Signs of the end times

 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 2 Timothy 3:1-5

 Which are the signs of end times? The verse above surely points one of them. Most of the times when people spoke about last times, they referred to signs as wars and pestilences. Something that we experience right now, but we need to notice that these events have been amongst us and will also accompany the last days anyway. I think that another sign to consider and that most accurately in some cases can tell us of the time in which we live, is what this verse is talking about. It says here that men will be in this way in the last times. Someone would say that they have always been in this way since the beginning, being lovers of themselves, lovers of money, unthankful, etc., but there is a something different happening right now. The question now is that not only men in general behave like that, but that the society itself has accepted this kind of life and behavior It is how that flow goes right now and if someone doesn’t follow it, is not accepted. Being selfish, being a lover of money, proud and everything else this verse is talking about, is being promoted by the society. It is a fashion and not only. It has become a human right also. I have nothing against human rights, but being really a human, being complete, is possible when God is with us. We in a way are meant to be with Him. We are complete when having relationship with Him. With Him we are having real human rights. Our most important human right is to be with Him. Today instead, speaking about human rights, we intend being what we choose and want to be. This is true, but many times we might choose what is not correct and we need some kind of guidance. We need His laws and ways to follow in our life as they are for our good. He best knows how we are made and which is our true need. This Is the reason why He wants to guide us and wants us to follow His precepts.

 What happens today in this society, is that people have changed God’s laws and way in what they retain as right. This is slowly but surely happening today. This is what brings men to live in the way as 2 Timothy 3:1-5 tells us. As we said before, this way of life is now generally accepted and promoted. We can take as an example sexual relationships in disorder including same sex relationships, the increased number of divorces, etc. I don’t have anything against those people. I think that they need to repent the same as any other person and they are not worse than the others, but they need God in their life. I am just saying that what was considered as taboo before is now widely accepted and also protected by the law itself. We see that all of this is considered as something normal. This is when what is bad is being considered as something good and what is good as something bad. God doesn’t want to harm us through His laws. He wants to heal us and save us. He is giving them to us for our good. He best knows what is good for us, as He is our creator. Not living in His way, is what can really harm us. That’s why He wants us to walk in His ways – for our good.

 So, we conclude that men have always been in this way, but right now this is something that is accepted by the educational system and by the society. As before there were certain places or countries that behaved in an extremely sinful ways and got punished for that by God, as the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for example, in today’s days to live in this way is widely spread as there is a globalization and world wide communication that can unite ad influence all and everybody in the same way. Sadly the influence is wrong in the most of the cases. There is not anymore a country or a single place that decides for itself, but there is this way and flow promoted by the world that each one needs to follow no matter what. I am not referring to a single kind of sin, but I am speaking in general for everything that is against what God wants.

 One of the chapters in the Bible speaking about the end times and its events, is Matthew 24. There in verse 12 it says:

“And because the lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

 I don’t think that it refers to the lawlessness as an increased level of criminal activity only, but of a lawlessness in front of God. The laws we are used to have, are getting slowly changed and the main law, which is the law of God, is being taken away, and in its place is a lawlessness. How will the next generations know what is right and what wrong if the main values and laws of God are not there anymore, and are rejected, because they are considered as obstacles to the freedom of modern thinking? God has been having patience, but this patience eventually runs out. Then will be the time when Christ will return to establish His kingdom.

 That’s why, speaking about end time signs, we need to focus not only on pestilences and wars, but on the lifestyle of the persons in those times as 2 Timothy 3:1-5 tells us. Because this is actually the cause of all other events and signs that accompany the end times, and this is the reason why God will come back to prevent people from carrying in this way. He will not come because of the wars and the pestilences mainly, as they are caused by the evil in the people, but He will come exactly for that evil that causes all of this to happen.

 Another passage in Matthew 24 speaking about an end time sign are verses 15, 16.

 15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

 We see how Jesus is speaking about future events that will occur, and is referring to something that is abominable for God and that causes desolation. We can think that it talks about a person (the antichrist) or just a way that people will follow, but it speaks anyway about something wrong, about abomination that will be exalted as God. God is the one supposed to be in the holy place, but instead there will be this abomination. To be in the holy place, means to be exalted. We can see in nowadays how the wrong style of life and the sin is being exalted. It is probably not yet exalted and placed on a holy place as this scripture is talking about, but is on its way. I think that the desolation refers to the fact that God will not be anymore amongst people, because of the sin and the abomination that will be on the place where He is supposed to be.

 We don’t know the hour or the day in which this will happen, but what we can do as the Bible tells us, is to watch and pray.

 34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:34-36