

END TIME PROPHECIES



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END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 1

Why Study Bible Prophecy?

A. Prophecy Offers Answers - Whether we realize it or not, our world is preparing for catastrophic events. These are imminent. Even our Hollywood filmmakers are producing a host of movies in an attempt to quench this ongoing hunger for knowledge about these events.

San Andreas (2015) Earthquake in California
Impossible (2012) Thailand Tsunami
2012 (2009) Earthquake
Quarantine (2008) Virus Mutation
Disaster Zone: Volcano in New York (2006) Volcano
Magma (2006) Volcano
The Wave (2005) Norwegian Tsunami
The Day After Tomorrow (2004) Climatic changes
Darwin's Nightmare (2004) Extinction
The Sum of All Fears (2002) Nuclear War
Armageddon (1998) Asteroid
Deep Impact (1998) Comet/Flood
Dante's Peak (1997) Volcano
Independence Day (1996) Alien Invasion

Most people today believe that something cataclysmic is about to happen. I'm sure we can all remember how concerned everyone was around the year 2000. Everything seemed to be escalating toward a crisis at the same time. We also have problems in our health care, judicial system, educational system and political problems are rampant. Alvin Toffler's book titled "*Future Shock*" in 1991 is beginning to unfold before our eyes. God has the answers!

B. Prophecy Leads to Holiness - We live in a world that needs hope. It's been said that "*He who has no hope for the future has no hold on the present.*" **A lack of hope also leads to a lack of holiness.**

"The greatest purpose of the prophetic word, as designed by God, is the pursuit of holiness by His people. This is everywhere evident in one prophetic passage after another. Check all the passages dealing with the return of the Lord and you will find that, almost without exception, our Lord's return is used as the basis for an extrication to godliness."

J. Hampton Keathley III
"Foundations for the Study of Prophecy"

C. The Scriptures are Filled with Prophecy - So while the world continues to drown in hopelessness, we should be seeing the Church of Christ living a greater life of holiness. We have plenty of Scriptures to lead us to that goal. It has been calculated that there are about 27% of the Scriptures that deal specifically with prophetic teaching. Approximately half of those Scriptures have already been fulfilled. If you look in the Old Testament you will find that there are 23,210 verses, of which 6,641 are prophetic in nature which is about 28.5%.

When you turn to the New Testament, you will find 7,914 verses of which 1,711 are prophetic in nature which is about 21.5%. There are about 1,800 verses that deal specifically with The Second Coming of Christ in the entire Bible. We also find that every 25th verse in the New Testament refers to The Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

D. Prophecy Comes Directly from God

“And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation.

21. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

II Peter 1:19-21

E. We Are Commanded to Study it

A Christian who does not study the Word of God is like a person who never eats. They will eventually die spiritually. They will never be able to withstand the daily assaults of the enemy.

“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17. so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16,17

“All Scripture” includes the great amount that deals strictly with prophecy. You can never be properly equipped as a disciple of Christ without studying prophecy.

F. Jesus Encouraged Us to Study the Scriptures

Jesus was so effective in His ministry because He knew the Old Testament. When the Pharisees and Scribes and Teachers of the Law tried to trap Him, He was able to turn their questions completely around. He told His disciples to pay close attention to what He said.

“Jesus said to them: Watch out that no one deceives you.”

Mark 13:5

“So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.”

Mark 13:23

“Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.”

Mark 13:29

“Be on your guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”

Mark 13:33

G. Jesus Noted That a Lack of Understanding Is a Sign of Foolishness

One of the things that Jesus did after His resurrection was that He appeared to two men who were walking on the road that led from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. They were discussing what had taken place with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They weren't able to accept the fact that it had happened. The notable reason for this was because they truly didn't understand the Scriptures.

“He said to them, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26. Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?

27. And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

Luke 24:25 – 27

H. Prophecy Proves That God's Word is True

I said earlier that 27% of the Bible contains prophecy. If just one verse could be proven to be wrong then it would not be God's Word. Since we now have half of the prophecies of the Bible accurately fulfilled it should remove any doubt that God's Word is true.

I. Prophecy Offers Hope for the Future

Dr. Wilbur M. Smith has made the suggestion that there are three different attitudes that anyone can take toward the future. The first is **indifference**. The second is **fear**. The third is **hope**. It's a wonderful thing to know that we can have our hope grounded in the eternal Word of God (Matthew 24:35). Paul made it clear that prophecy was meant to strengthen, encourage and bring comfort (I Corinthians 14:3).

J. Prophecy Leads to a Life of Integrity

If we have no future to look to, we will cast off any restraint (Proverbs 29:18). The apostle Paul made it very clear to the early church to keep focused on the appearance of the Messiah for a purpose.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known, but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
3. Everyone who has this hope in him. Purifies himself, just as he is pure.”

I John 3:2,3

“I have found that the proper understanding of Revelation motivates Christians to consistent dedication and service.”

Dr. Tim LaHaye
“Revelation Unveiled”
p. 10

“A good character is the best tombstone.”

K. Prophecy Shapes Our Way of Thinking and Our Worldview

I find that I can live in much more peace realizing that there are certain things that must happen that are clearly recorded in the Scriptures. I therefore, do not believe that our world leaders today are the ones that are determining what will happen. They simply have to fall into God's plan. They may think they are in control but they are no more significant than the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem and the same goes for us.

“The man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved about ten thousand temporal problems for he sees at once that these have to do with matters which at the most cannot concern him very long.”

A. W. Tozer

So I hope that this study will help you to live a holy life in an unholy world. I hope it also challenges you to evangelize your faith. And may it also cause you to use your time, talent, and treasure to further the work of the great commission until the Lord returns. The place to begin is right here where God has planted you.

L. Prophecy Reveals God's Plan

There will never be a time when God will fulfill His Word without revealing what He is about to do to those who listen to His voice.

“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”

Amos 3:7

Many of the things that God has planned for the future will bring in many types of cataclysmic destruction. The purpose of these events are to lead us to Him not away from Him (Amos 4:6-12). **Are you prepared to meet God?** God is still sending out His warning so we can be prepared for what is about to happen. Make sure you are on the right side!

“Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you.”

Acts 13:40

I hope and pray that this study draws you closer to the LORD. Take time to read each lesson again and allow God to open and renew your mind as guided by the Holy Spirit.

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 2

The Valley of Dry Bones - Ezekiel 37

A pivotal prophecy was given through the prophet Ezekiel more than 2600 years ago. It was so widespread that it never seemed possible until it began to happen. I say “began to happen” because it was not about to be accomplished in a day. The beginning point has been etched in the tablets of our history books on May 14, 1948.

On that day a prominent Jewish leader by the name of David Ben-Gurion made his way down Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv and stopped in front of its museum. It was at four o'clock that afternoon that he made his way to the podium and declared these historical words:

“This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign state. Accordingly, we... are here assembled... and by virtue of our natural and historical right, and on the strength of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby declare the establishment of the Jewish state of Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.”

Romesg Ratnesae
“Time Magazine”
May 14, 1948

It was during that same time that President Harry Truman sat in the oval office and signed his name to another critical document. It was handed to the White House Press Secretary who shared it over national television. The US officially recognized the rebirth of Israel.

In order to better understand the prophecy given by the prophet Ezekiel, we must take a few moments to go back to the promise given to Abram.

*“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.
2. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
3. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”*

Genesis 12:1-3

There were four unconditional promises given to Abram that day. **The first promise** is that He would bless Abram which also included his offspring that encompasses Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Just consider for a moment that out of the 777 Nobel prizes from 1901 to 2007 that 176 of them were awarded to Jews. They only make up 13 million of the world's 6 billion inhabitants which is less than two thirds of 1%. Yet they have been awarded 22.6% of all Nobel prizes to date.

The second promise is fulfilled in seeing that Abram's offspring through Isaac has definitely grown. There are approximately the same amount of Jews in the United States as there are in Israel which is approximately 5.3 million each.

