

# “A sign which shall be spoken against” by Jeremiah

**Luke 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against:**

**2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.**

<Christ became a sign which shall be spoken against>

Today's message is about "A sign which shall be spoken against." We would like to think about the meaning of the above scripture, where Simeon said that young Jesus is set to be spoken against. Let's just think about it.

This bad prophecy was fulfilled during the life of Jesus. Not all Israelis welcomed Jesus and worse still, He was eventually denied by many Jews in Jerusalem, made guilty, and lost His life on the cross at Calvary.

People turned against Jesus and called Him a cult before making Him guilty. "Crucify Him!" was what people screamed and Jesus lost His life in the midst of rejection. This is how the prophecy of Simeon came to be fulfilled.

<It was difficult to recognize Jesus>

The Bible tells us that many people failed to recognize Jesus and ended up crucifying Him.

There is one more thing I would like to mention. It was difficult to understand that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was Christ who was prophesized in the Bible. It was the

hardest exam you can sit at the school for example. It was just like a tricky question.

Some of you may be wondering why it was a hard question. For example, Micah explains about the birthplace of Jesus as below.

**Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you're little among the clans of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.**

The Bible prophesized that Christ was going to be born in Bethlehem, but this knowledge worked against the rabbis and Pharisees who were supposed to be knowledgeable about the Bible. They rejected Jesus Christ of Nazareth and got rid of Him only because He was from Nazareth. Though he was actually born in Bethlehem, they only saw the surface and were completely tricked. They got themselves into the trick and misunderstood who Jesus was. It also meant that the prophecy of Jesus becoming a stone of stumbling came fulfilled through the life of Jesus.

**Isaiah 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.**

**8:15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.**

So, you could say that the arrival of Jesus was like a trap for certain kind of people.

<Jesus came as a stone of stumbling>

Through this, we can see the true intention of God sending Christ which was to reveal people's honest views and true opinions. It's like a tricky question in an exam to show people's heart deep inside. This is why Simeon said, "**Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against.**"

He prophesied the fall of many Israelites and rebellion of many hypocrites against Christ. He also predicted that people's real feeling would be revealed when Jesus comes to the earth.

<Thoughts of many hearts were revealed>

Indeed, thoughts of many hearts were revealed through the arrival of Jesus. The rabbis and Pharisees may have looked pure outside yet their inside was full of greed and sinfulness. That is why they stumbled upon Jesus and misunderstood who He was which led them to crucify Him. However, uneducated people like Peter recognized Jesus properly and received God's blessings.

The law of God was just, and while some people stumbled upon Jesus, others were safe. People's hearts were clearly revealed through Jesus.

<Jesus' return will be tricky as well>

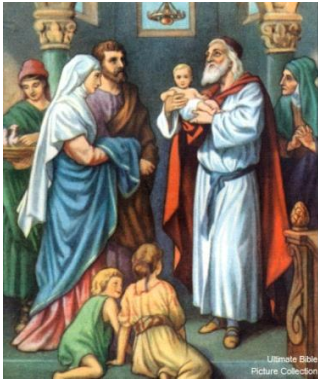
Now, what happened at the time of Jesus could happen again when He returns. What this means is that understanding Jesus' return in End Times is going to be difficult again and there is a possibility that Jesus comes as a stumbling stone.

<Revelation is to be used as a stumbling rock>

Revelation is hard to understand, and no matter how many times you read it, it doesn't give you enough understanding. How come God included such a difficult book in the Bible?

My personal view is that God actually doesn't intend to let all Christians understand its meaning anyway. Instead, he is trying to use this as a stumbling rock to separate them to reveal their true heart.

University entrance exams are there for distinguishing people who can answer tough questions to pass from those who can't. Difficult questions are used to separate people. When Christ returns, I personally think God may possibly separate Christians in a certain way.



Baby Jesus and Simeon

What we can also know from this is that the scripture below will be fulfilled as well.

**Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

<People's heart will be revealed by the doctrine of End Times>

When Jesus came to the earth, people were separated based on whether or not they accept Jesus.

It will be the same when Jesus returns. It will all depend on if people choose the right doctrine which reveals their true heart.

For example, some Christians believe Pre-tribulation rapture theory. The question is why?

That is because their true heart is revealed. They don't want to be involved in the tribulation, to be honest. The Bible gives us a warning like below.

**2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

Pre-tribulation rapture sounds sweet but is not the truth. If you believe this kind of

strange doctrine, your true heart is going to be revealed.

<Many Christians will be separated in End Times>

As I described before, Jesus wasn't welcomed when He came to the earth. Instead, He came as a stumbling stone as prophesized.

