

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2021

September: Decoding the times and seasons

Week 2 – Recognising the signs of our times

Introduction

Last week we ended our discussion with the question of **how** a traveller knows whether they are going in the right direction, or when to change direction. We answered that question by saying it was all about signs. Staying with our analogy of driving down a motorway, we can deduce certain things about signs – most fundamentally that they are critical for successfully getting from one place to another. We also note that there are different kinds of signs – some to do with speed, some to do with direction, others to do with access (or lack of it), while yet others are warnings of impending or possible danger. Ignoring those signs could determine whether and/or when we arrive at our destination. Throughout the bible we see signs mentioned and used several times, from Genesis to Revelation. Signs remain relevant for our walk with God today, just as they were in bible times. But in order for signs to be useful, we need to understand what they are and what to do with them. This will be our focus for today's study - understanding what signs are and how to interpret them.

Pilot text

Matthew 16:1-4 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him, asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

- What are signs and why are they important? [open discussion]
- What key attributes of signs can we see from Jesus' comments in the pilot scripture?
- Is it wrong to ask for a sign, or for clarification of one?
 - [Judg 6:17-22, 36-40](#); [Exo 4:1-9](#); [2 Kgs 20:8-11](#); [Isa 7:10-11](#)), [Ezk 14:4-8](#)
- How can we be equipped to interpret the signs we see?
 - [2 Tim 2:15](#), [Heb 5:14](#)
- Take home actions
 - Take some time over the next week to consider the signs you have encountered (or missed) in your journey so far. Come to next week's meeting prepared to share your wisdom so that others can learn from your experiences.