The third promise has definitely proved to be true as well because we have been richly blessed by the Jews. They have given us our Bible, Jesus, the 10 Commandments as well as the entire Mosaic law.

The fourth promise includes nations like Canada, the United States and England have all been blessed because of their attitude toward Israel. History shows us that those that oppress Israel such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, Spain, Germany and Russia have all suffered greatly. Yet the United States needs to be very careful because of some of the agreements that it has brought upon Israel such as the Oslo Agreement.

“The ‘land for peace’ formula called for Israel to give up some of the land of promise in exchange for peace, in other words, it was a form of blackmail whose terms were drawn up in Washington and forced upon Israel for the express purpose of undoing what God had already done, including dividing Jerusalem and taking part of it from the Jews.”

Hal Lindsey
“I Will Bless Them That Bless Thee”
WorldNetDaily
18 January 2008

There are a number of outspoken leaders who are attempting to change the literal meaning of what God meant about the land of promise. How foolish they are.

In his Complete Diaries, Vol. II. p. 711, Theodore Herzl, the founder of Zionism, said that the area of the Jewish State stretches: **“From the Brook of Egypt to the Euphrates.”** The original boundaries can be found in the words of the Covenant that God made with Abram in Genesis 15:18-21; 17:7-8. The Lord reestablished that same truth with Joshua before he set his feet in the land of Canaan (Joshua 1:1-5). King Solomon was able to witness that promise come true (I Kings 4:20,21). Ezekiel was also told to give the allotment of the land to each of the 12 tribes of Israel in Ezekiel 48:1-29.

“The term *land* . . . used in the Bible, means exactly what it says. It is not talking about heaven. It is talking about a piece of real estate in the Middle East. After all, if all God was promising Abraham was heaven, he could’ve stayed in Ur of Chaldees. Why go on a long journey? Why be a pilgrim and a wanderer? No, God meant land.”

Dr. John Walvoord
“Will Israel Possessed the Promised Land?”
Moody press, 1975



The Promise Land

Even though God promised them the land, He also let them know that they would lose the land for a period of time even before they took possession of it because of their idolatry.

*“The LORD will scatter you among the peoples,
and only a few of you will survive among the
nations to which the Lord will drive you . . .
29. But if from there you seek the LORD your God,
you will find him if you look for him with all your
heart and with all your soul.”*

Deuteronomy 4:27, 29

This unfortunate part of biblical prophecy was also reiterated in Ezekiel 12:15 and Hosea 9:17. God is always true to His Word. The final fulfilment of this took place in AD 70 when Titus, the Roman Emperor, destroyed Jerusalem and Herod's Temple.

The next great extermination of the Jewish people took place during World War II. Prior to that time there were 9 million Jews living in 21 European countries. During the war the Nazi Holocaust brought about the death of six million Jews.

It was only last century when we finally started to see the fulfilment of the prophecy given to Ezekiel. Many believe that Israel's return to the promised land and becoming a nation in 1948 was the fulfilment of that prophecy. We need to take a closer look before coming to that conclusion.

The Scriptures begin by telling us that Ezekiel was brought by the hand of the Lord into the middle of a valley. As he looked back and forth all he saw were bones. As he looked closer he noticed that the bones were dry - very dry. The LORD asked him a question.

“Son of man, can these bones live?”

Ezekiel 37:3

There is no doubt that Ezekiel recognized that it was impossible within the realm of man's ability to bring life back to those bones. Yet the Lord was not asking Ezekiel to do it.

“Then he said to me, prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’”

Ezekiel 37:4

The Hebrew word for prophecy (Hebrew- *“naba”*) means *“to speak by inspiration”* or *“under the influence of the divine spirit.”* In other words, it was not going to be the words of Ezekiel but rather the Words of God that would bring these bones back to life. So Ezekiel began to prophesy that tendons would form along with flesh and it would be covered by skin. The final thing that would be done is that a breath of life would enter these bodies (Ezekiel 37:7-10).

It is interesting that once this was all done they were called “a vast army.” It is also very clear about who this army was.

*“Son of Man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel.**”*

Ezekiel 37:11

One thing that needs to be made clear is that this was a process not an instantaneous event. It has taken time for Israel to get to where it is today. Israel had been scattered through many nations during the Diaspora which began in AD 70. It is now over 62 years since they were declared to be a nation.

This was the beginning of the fulfilment of Theodore Herzl's dream. He was known as the father of Zionism. Herzl came to reject his earlier ideas regarding Jewish emancipation (set free, especially from legal, social, or political restrictions) and assimilation, and to believe that the Jews must remove themselves from Europe and create their own state.



Theodore Herzl
Died July 3, 1904 (aged 44)
Heart failure

The beginning of the Ezekiel's prophecy was also the beginning of the fulfilment of Herzl's dream. Today they not only have a flag but also a constitution, a prime minister and a Knesset. They have a police force and a very powerful military that boasts some of the top intelligence in the world. They have their own currency. They have regained control of Jerusalem. Yet there is one thing still lacking. **They are still awaiting their spiritual awakening by the breath of God when they accept their Messiah.**

"I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."

Ezekiel 37:14

There is another point which I must make before concluding this chapter. Ezekiel was not the only prophet to speak about this Exodus back to the land of their forefathers. In fact, according to Jeremiah, this second Exodus will be greater than the first one.

*“However, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when men will no longer say, as surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,
15. But they will say, as surely as the Lord lives, **who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.** For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers.”*

Jeremiah 16:14, 15

It is very clear that this next exodus will take place from an area north of Jerusalem. This is none other than Russia. Yet once again, we see that this takes place in two stages.

*“But now **I will send for many fishermen** declares the Lord, and they will catch them. After that **I will send for many hunters,** and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks.”*

Jeremiah 16:16

I suggest that the fishermen that were sent were the Zionists who called out to the Jewish people to return to their homeland. Fishermen use their skills to catch **to lure** their “prey” with the right bait. There were many Jews who responded to that initial call. Jumbo jets were arriving into the nation of Israel on a consistent basis as this unfolded. It caused a housing crisis. Much of these new settlements have been the basis for clashes between the Palestinians and the Jews.

A hunter approaches his prey much differently. **He targets them** with force and with fear. This is exactly what happened to those who did not respond to the initial call from the Zionists in the early 1900s and the one that continued throughout that century. They were left to the prey of Hitler and his Nazi regime. God in His wisdom and mercy has once again given them another opportunity as was also spoken of by the prophet Jeremiah.

There is a powerful story told by the prophet that helps us to understand once again how this process has and will take place. It is a vivid picture that God has given us to display the divine destiny of Israel. Jeremiah uses the illustration of a potter and his clay. **The Potter is symbolic of God while the clay represents Israel.**

*“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.
3. So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel.
4. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.
5. Then the word of the Lord came to me:
6. ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as the potter does?’ declares the LORD. ‘Like clay in the hand of a potter, so are you in my hand. O house of Israel.’”*

Jeremiah 18:1-6

There have been a number of times throughout history that Israel became **“*marred*”** in the hands of God. They stubbornly refused to obey His Word. Yet God did not discard them. They are still considered to be the apple of His eye (Deuteronomy 32:10; Zechariah 2:8). God had great plans for this nation but some of them will never happen. **Even though it is not God’s best plan that is being fulfilled, even God’s second-best will still amaze the world.**

The last part of Ezekiel 37 tells us that there are two sticks that Ezekiel was supposed to write on.

*“Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him. Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Ephraim’s stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.
17. Join them together into one stick so they may become one in your hand.”*

Ezekiel 37:16, 17

In God’s eyes there has never been the lost tribes of Israel. He knows exactly which tribe every Jew in the world today belongs to. The two sticks represent the 10 northern tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes of Judah. Israel was split up after the reign of Solomon. God says that they will once again join under one kingdom and one King (Ezekiel 37:24). This King will be no other than their Messiah.

