

**Sunday School Lesson**  
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they can see in the events of our day certain signs connected with the last days of the present age. The Jews were very much interested in signs that the end of the age might be near. But Jesus himself seemed to be unconcerned with these warning events. Rather, he taught that the end would come suddenly and without warning. It would seem, therefore, that those who think they can tell when the end will come cannot call upon the authority of Jesus to support their predictions.

**"There Is Still Time, Brother"**

Most careful readers of the New Testament are impressed by the conviction of those who wrote its books that the time was short and that the last days were at hand. In nearly every age of the history of the church, from the earliest church down to recent times, the conviction has continued that judgment is coming soon. More than two hundred years ago, in the first American revival movement, Jonathan Edwards sent congregations to their knees and into fainting spells with sermons that clearly described the punishments of the Last Judgment.

In the nineteenth century, optimism generally prevailed. Though there were civil wars in many countries, including our own, most persons felt that man was coming into a new age.

But the beginning of the present century, many persons, including religious leaders, were sure that the Kingdom would be realized in this world during this century.

In the early years of this century, books, magazines, and speeches suggested that the new day was almost within grasp. Certainly there were still many problems. Society still had not solved all its ills. But men were

confident that the new age was close.

Then came the awful tragedy of the first World War. At first, Americans were confident that it would not last long. Then, through a series of events, America entered the war.

By the time the Armistice was signed in 1918, the age of idealism and optimism that had characterized Western civilization in the earlier years of the century was gone. Disillusionment set in, and men spoke no longer of building the kingdom of God upon this earth.

Then followed the depression, the second World War, and the

beginning of the atomic age. Suddenly the old ideas of the Bible, which talked about the sounding of a trumpet and the earth dissolving, seemed real once again.

It is now clear that man had overestimated his own abilities and had underestimated the world he had created. For a while it looked as if man could create his own salvation. He was able to make the tools, he thought, that would construct the new heaven and the new earth. By the end of the nineteen-forties many persons had come to believe that man had

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