This may happen again in End Times. God will try to separate people to find out who has the true faith and who are hypocrites, therefore, believing the doctrine of End Times.

<The doctrine of End Times will be used as a trap>

When Jesus came to the earth, the doctrine and scripture of Jesus were used as traps.

As I already mentioned, many hypocrites were tricked by the doctrine "Messiah is going to be born in Bethlehem" and got stumbled upon Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The same thing will happen again in End Times. The current doctrine will be used to trick hypocritical Christians in End Times.

They wouldn't even realize even if the tribulation has come. Just, for example, people who believe that the EU is the country of the beast would not notice when the US began to control the world.

People who also believe the third temple and 7 years peace agreement will be caught by the trap in the same way.

Once again I repeat. When Jesus returns, he will be used to reveal people's heart just like He was used to separate the people of Israel in the past.

Simeon prophesized "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against" about the life of Jesus, and this was fulfilled. Many hypocritical Jews were against Christ and rejected Him. As a result, they killed Jesus, and many Israelites were fallen to lose the eternal life. Hidden

hearts of people including hypocritical Pharisees were also revealed as Simeon prophesized. They were against Christ and crucified Him which revealed their true heart.

As I repeat many times, I personally think that this will happen again in End Times.

We need to understand this, and the hearts of many people are already starting to be revealed. We are seeing many hypocrites. Therefore, we should stand upon God's truth and his words.

Amen



Return of Jesus is a tricky test.

## Knowing the era “Teaching of human beings” by H.F

Jesus told us to know the era, but what kind of era is it now? This is an era when humanism is seen as very important. People are trying to protect minorities to seek a peaceful solution. Feminism is a classic example, and hate crime laws/LGBT laws are created in many countries.

Recently, Sesame Street, a popular kind TV show, officially declared on its Twitter that it supports LGBT. It says “Sesame Street is proudly supporting all kinds of families with different shapes, sizes, and colors” (Christian News. NET 2017/6.30)

Sesame Street has been on air since 1969, and it is a fundamental educational TV program which is aired in 150 countries with great reputation. It is an influential program and officially declared its position to support LGBT.

John Lennon is also a humanist. He is still popular after his death 37 years ago. "Imagine" is a great song which is loved by many people today. This song opposes conflicts and hatred among nations and encourages us to focus on the perfect world we could create together. Although it is very important to protect the rights of minorities and eliminate conflicts from the earth, there is no concept of God in humanism. Human beings are the center of all, and it is about developing human beings' possibility, moral, and wisdom.

The problem of this humanism is that it denies the one and only God and his teachings. Actually, as you try to keep God's word, you will be seen as a criminal from humanism's point of view. Homosexuality is a prime example. Also, the idea that all the religions should be tolerant to each other doesn't agree with declaring that Jesus Christ is the only source of salvation.

Let's see how churches respond in this era of humanism.

Albuquerque Mennonite Church in New Mexico announced that they chose Erica Lea who is a homosexual person as their new pastor. Lea is reported to be emphasizing on connecting with people under the influence of new immigration policy, as well as racial, social, and economical discrimination. She is also working towards providing a safe place for LGBTQ community. (Christian News. NET 2017/9.20)

A church in Sweden provided a new management handbook to church officials in order to stop using male form to describe God. Instead the book encourages priests to say "God." A spokesperson from Suzan Church talked to British Telegraph that they talk about Jesus Christ, but in some regions, they use "God" instead of "He."

This person also stated, "There are some prayers which are focusing more on gender issues." According to Swedish media, the purpose of this handbook is to make God more tolerant.

The vice chairman of Ecuemnia Church Sofia Camnerin supported the use of this term and pointed out that this idea is based on the social recognition of discriminations and unfairness. (The Western Journal 2017/11.25)

England Church in London hosted a combined birthday party for Jesus Christ and Muhammad. All Saints Church in Kingston upon the Thames had "Milad, Advent and Christmas Celebration" on Sunday. The birthday of Muhammad is in the brochure, and it read that they are looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birthday. (The Christian Institute 2017/12.7)

These examples that I mentioned so far can tell us that humanism is well and truly alive in the society. The churches prioritize teachings of men instead of the word of God. Jesus said to the Pharisees that "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

These people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:7-8).

We need to ask if it was only the Pharisees who dwelt unto the teachings of men. Right now, people are just like the Pharisees and we swap the word of God with the teachings of men.

**Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest, not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

Jesus told Peter that he was the closest disciple when he was occupied with worldly thoughts because he was then seen as someone who was to disturb Jesus. I wonder if the churches are like that at the moment and only think of themselves. We need to think how Jesus would feel if we are full of humanism in this era.

After all, we also need to know what era we are in.





Sesame Street could be seen as supporting homosexuality.