There is one final item in these verses that cannot be overlooked. Not only will God make an everlasting covenant of peace with them which will cause them to stand strong and increase in numbers. There is one more very important point to make.

“ . . . and I will put my sanctuary among them for ever . . .

28. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them for ever.”

Ezekiel 37:26, 28

It is clear from Scripture that God will reestablish the Temple in Jerusalem. The exact details of that Temple and the surrounding land are described in Ezekiel 40 – 48. The first Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. The second Temple was destroyed by Titus in 70 A.D. The third Temple will not be destroyed. This third Temple will be very important for the entire world.

“In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s Temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills and the peoples will stream to it.

2. Many nations will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths. The law will go out of Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation nor will they train for war any more.”

Micah 4:1-3

“For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without a father or idle.

*5. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings **in the last days.**”*

Hosea 3:4, 5

One of the biggest mistakes that has been brought into the Church is a misunderstanding of where the scriptures differentiate between the nation of Israel and the Church of Christ. It is vital that we keep our thoughts trained on what the Scriptures are saying. If not, we will try to spiritualise the meanings of many of these pivotal verses.

“I cannot understand how some preachers can apply to the church Scripture promises, which, in their plain meaning apply to God’s chosen people, Israel; and which consequently must be future. The prophetic books are full of teachings which, if they are interpreted literally, would be inspiring, and a magnificent assurance of a great and glorious future; but which, as they are spiritualized, become farcical . . . as applied to the church they are comedy.”

Robert Louis Stevenson
quoted by Dr. William Varner
“The Promises to Israel”

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 3

Daniel's 70 Weeks

The Book of Daniel in the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation in the New Testament contain the most detailed end time prophecies. In fact, those who continue to find fault in biblical writings suggest that the Book of Daniel could never have been written in the 600 BC time period. They say it is just too accurate. It unfolds the advancement of world government from the time of the Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Roman and up to the final one world government.

We could spend many sessions going through each and every one of these prophecies. I would suggest that you take time to study my notes on the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation on our church website (www.fountaingate.org). Today's lesson is going to focus on a key portion of prophecy that took place in the first year of Darius, the son of Xerxes (Daniel 9:1). It is believed that Daniel was close to 90 years of age when he was given this specific prophecy. It has been titled "**Daniel's 70 Weeks.**"

It is important to understand what the word "**weeks**" (KJV) means. The Hebrew word is "**shabua**" which literally means "**seven.**" The Jews had a "**seven**" of years as well as a "**seven**" of days. It is clear that Daniel was speaking in terms of years earlier in the chapter (Daniel 9:1, 2). Daniel also knew that the reason the Jews were taken into Babylonian captivity for 70 years was because of their violation of the divine law of the Sabbatic year. They were placed in captivity for 70 years because they had violated the Sabbath rest for their land (II Chronicles 36:21). This term of a week representing a year was also used in Genesis 29:27. It would not make sense that all of Daniel's prophecy could take place in 490 days. This would mean that the city would be rebuilt and destroyed as well as everything mentioned in Daniel 9:24 having to be fully completed.

The first record that we have showing that a month consisted of 30 days is during the time of Noah's flood. All anyone has to do is compare when the flood began (Genesis 7:11) and when the flood ended (Genesis 8:4). The Bible makes it clear that this lasted for a 150 days (Genesis 7:24; 8:3). These five months consisting of 30 days each equalled 150 days.

It is also clear from the prophecy recorded in Daniel 7:24,25 that "**another king**" will have the saints handed over to him for "**a time, times and half the time.**" This of course represents 3 ½ years. This is substantiated in Revelation 13:4-7 when it speaks of this great political ruler who will persecute the Jewish saints for "**forty-two months.**" This persecutor is called an enormous red dragon who will try to devour the offspring of the woman (believed to be messianic Jews). Her offspring are able to escape into a desert area for "**1260 days**" [30x12x3.5] (Revelation 12:6).

If it can be proven that the first part of the 70 weeks was to be interpreted literally, it gives us grounds to believe that the final part is also to be literally interpreted. It is also very important to understand who was involved in this prophecy. If it can be proven that it is only for Israel and not for the Church then it offers support to believe that the Church is not to be included in chapters 4 to 19 of the book of Revelation. This prophecy is even more important because Jesus also offered His support that the greatest trouble that would come upon the nation of Israel would take place during this 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy (Daniel 9:27; **Matthew 24:15 – 22; Mark 13:14 – 20**).

As we look at the prophecy in detail we see that . . .

“From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the anointed one, the ruler, comes there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ it will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.”
 26. *“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the anointed one will be cut off and will have nothing.”*

Daniel 9:25,26

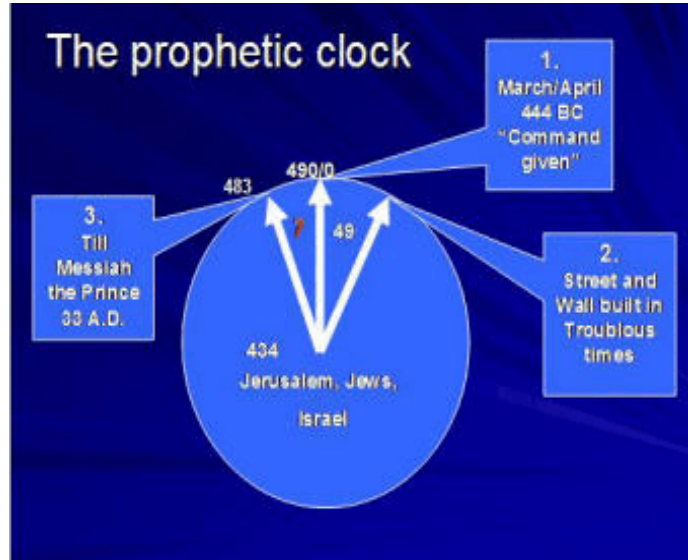
As we pursue the Scriptures we see that there was the decree of Cyrus in II Chronicles 36:22, 23; Ezra 1:1-3. Then there was the decree of Darius in Ezra 6:3-8. As well as another decree by Artaxerxes in Ezra 7:7. But all of these three decrees were only for permission to rebuild the Temple. Nothing was mentioned of the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

We therefore, have to go to the decree recorded in Nehemiah 2:1-8 where we find permission given to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. The Bible makes it clear that this took place in the month of Nisan. Since the day is not mentioned many scholars conclude that it took place on 1st of Nisan 444 BC which works out to be the 14th day of March on our calendar.

The 69 weeks that are broken down into $7 \times 7 = 49$ years and $62 \times 7 = 434$ years make a total of 483 Jewish calendar years. That was the very day that Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, which we call Palm Sunday. It took place on the 10th of Nisan which was a Sunday, April 6, AD. 33. This interval contained exactly 173,880 days (or 69 weeks x 7days/week x 360 days/year).

According to our Gregorian calendar we have 476 years and 24 days for the same period.

476 x 365	173,740 days
Add (14 March to 6 th April (both inclusive)).....	24 days
Add for leap years	<u>116 days</u>
	173,880 days



Jesus made mention that something very specific was happening on the day that He made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It was on that day that He was cut off. The implications that follow were very devastating to the Jews.

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

*42. And said, ‘if you, even you, had only known **on this day** what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.*

43. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.

*44. They will dash you to the ground, you and your children within your walls. They will not leave one stone upon another, **because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.**”*

Luke 19:41-44

So to sum up this first part of the prophecy, we can see that from the time that King Artaxerxes gave the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem until the time that the Anointed One was cut off made up not just 483 years but also exactly 173,880 days when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The next part of the interpretation involves a gap of time in between the final fulfilment of the 70th week.

The question often asked is whether there are other gaps in biblical prophecy. The answer is yes! Here are few examples.

