

# It's the Last Days! So Witness, Expecting the Signs!

By Karen Sue Nyquist



**1. How Does the Bible Describe the Last Days?** - The Bible says, "But know this, that in the last days **perilous times** will come: For men will be **lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers**, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, **unforgiving**, slanderers, without self-control, **brutal, despisers of good**, traitors, headstrong, haughty, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ... Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, **so do these also resist the truth: men (and women) of corrupt minds**, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was" (2 Timothy 3:1-5,8-9).

**2. Obviously, We Are Living in the Last Days!** - Just looking at the news and what is going on around us, in addition to knowing the signs of the times, lets us know that many people are in desperate situations. These aggressive people need salvation as do those they are targeting. Remember, Apostle Paul had previously been a persecutor of Christians, but God was able to bring him to repentance and to change his life. This shows that, "The Lord is ... **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance**" (2 Peter 3:9).

One of the first persons that God commissioned to save people from their desperate situations was Moses. Let's compare what God expected from Moses with what He expects from us today.

### 3. God's Commission

**A. God's Commission to Moses** - From out of the burning bush, the Lord tells Moses, "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ... So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, ... Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:7-8,10).

**B. God's Commission to Us** - After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, He told His followers, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

### 4. God's Message that Must Be Told to Others

**A. God's Message for Moses to Tell His People** - "I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to ... a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:17).

**B. Jesus' Message for Us to Tell Others** - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "... teaching them to observe all things that I (*Jesus*) have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

### 5. Initial Concerns and Excuses

**A. Moses' Concerns and Excuses** - Moses asked the Lord, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice" (Exodus 4:1)? "Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue" (Exodus 4:10).

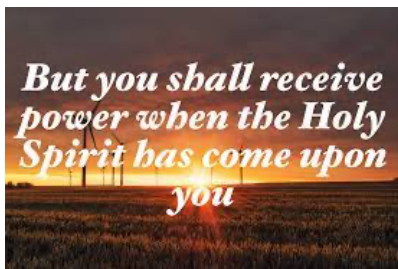
**B. Our Concerns and Excuses** - What if they don't believe me or won't listen? What if I get fired? My friends or family reject me? I am afraid. I don't know the Bible good enough. I am too busy. I don't have time. I don't want to offend others. I don't know how. I tried to witness before and it didn't work. I am too tired. I am too sick, etc. . . .

### 6. God's Promise to Be Present and to Help

**A. God's Promise to Help Moses Save a Multitude** - "I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say" (Exodus 4:11).

**B. Jesus' Promise to Help Us Save Others** -

- 1) "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).
- 2) "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say" (Luke 12:12).
- 3) "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses" (Romans 8:26).
- 4) "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).



- 5) "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).
- 6) We only need to be "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

## 7. God's Signs That He Expects Will Be Used

A. God's Signs for Moses to Use - 1st Sign - His rod became a snake, then became a rod again. "That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, ... has appeared to you." 2nd Sign - His hand would turn leprous and then back to healthy again. God reassured Moses, "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign." 3rd Sign - "And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land" (Exodus 4:2-9).

B. God's Signs for Us to Use - Most of these signs are the Gifts of the Spirit. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons (*discernment of spirits, working of miracles*); they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents (*spiritual warfare*); and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them (*divine protection*); they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (*gifts of healing*)" (Mark 16:15-16). The Gifts of the Spirit also include, but are not limited to: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8-10). God can have us use any of these gifts while we are witnessing!

## 8. Obeying God Brings God's Results

A. When Moses Obeyed - "Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron 1) spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. 2) Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. 3) **So the people believed**" (Exodus 4:29-31). Through Moses' rod, God's Rod, God brought forth 10 miraculous plagues and saved all of the Israelites, some Egyptians, and other people who decided to leave their gods and Egypt, to follow the only true God (Exodus 12:38)!

B. When Christians Obey - "And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs**" (Mark 16:20)! On the Day of Pentecost there were more than 3,000 souls saved (Acts 2:41)!

## 9. What Does It Mean That the Signs Will Follow Us?

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My (*Jesus*) name" (Mark 16:17). As we share the gospel of "salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, **God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will**" (Hebrews 2:3-4).

Before we go witnessing, we should pray ... intercede, ... travail that the Holy Spirit will anoint us and guide us as we share the gospel! Then we step out in faith on God's word, being sensitive to His leading. Our words might lead them to salvation before our eyes, or they might accept the Lord a few days later. We should expect that some of the words that we say will actually be gifts from the Holy Spirit: words of wisdom, knowledge, even prophecies. God might give us discernment of the spirits, or knowledge of diseases, that are bothering those we are ministering to. We should know that the words are from God, but may not realize the full impact we are making. Ask them if we can pray for them, for healing, direction, protection, or family situations. Healings or deliverances can manifest, even after we leave. God will use us for "signs, wonders, various miracles, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit!" We may not know or we might know, because we may not see or recognize the signs before us, but **THE SIGNS WILL BE FOLLOWING US!**

Paul said, "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4). More people will believe, be saved, and be delivered from their desperate situations!

**Wow! The signs will be following us! Thank You, Jesus!**

