

"harvest" or gathering time beginning October 1874; the organization of the Kingdom and the taking by our Lord of his great power as the King in April 1878, and the time of trouble or "day of wrath" which began October 1874, and will cease about 1915; and the sprouting of the fig tree. Those who choose might without inconsistency say that the century or generation might as properly reckon from the last sign, the falling of the stars, as from the first, the darkening of the sun and moon: and a century beginning 1833 would be still far from run out. Many are living who witnessed the star-falling sign. Those who are walking with us in the light of present truth are not looking for things to *come* which are already here, but are waiting for the consummation of matters already in progress. Or, since the Master said, "When ye shall see *all* these things," and since "the sign of the Son of Man in heaven," and the budding fig tree, and the gathering of "the elect" are counted among the signs, it would not be inconsistent to reckon the "generation" from 1878 to 1914--36 1/2 years-- about the *average* of human life today.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man; no not the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but my Father only." ('Matt. 24:36', *Sinaitic MS.* Compare 'Mark 13:32,33'.)

"Take ye heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is." To many these words seem to imply much more than they express: they think of them as though they put a lock upon and made useless all the prophecies of the Bible--as though our Lord had said, "No man shall *ever* know," whereas he merely said, "No man [*now*] knoweth," referring only to the persons who heard him--to whom the exact times and seasons were not due to be revealed. Who can doubt that the "angels of heaven" and "the Son" *now know*, fully and clearly, matters which have progressed so nearly to fulfilment? And if they are

not *now* hindered from knowing by the statement of this verse, neither *now* are God's saints hindered or restrained by this verse from seeking an understanding of all truth "written aforetime for our learning." Indeed, it was in great measure because it was not the Father's will that his people *then*, nor down to the time the "seals" were broken* should know the date, that our Lord delineated the course of events, and assured them that if they would watch and pray and thus continue faithful, they, at the proper time, would not be left in darkness, but would see and know. God, through his Prophet Daniel, pointed out that at *this* time "the wise shall understand" the vision and prophecy, and merely that "none of the wicked shall understand." (`Dan. 12:9,10`)

To this the Apostle Paul adds his testimony, "Ye brethren are not in darkness that that day should come upon you as a thief," although it shall come thus upon all the world. "Watch ye, therefore [that in *due time* YE MAY KNOW], and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass."

As in the Days of Noah, "They Knew Not"

"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the presence [Greek *parousia*] of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and KNEW NOT,...so shall also the presence of the Son of Man be." `Matt. 24:37-39`

The real point of this illustration is overlooked by many who presuppose, without any authority in the Master's words, that the similarity here being pointed out is the *wickedness* of Noah's

* Vol. II, Chaps. 2 and 3.