1. The acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God – Isaiah 61:2
2. The interval between the legs of iron and the 10 toes - Daniel 2; 11:35,36
3. The intervals spoken of by Hosea the Prophet - Hosea 3:4, 5; 5:15 and 6:1
4. King David speaks of two different time periods - Psalm 110:1, 2
5. The prophecy of Matthew 24 only makes sense with the gap between Daniel 9:26,27
6. The apostles accepted a time gap in Old Testament prophecy - Acts 15:18
7. Paul realized a time period in the future of the olive tree - Romans 9 – 11

The prophecy of Daniel is very clear as to what will take place after the Anointed One is cut off and during this gap of time.

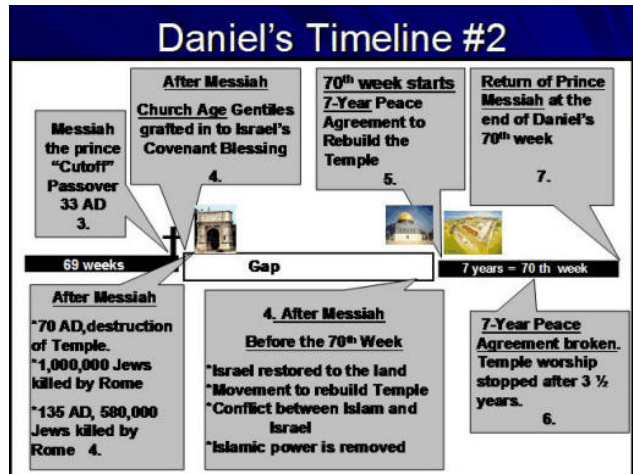
26. “After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the anointed one will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: war will continue until the end, and desolation’s have been decreed.”

Daniel 9:26

The cutting off of the Messiah took place a few days after the end of the 69th week when Jesus was rejected and crucified. The destruction of the city and the sanctuary did not take place until 70 AD. Since that time our world has continued to see many wars and the desolation that these wars bring. God has not forgotten Israel however during this period of time. He has continued to speak to them. The day will come when THEY will accept Him as their Messiah.

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.
38. Look, your house is left to you desolate.
39. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”*

Matthew 23:37-39

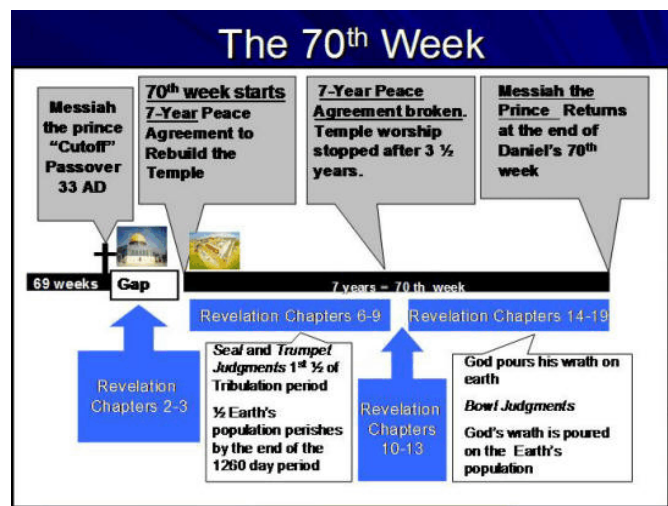


The final part of Daniel's 70 weeks of prophecy conclude with the last verse of this chapter.

"He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' in the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the Temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is a creed is poured out on him."

Daniel 9:27

Once again we are keeping with our previous interpretation of the "seven" representing a time of seven years. The "he" that will confirm the covenant is not the Messiah. It is rather one who will come with the same attitude and nature as "the ruler" (Emperor Titus) of verse 26. He will rise out of a revised Roman empire and become the ruler of the world. He will set up the abomination that causes desolation just like Antiochus Epiphanes did (cf. Matthew 24:15-41)



This final world ruler is also identified as the little horn in Daniel 7:8-25. He is also seen as "***a stern faced king***" in Daniel 8:23. This king originally came as Antiochus Epiphanes IV who died in 164 BC at Tibae in Persia. We also see this final world ruler identified in Daniel 11:36 – 39. The apostle Paul calls him "***the man of lawlessness***" in II Thessalonians 2:3,4. The apostle John sees him as a "***beast coming out of the sea***" in Revelation 13:1-10.

These last notes are taken from a previous study I did on the Book of Daniel. A very important aspect of the prophecy given at the start is that the period of time in question relates to "***your people***" and "***your holy city.***"

Even in ruins, Jerusalem remained the city set apart in the heart of God. To read into this verse, the Church composed of Jews and Gentiles alike is to add something foreign to the whole thinking of Daniel. Once it has been established that the prophecy relates to the people of Israel and the holy city of Jerusalem, six important purposes of God were clearly discerned in 9:24:

- 1) "***to finish the transgression;***"
- 2) "***to put an end to sin;***"
- 3) "***to atone for wickedness;***"
- 4) "***to bring in everlasting righteousness;***"
- 5) "***to seal up the vision and prophecy;***"
- 6) "***to anoint the most holy.***"

These six items, to be completed in the seventy sevens of Daniel 9:24, are comprehensive in nature. The **first three**, deal with sin named in three ways: "***the transgression,***" "***sin,***" and "***wickedness.***" The expression "***to finish***" is derived from a root meaning "***to finish in the sense of bringing to an end.***" The most obvious meaning is that Israel's course of apostasy and sin and wandering over the face of the earth will be brought to an end before the completion of the seventy sevens.

The **second** aspect of the program, "***to put an end to sin,***" may be taken either in the sense of taking away sins or bringing sin to its final place of judgement. Due to a variation of textual reading, another possibility is to translate it "***to seal up sin.***" The final explanation may include bringing an end to Israel's previous transgressions, bringing their sin into judgement, and also introducing an element of forgiveness.

The **third** aspect of the program, "***to atone for wickedness,***" seems to be a rather clear picture of the cross of Christ in which Christ reconciles Israel as well as the world to Himself (II Corinthians 5:19). The Hebrew word "***kipper***" when used in relation to sin means to "***cover,***" to "***wipe out,***" to "***make ... as harmless, nonexistent, or inoperative, to annul, to withdraw from God's sight.***" While the basic provision for reconciliation was made at the cross, the actual and final application of it is again associated with the second advent of Christ as far as Israel is concerned.

The **fourth** aspect of the program is "*to bring in everlasting righteousness*" There is a sense in which this also was accomplished by Christ at His first coming in that He provided a righteous cornerstone for God's justification of a sinner. The many Messianic passages, however, which view righteousness as being applied to the earth at the time of the Second Coming of Christ seem to be the most likely explanation of this phrase (cf. - Jeremiah 23:5,6; Isaiah 11:2-5; 53:11; Jeremiah 33:15-18).

The **fifth** aspect of the program, "*to seal up the vision and prophecy*" is probably best understood to mean the termination of unusual direct revelation by means of a vision or oral prophecy. The expression "*to seal up*" indicates that no more is to be added and that which has been predicted will receive divine confirmation and recognition in the form of an actual fulfilment. Once a letter was sealed, its contents were irreversible (cf. Daniel 6:8).

The **sixth** aspect of the vision of prophecy, "*to anoint the most Holy,*" has been referred to the dedication of the temple built by Zerubbabel, to the sanctification of the altar which had previously been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes (1 Maccabees 4:52-56), and even (yet unlikely) to the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-27).

So the "*Times of the Gentiles*" and their treading over Jerusalem will come to an end as God fulfills His final prophecies toward the nation of Israel. There is no doubt that Daniel's 70 weeks of prophecy is concerning the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24).

The Church has its opportunity today to impact the world. The day will soon come when we like righteous Noah will be carried above the turbulent waters. The door will be shut and God will turn His focus from the Gentiles to the Jews.

The question that is often asked is "*when will this happen?*" Gavin Finley suggests that this will take place between two of the Jewish holy days.

