statement from God which is given to GOD's people (it actually only fits 2 nations) - 2 Chron 7:14-15 - 14 if **MY PEOPLE, who are CALLED BY MY NAME**, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **THEN will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.** 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

Today the only nation known as "God's people" that matters to Christians is the "Christian Nation" and Christians exist worldwide - 1 Peter 2:9-10 - 9 But **YOU ARE a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once **YOU WERE NOT A PEOPLE**, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Shocking situations are nothing more than shocking situations. Do not read more into them, stay Spiritually focused - Luke 13:1-5 - Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "**DO YOU THINK THAT THESE GALILEANS WERE WORSE SINNERS THAN ALL THE OTHER GALILEANS BECAUSE THEY SUFFERED THIS WAY?** 3 **I TELL YOU, NO! BUT UNLESS YOU REPENT, YOU TOO WILL ALL PERISH.** 4 Or **THOSE EIGHTEEN WHO DIED WHEN THE TOWER IN SILOAM FELL ON THEM — DO YOU THINK THEY WERE MORE GUILTY THAN ALL THE OTHERS LIVING IN JERUSALEM?** 5 **I TELL YOU, NO! BUT UNLESS YOU REPENT, YOU TOO WILL ALL PERISH.**"

Some of the given signs from times and situations we should be focused on has been revealed by God in His Word

***Jesus does provide events to look for on the path to and through Tribulation in Matt 24, Mk 13, & Lk 21 (all give breakdowns of Revelations)**

Godly people living self-centered - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - 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, slandering, 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.** Have nothing to do with them*.

Sound teaching being replaced with desirable messages - 2 Tim 4:3-5 - 3 For the time will come when **MEN WILL NOT PUT UP WITH SOUND DOCTRINE**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, **KEEP YOUR HEAD IN ALL SITUATIONS**, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Wealthy people hoarding wealth and using it to overindulge self - James 5:1-6 - **NOW LISTEN, YOU RICH PEOPLE**, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. **THEIR CORROSION WILL TESTIFY AGAINST YOU** and eat your flesh like fire. **YOU HAVE HOARDED WEALTH IN THE LAST DAYS**. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in LUXURY AND SELF-INDULGENCE. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

False teachers & teachings ignoring the imminent coming of Jesus - 2 Peter 3:3-7 - 3 First of all, **YOU MUST UNDERSTAND** that in the last days SCOFFERS WILL COME, SCOFFING and FOLLOWING THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRES. 4 **They will say**, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

How we should be during these shocking times and every other time

2 Tim 4:2 **PREACH THE WORD; BE PREPARED IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON; CORRECT, REBUKE AND ENCOURAGE — WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND CAREFUL INSTRUCTION.**

We must constantly adjust our Christian walk - James 4:7-10 - 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 **HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD**, and he will lift you up.

We must live in God's Will - Eph 5:15-17 - 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LORD'S WILL IS.