## Signs Predicted for Their Generation and the Signs as They Occurred:

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Prophecy Paradox: the Case for a First Century End Time

### SIGN #1 - The disciples will be arrested and brought to trial and be witnesses to the governors and kings who persecute them. The gospel will be preached throughout the world.

A.D.33: At the Passover Feast Jesus told His APOSTLES He would ask the Father to given THEM a Counselor, the Holy Spirit, after He was gone. The Councilor, the Holy Spirit, would be with THEM, teach THEM all things and remind THEM of everything Jesus said, and THEY would TESTIFY. (Jn.14:16,26;15:26;16:7)

A.D.33: Three days later Christ appeared to the Apostles and others. He would send THEM what the Father had promised and they would be clothed with power from high. Repentance and forgiveness of sins would be preached in His name TO ALL NATIONS beginning in Jerusalem. (Lk.24:47,49) When the Holy Spirit came on the Apostles, THEY would receive power and be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ENDS OF THE EARTH. (Acts 1:8)

A.D.33: The APOSTLES received power when the Holy Spirit came upon them on the Day of Pentecost. They then began witnessing in Jerusalem. Later THEY went on to Judea and Samaria, and then to "THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH." (Ro.1:8; 16:25-27; Acts 8:5; Col.1:23)

A.D.33+: The witnessing also marked the beginning of PERSECUTION. This PERSECUTION continued throughout Paul's missionary journeys while he was preaching the gospel THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. (Acts 4-8,12,22-26,28, 2Cor.11:23-25)

A.D.46-48: 1st missionary journey A.D.49-52: 2nd missionary journey A.D.53-57: 3rd missionary journey

A.D.58: The gospel had been MADE KNOWN to ALL NATIONS and PROCLAIMED in ALL CREATION UNDER HEAVEN. (Ro.16:25-27; Col.1:23) Paul made this comment in A.D.61 in his letter to the Romans after his missionary journeys.

### SIGN #2 - The beginning of birth pangs will be: false messiahs, wars, famines, earthquakes, and terrors and signs from the heaven.

A.D.40-46: Sorcerer in Samaria called the great Power of God. (Acts 8:9-11)

A.D.46-48: False prophet and magician Bar-Jesus. (Acts 13:6-10)

A.D.50: False brethren were among them. (Gal.2:40)

A.D.57: Many disguised themselves as apostles of Christ. (2Cor 11:12-15;26)

A.D.60: Many false prophets were in the world. (1Jn.4:1)

A.D.61: Philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of the world was the elementary principle of the world. (Col.2:8)

A.D.66: False prophets were among them. (2Pe.2:1-3)

A.D.44-70: Great numbers of false prophets and deceivers were in the world. (Wars of the Jews (Josephus) II.XIII.4 (52-59), II.XIII.5; VI.V.2)

A.D.41-54: Famine during the reign of Claudius (Acts 11:28)

A.D.63: The first sign of renewal of activity at Mt. Vesuvius was a severe earthquake on February

5. A.D. 63. Earthquakes continued intermittently for the next 16 years culminating with the eruption

of Vesuvius in A.D. 79. (VE:Ch.8)

A.D.65: Terrors & Signs from the heavens: A comet was seen for an entire year. Chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor sere seen running about among the clouds and surrounding the cities. WJ: VI.V.3; The Histories-Tacitus V.13

A.D.67: Famine in Gamala (WJ IV.I.7).

A.D.65-73: Wars & Rumors of Wars

Peace and prosperity ended in 65 when the Roman procurator Florus contrived devious ways to excite the Jews to go to war. Many in Jerusalem were killed and tortured and the Upper Market Place plundered. The Jewish Wars began in 66 when rebellious Jews captured Masada and put the Romans there to death.