No matter when this does happen the important thing is that we are ready BEFORE it begins. There are many differences of opinion by well respected scholars. Certain interpretations may change. The fact is that this world is heading toward greater cataclysmic events than it has ever witnessed. It will culminate in the Second Coming of the Lord to this earth. It is total foolishness to attempt to deny what the Word of God clearly says. **Are you ready?**

There are many ways to handle the truth that is found in the Bible concerning end time prophecies. Some will properly use it as an evangelistic tool. Others will wait for opportunities so they don't cast their pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6).

"Therefore the prudent man keeps quiet in such times, for the times are evil."

Amos 5:13

There are many people in our world who think they are wise while others are foolish. Sometimes they open their mouths and reveal the truth. Be very sensitive to the opportunities that God places before you. Listen to what the Spirit of God is saying to His Church today.

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 4

Birth Pains - Part I

The birth pains that Jesus prophesied about are spiritual deception, social conflicts and ecological disturbances. The beginning of birth pains is intense enough to warrant paralleling it to woman within hours of her hard labour. She is immobilized from usual life. These birth pains will create many-faceted types of crises unparalleled in all of human history. If they are not distinctly discernable then they are not prophetic signs. The trends mentioned in these verses have dramatically increased in recent history.

A. False Christ's

1. Maitreya - There are people who believe in this "Great Teacher." They believe that Buddha, Messiah, Krishna, and the various other future teachers followed by the religions of the world, are different names for the same individual, that being Maitreya. They believe he is on the world scene now and is waiting for the appropriate time to reveal himself and lead the world in a global evolution of our collective consciousness. They believe that Maitreya will inspire humanity to see itself as one family, and usher in a new civilization of sharing, economic and social justice, and global cooperation.

According to Share International's website on Maitreya, this world teacher does not intend to build a new religion, but rather to teach humanity "*the art of self-realization.*"

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

I Timothy 4:1

According to Benjamin Crème (teacher of this cult), Maitreya descended in July 1977 from an ancient retreat in the Himalayas and took up residence in the Indian-Pakistani community in London, where he has been living and working as an ordinary man with his status known only to a few select people. The plan is for Maitreya to emerge gradually into public view so as not to infringe on humanity's free will.

Crème credits the presence of the '*energies of Maitreya*' in the world for the fall of communism in the Soviet Union, the end of apartheid in South Africa, the reconciliation between East and West, and the worldwide focus on preserving the environment.



Lord Maitreya and Benjamin Crème

“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.”

Matthew 24:24

2. Aquarian Age Community - The Aquarian Age Community website reads like a New Age handbook. There is much taught about the oneness of life, the divine potential of the individual, the destiny of the collective, and a need to be resurrected from the matter in which we are encased. They promote the evolution of human consciousness and are active in the work of the United Nations as a participating NGO (non-governmental organization).

First, they say, they must teach the law of evolution and its inevitable corollary, perfected men. Secondly, the AAC tells their followers all disciples waiting for their Teacher must be busy being peace activists and recruiting more loving souls to the cause of peace and harmony. Thirdly, they believe work must be done to increase the signs and wonders that the Bible prophesies will indeed increase as the time of the end draws near.

3. Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda September 12, 2006 - Puerto Rican-born Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda presides over a world-wide movement that believes he is God - the second coming of Jesus Christ. From South Florida Miranda leads his followers, mostly Hispanic, in a different gospel, the "*freedom to indulge*" because he teaches that there is no sin, no devil and no hell to pay. The church is called "*Creciendo en Gracia*" or Growing in Grace Ministry.

4. Nostradamus - According to one of the prophecies of Nostradamus, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse would wreak their destruction in July 1999. Many interpreters of Nostradamus' vague prophecies think he foretold the beginning of a third world war, and the coming of a "*King of Terror*" (Antichrist) as soon as July 4, 1999, and as late as August 11, 1999. Source: Electronic Telegraph (Story no longer online. I wonder why?)



Nostradamus is considered a false prophet by most orthodox Christian scholars. His purposely vague quatrains can be made to mean most anything, and attempts to foretell the future by interpreting his writings have resulted in consistent failure. In any case, Nostradamus, or any other source of prophecy should not be put on a level with the Bible!

5. Solar Temple Cult - Jan. 8, 1998 - A group of 30 people tied to the Solar Temple Cult were arrested by police in Spain before they could carry out plans for a mass suicide at the summit of Tenerife's Teide volcano. They believed they would be carried away by a spacecraft.



6. Others - There is also David Koresh the former leader of the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas. Another is Sun Myung Moon, the Moonies of the Unification Church. And who could forget Jim Jones at the People's Temple.



B. War: An unprecedented escalation of war has occurred in the twentieth century making it the bloodiest time in history (over 100 million people killed). Since World War II, over 150 major wars have occurred with a death toll of over 25 million. Since the Berlin Wall fell (Nov. 1989), conflicts have forced 50 million people from their homes worldwide. In 1993 there were a record 29 major wars being fought. There were over 70 wars being fought (not all major) in 1995 (double from 1989).

C. Rumours of Wars

1. Iranian Threat

Iran is building a new military base in Syria that will house thousands of troop and deadly precision-guided missiles, Fox News reported Tuesday Sept 4/2018.

Citing western sources and satellite images, Fox reports that the classified project called the "Imam Ali compound" was approved by the highest levels of government in Tehran. Analysts at Image Sat International (ISI) say that five newly constructed buildings would house precision-guided missiles. In the northwest area of the compound are 10 additional storehouses.

ISIS analysts say Iran will complete construction in a matter of months and the base will be operational shortly after. Iran regularly uses its proxies in Iraq and Syria to plan attack missions against Israel and its other enemies in the region, but security experts say this new compound is different. It is the first time Iran is building a base this large from scratch in Syria, and it is less than 200 miles from an American army position.

Oct 26, 2005 *"Israel must be wiped off the map."*

2. Chinese Threat

Retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges (commander in Europe) said at a Warsaw security forum on Wednesday, Oct 24/2018 that European allies will have to do more to ensure their own defenses against Russia as Americans focus more on the Pacific.

Hodges said: *"I think in 15 years — it's not inevitable, but it is a very strong likelihood — that we will be at war with China. The United States does not have the capacity to do everything it has to do in Europe and in the Pacific to deal with the Chinese threat."*

3. Russian Threat

On September 26, 2019 a video showed the moment the Russian military launched an upgraded Kh-35 Uran anti-ship cruise missile system into the ocean in a menacing World War 3 threat to the West.

D. Ethnic Conflict: This involves a broad range of civil disorder and racism. The Greek word for “*nation*” in Matthew 24:7 is “*ethnos*” which translates “*ethnic or tribe.*” Nation against nation is “*ethnic group against ethnic group.*” The ethnic wars in Cambodia, Albania, Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo and Sudan along with Stalin’s purges, and China’s Cultural Revolution have caused the number murdered by their own people to exceed the deaths caused by wars outside their borders (totalling over 150 million deaths). The militant Islamic leaders have especially targeted Israel, the USA and the European Union.

E. Famine: Nearly a billion people worldwide suffer from malnutrition. Over 25,000 people die every day worldwide from hunger related causes. Nearly 9 million die of starvation every year. Water shortages have reduced the global food supply by 10 percent. The population is growing yet its agricultural capabilities are diminishing. Over 500 million people do not have enough drinking water. The numbers will increase to 2 billion by 2025.

F. Pestilence (disease): This includes the rise of diseases such as tuberculosis, the Avian bird flu, pneumonia and meningitis which are becoming unstoppable as some are becoming more resistant to inoculations.

The nations of the former Soviet Union are developing genetically engineered viruses and bacteria that cannot be stopped by antibiotics. Terrorists threaten to use smallpox because many nations today (even in the USA) do not have a vaccination against it.

Epidemics of typhoid and diphtheria have afflicted areas of India and Russia. Deadly new strains of malaria, tuberculosis and cholera are becoming resistant to all known antibiotics and are killing millions. Diseases are growing in an unprecedented way globally especially viral killers like AIDS and Ebola.

