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The "fig tree signs" are of such a nature - wars and earthquakes, distress of nations, sea and waves roaring" pestilence and famine - that the Church in each of the past 19 centuries might have believed that the time was approaching. They are of such a nature as to inspire the godly of every generation to sober watchfulness.

"The days of Noah and of Lot, as described by Jesus (Lk. 17.26-30) are representative of the days when the Son of Man comes, but in there are no signs which arouse fear and consternation, only a pursuing the ordinary avocations of life with a sense of security, and an ardent attachment to the things of this world. If such signs were to appear and produce the effects upon the world as many contend, it would be difficult to explain the statements, that this Coming is to be "unawares," as "a snare," as "a thief," etc., seeing that men would, in the very nature of the case, apprehend something important, etc., to occur. The only signs vouchsafed in the days of Noah and Lot, were those which spring from the general corruption of the world, and from the faith of Noah and Lot themselves, running in the channel of regular, natural development. There was nothing Supernatural until the time had arrived for Noah's and Lot's withdrawel and for God's judgments. Thus, we may rest assured, it will be again; signs will indeed exist, but in such a form that the world will not lay them to heart . . . "(Peters, Theocratic Kingdom, III, 112)