A.D.66: The Roman army commanded by the Roman general Cestius marched to Jerusalem with the intent of besieging it. Inside the city, he attempted to break into the temple at its northern quarter. The first rank of Romans rested their shields upon that wall, at which time a great fear seized upon many, who immediately ran out of the city. Cestius recalled his soldiers from the place and retired from the city without any reason. (WJ:II.XIX.4-7) The "many" seized by great fear who immediately ran out of the city were following Jesus' command made 36 years earlier: When they saw armies surround Jerusalem, when they saw the abomination of desolation at the holy place, they were to drop everything and flee!

A.D.70: Prior to the siege of Jerusalem, many died of famine when they were shut inside the City on the Passover. They were surrounded by Roman troops.

# SIGN #3 - Lawlessness will increase. Christians will be hated. Many will turn away from the faith and betray each other. Many believers will be put to death. The one who endures to the end will be saved.

A.D.64-65: Christians became hated. They turned away from the faith, betrayed each other and were put to death. The fire Nero set in Rome was blamed on the Christians. The Christians became a class hated for their abominations. They were hated, arrested, tortured and put to death. (Annals 15:44 - Tacitus)

A.D.62-73: Lawlessness increased beginning in A.D.62. Peace and prosperity continued until A.D.62 when local government became blatantly corrupt. Houses were plundered, citizens killed, villages set on fire, and robbers bailed out of prison by politicians. (WJ:II.XIII.6)

#### SIGN #4 - Jerusalem will be laid desolate: The abomination that causes desolation will stand in the holy place. Then, let those in Judea flea to the mountains. It will be dreadful. There will be great distress. They would fall by the sword and be led captive into all the nations.

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A.D.70: Jerusalem and Herod's temple were destroyed in the Roman siege led by Titus. (WJ:VI.VIII-X)

A.D.70: They fell by the sword and were led captive to all nations. 1.100.000 perished. 97.000 were

taken captive. Those under 17 were sent to the Egyptian mines and the rest sent as presents to the provinces for shows in the theaters where they were burned, killed by sword, by fighting wild beasts, and fighting one another.

A.D.73: The Romans captured Masada, ending the Jewish wars. (WJ:VII.VIII,IX)

A.D.66-73 - The time of tribulation was the Jewish wars. Josephus said "the multitude of those that therein perished exceeded all the destructions that either men or God brought upon the world."

### SIGN #5 - The sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, the sea and waves will roar, and men will be stricken with terror.

A.D.79: Mt. Vesuvius erupted on August 24, A.D. 79. (VE:CH.8)

This caused the waves to roar all over the Mediterranean. The ash plume from the eruption moving west to east caused the sun to darken the moon to stop giving its light. All the stars to appeared to fall from the sky. The appearance of falling stars was an optical illusion caused by the movement of the ash plume. Men were stricken with terror.

## SIGN #6 - The Son of Man will come in the clouds and send forth His angels to gather His elect.

A.D.79: The Son of Man came in the clouds for all to see. He sent His angels down to gather His elect. 144,000 believers were "taken." They went to the same place as Jesus and dead holy people before them who raised from their graves to life and were taken up to heaven. (Mt.27:52-53) The secular people left behind described giants traversing the skies and the sound of a trumpet (Dio Cassius Bk.LXVI section 22,23). Since John was the only disciple who remained to be taken at this time, no disciples were left to record this event. John's Revelation in A.D. 69 prerecorded many of these events which would take place a few years in their near future, thus completing the biblical story before they were all taken and while some were still around to write it..

#### SIGN #7 - All the above occurs to the generation to which Jesus is speaking.

A.D.79: All signs described by Jesus happened to the generation to which Jesus spoke some fifty years earlier.

#### SIGN #8 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will never pass away.

A.D.79: The elect, the 144,000, were "taken." For them, heaven and earth passed away. And then they saw a new heaven and new earth which God the Father prepared for them. The Gospels and letters of the New Testament and Revelation were written down, and the His words never passed away.

WJ: Wars of the Jews, Josephus Learn how all prophecy was fulfilled nearly 2000 years ago. Read

### **Prophecy Paradox, the Case for a First Century End Time** By Lynn Schuldt

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