There are nearly 35 million people living with AIDS (2007). More than 25 million have died from AIDS since 1981. Africa has over 11 million AIDS orphans. Six million people a year are getting infected. There has also been an increase of cholera and Whooping Cough. Japan recently had to put 290,000 cows and pigs to death to end an epidemic of foot and mouth disease. Clinics in certain areas of the world are now concerned that measles may become widespread again.

With the appearance of SARS, bird-flu outbreaks, and the H1N1 scare, filmmakers have turned to the concept of the “**global pandemic**” with frightening regularity. However, not every plague film scheduled to hit theatres is set in modern times or about some crazy new virus threatening to wipe us all out. Instead, some filmmakers are going back to the granddaddy of all marauding diseases, the Bubonic Plague.

Many diseases were discovered only in the 20th century like AIDS, Hepatitis, Ebola, Mad's Cow, and Cancer. Now, the varieties of cancer are also increasing. Some of the most common cancers now include Cancer of the Bone or Leukemia, Breast Cancer, Brain Cancer and Lung Cancer. Lung Cancer can be further classified based on its cause. One form of lung cancer is called Asbestos Cancer which is caused by extreme exposure to asbestos for a long period of time. Asbestos Cancer is also called as Mesothelioma.

Even the common bacteria that causes pneumonia, children's ear infections and many other every day diseases are evolving into forms untreatable by all known medicines, threatening a chilling post-antibiotic era where even the simplest infections could quickly escalate into fatal diseases.

G. Persecution: Religious freedom seems to be available for almost every group except Christians. It seems like every time we go to the court rooms we are told that our Bible no longer applies in this society. We are turning from a **“freedom of religion”** to a **“freedom from religion.”** The only way that a freedom can be gained by one group is by taking it from another.

One such case involved Ryan Hemelaar of Operation 513 who was told to move on by the Surfers Paradise Police while he was preaching a loving message from the Bible. The reason given was: *‘Expressing religious beliefs in public constitutes a breach of the peace.’* It is shocking to know that more Christians were killed in the 1900's for their beliefs than all of the Christians who were martyred in the 1800 years preceding it. Much of these killings are at the hands of mobs of Muslims and Hindus as well as communist countries.

H. Great Signs from the Heavens

*"Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or
seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for
times of trouble, for days of war and battle?"*

Job 38:22-23

This passage teaches God has a store house of hail, specifically for *"the time of trouble or distress,"* and *"for days of war and battle."* For those who think this statement is just a metaphor are in for a huge surprise. In the Old Testament we have seen the Lord use hail stones to fight against Israel's enemies (cf. - Psalm 18:12-13; Psalm 78:47-48; Ezekiel 13:11-13; Isaiah 28:17). The Lord used hail stones against Egypt during the seventh plague.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt—on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt.’

23. When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt;

24. hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

25. Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree.

26. The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.”

Exodus. 9:22-26

If the people in Egypt were alive now and they were able to tell you, they would let you know the hail that hit them did not come down as a metaphor! It is very clear the Lord used adverse weather conditions to send down the hail.

Isaiah also wrote,

“The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.”

Isaiah 30:30

It is very clear during the days of Joshua that God used hail to defeat the armies that attacked the Israelites.

“As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them from the sky, and more of them died from the hailstones than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.”

Joshua 10:11

Take note how God has dealt with those who opposed Him in the past and take careful notice what He tells you about the future. I now quote what is to take place in the future.

“From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.”

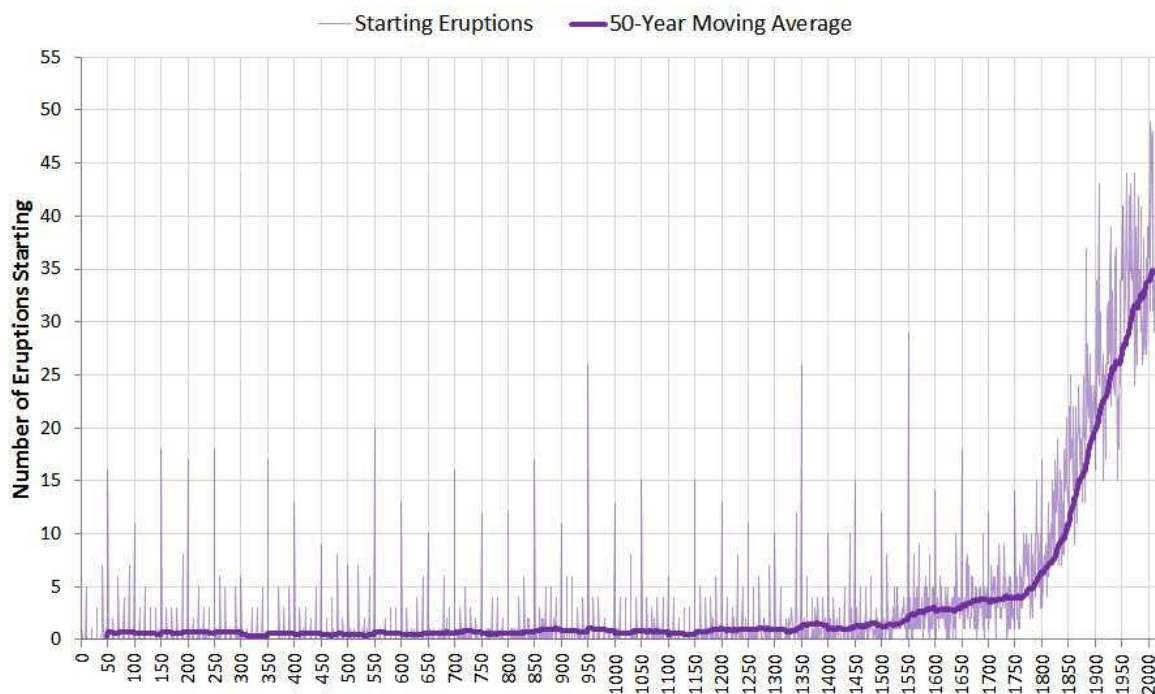
Revelation 16:21

I. Fires - God also used fire as a form of judgment. Since many fires begin by lightning strikes these could very well be included in Luke 21:11. This year we have heard once again of fires in British Columbia and Central Canada, Oregon, Portugal as well as in western Russia. Many other countries are suffering from ravaging fires as well. The carbon monoxide levels in these areas have begun to reach dangerous levels.

J. Volcanoes - The earth presently has 1500 active volcanoes and 75% of these are in the Pacific Rim of Fire. The year of 2010 has witnessed severe economic hardships because of Eyjafjallajökull, the active volcano in Iceland. The ejected ash reached heights in excess of 9 km (30,000 ft) causing significant disruption to European air travel. The ash even reached the shores of Canada.

By mid-August, the Sakurajima Volcano—one of Japan’s most active—had erupted ash at least once every week during 2010. On August 19, 2010, an ash plume was sighted at 9,000 feet (2,700 metres), according to the Tokyo Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre. There has also been eruptions in the Republic of Congo as well as in Chile, Guatemala, Columbia, Indonesia, Philippines, Italy and Hawaii.

Global Volcanism: Number of New Eruptions 0 AD - 2015 AD



Source: Smithsonian Institute Global Volcanism Program, Author's Calculations

© Political Calculations 2016

K. Fearful Events - I'm sure there would be many that would love to argue as to what should be included in the fearful events. If the bombing of the twin towers on September 11, 2001 did not strike fear into the people who were caught in this terrorist attack, then I'm not sure what it takes to produce fear. The faces of those escaping with their lives surely indicated the fear that I'm speaking about. I also wonder how many feared for their livelihood during the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

What about the farmers in Australia when swarms of locusts descended upon their crops? And consider the farmers in Turkey who were just recovering from a two-year drought and then had to battle the Yellow Dust that destroyed their crops.

The Northwest Passage was almost free of ice in August 2010 except for a small amount in the McClure Strait. This has had many scientists greatly concerned about the changes taking place in world temperatures. This year has seen many summer temperatures spiking to the point that many records were broken.

Mud slides have become a common event in countries all over the world. Homes and businesses and many lives are just swept away in its unrelenting power.

The United States, the British Isles, much of Europe and Russia in 2010 all received record snowfalls that brought public transportation to a halt. Rainfall reached epic proportions as it pelted nation after nation. We also had record low temperatures in many locations worldwide.

On the other end of the spectrum there was a heat wave that hit Eastern Europe as an exceptionally strong jet stream blew in from the Sahara across the Balkans and into both Poland and the Ukraine.

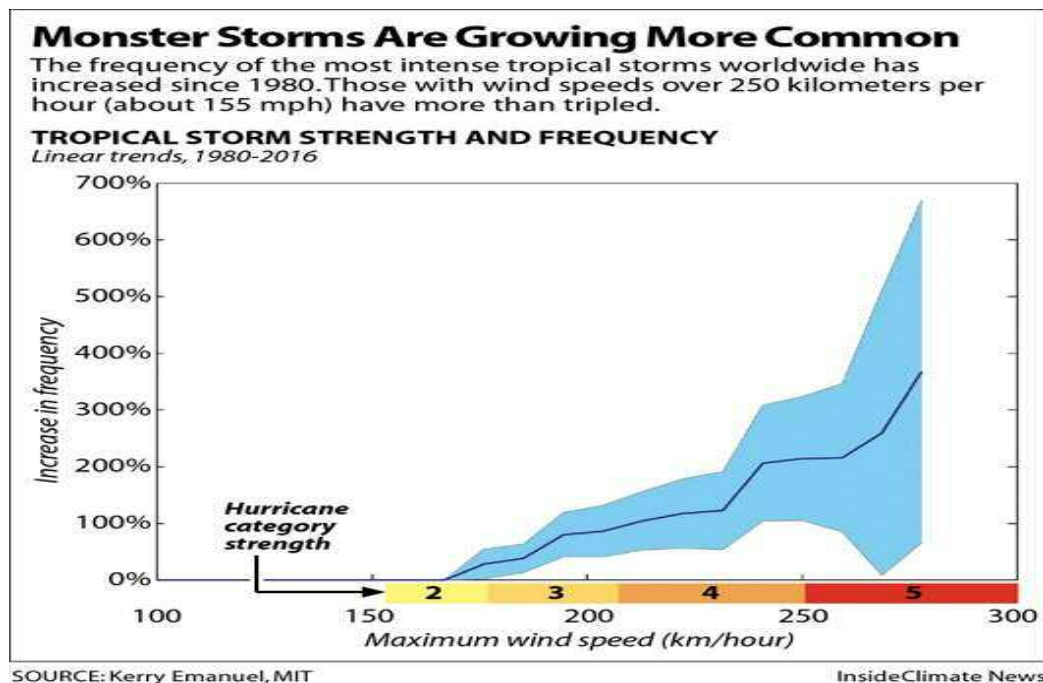
Authorities in far west China have bred and trained "an army" of silver foxes bought from a fur farm to fight a plague of rats threatening a huge expanse of their grasslands.

L. Roaring and Tossing of the Seas

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.”

Luke 21:25

Jesus warned us we would see the roaring and tossing of the sea. What moves the sea? High winds from huge storms, cyclones, hurricanes, and typhoons cause the roaring and tossing of the sea. Have any of you noticed our weather is changing and becoming more violent? Hurricanes are taking place with such intensity and increased frequency that many experts are beginning to sit up and take notice.



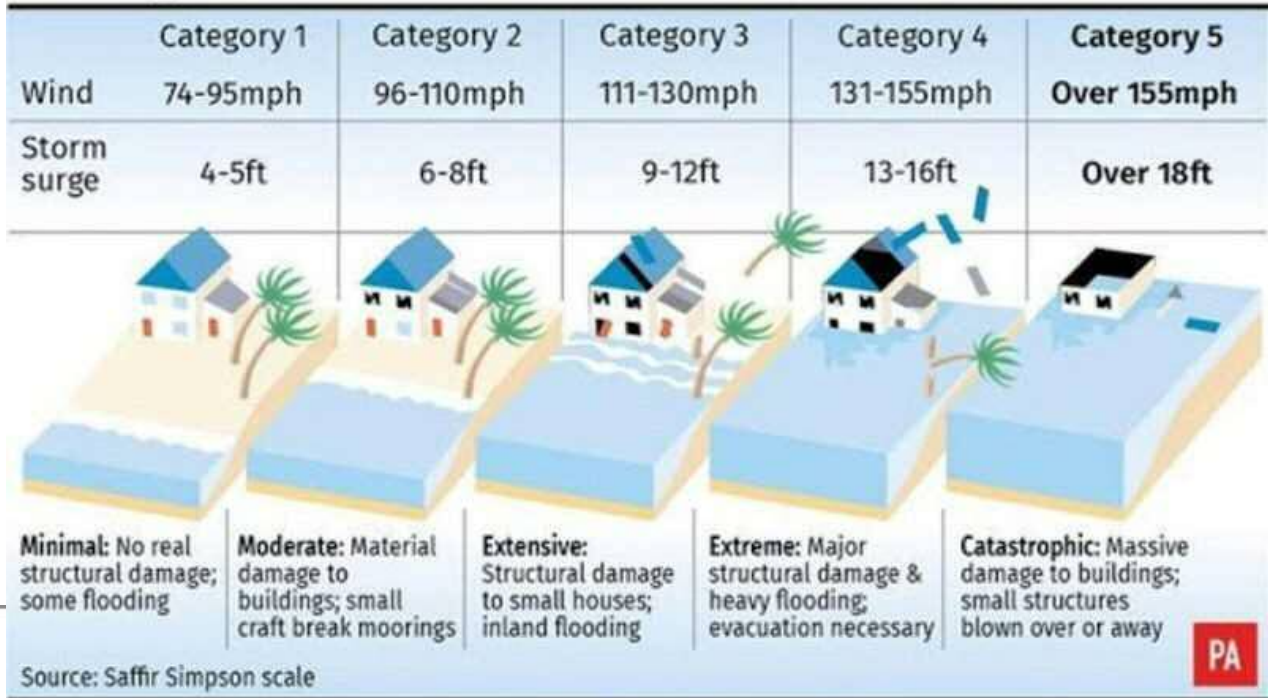


\$30+ billion U.S. Weather Disasters Since 1980 (NOAA/Aon Benfield)

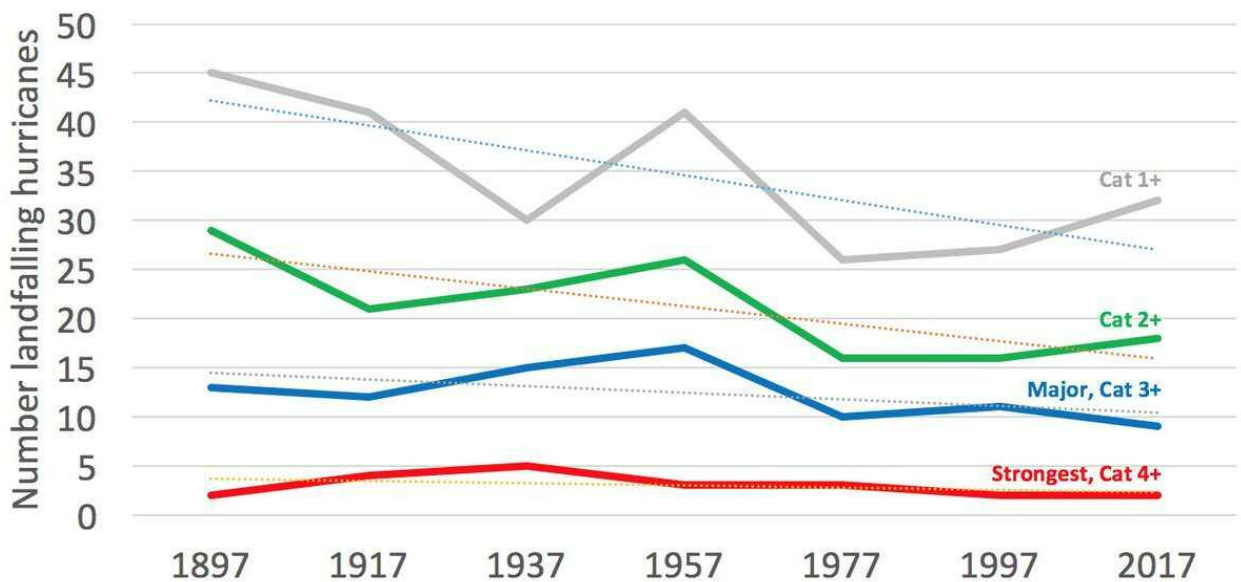
Rank	Disaster	Year	Deaths	Damage (2017 dollars)
1.	Hurricane Katrina, LA/MS/AL	2005	1833	\$161 billion
2.	Hurricane Maria, PR/VI	2017	38	\$102 billion
3.	Hurricane Harvey, TX/LA	2017	84	\$90 billion
4.	Hurricane Sandy, NY/NJ/CT	2012	159	\$70 billion
5.	Hurricane Andrew, FL/LA	1992	61	\$48 billion
6.	Hurricane Irma, FL/GA/SC/PR	2017	95	\$45 billion
7.	Drought/Heat, Midwest/East	1988	454	\$42 billion
8.	Flood, Mississippi River	1993	48	\$36 billion
9.	Hurricane Ike, TX/LA/MS	2008	112	\$35 billion
10.	Drought/Heat, Midwest/East	2012	123	\$32 billion
11.	Drought/Heat, Midwest/East	1980	1260	\$32 billion

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. Hurricanes are rated by the following categories.

Categories of hurricane



Landfalling US hurricanes per two decades

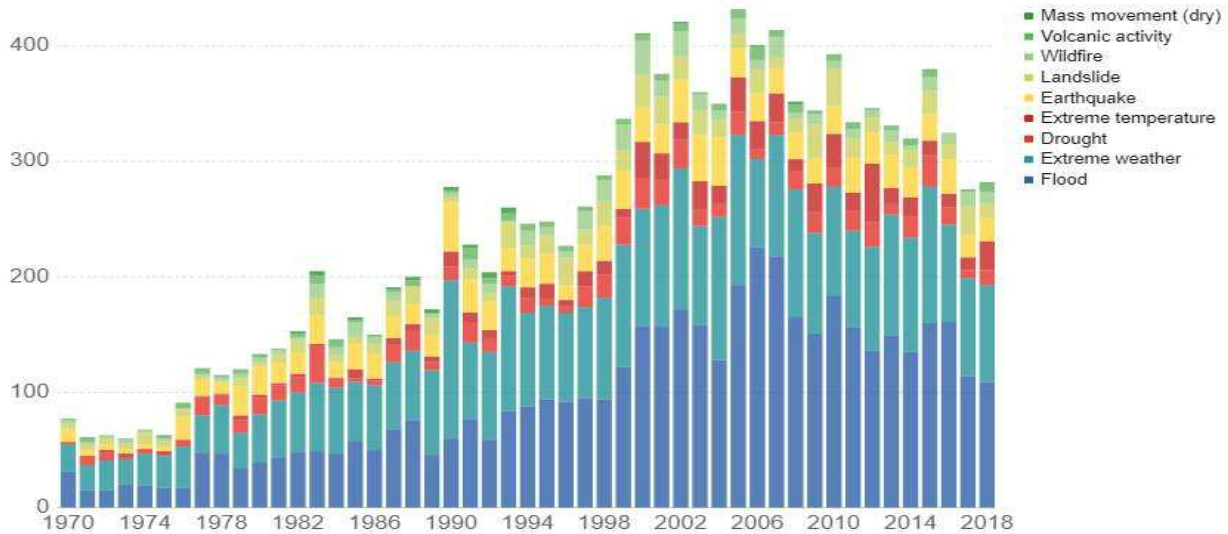


2017 is total hurricanes in the two decades 1998-2017 etc.
 least-square trendline added, facebook.com/bjornlomborg, data: <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/E23.html>

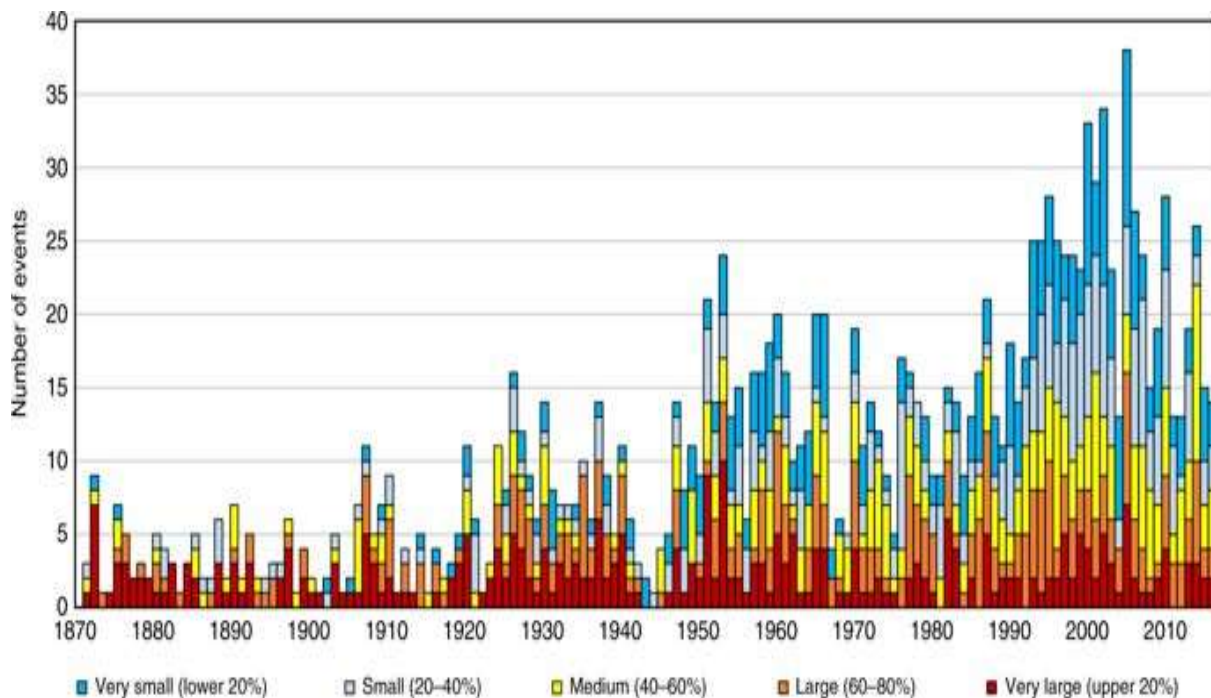
J. Floods - Those who study prophecy often find it interesting that there is no mention of floods included in the birth pains spoken by Jesus. It is clear that we have had an increase of floods worldwide. Just in the last few years we have seen worldwide devastation in **Asia, Europe, Africa, the UK, as well as the USA and Canada.**

Global reported natural disasters by type

The annual reported number of natural disasters, categorised by type. This includes both weather and non-weather related disasters.



Source: EMDAT (2017): OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, Université catholique de Louvain – Brussels – Belgium
 OurWorldInData.org/natural-disasters • CC BY-SA



We must remember that the Bible says about these problems.

“All these are the beginning of birth pains.”

Matthew 24:8

The problems that we are facing worldwide will increase. Before looking at the final sign that Jesus gave to His disciples of His coming we need to consider these important verses.

*“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.
13. But he who stands firm to the end will be saved.
14. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.”*

Matthew 24:12-14

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 5

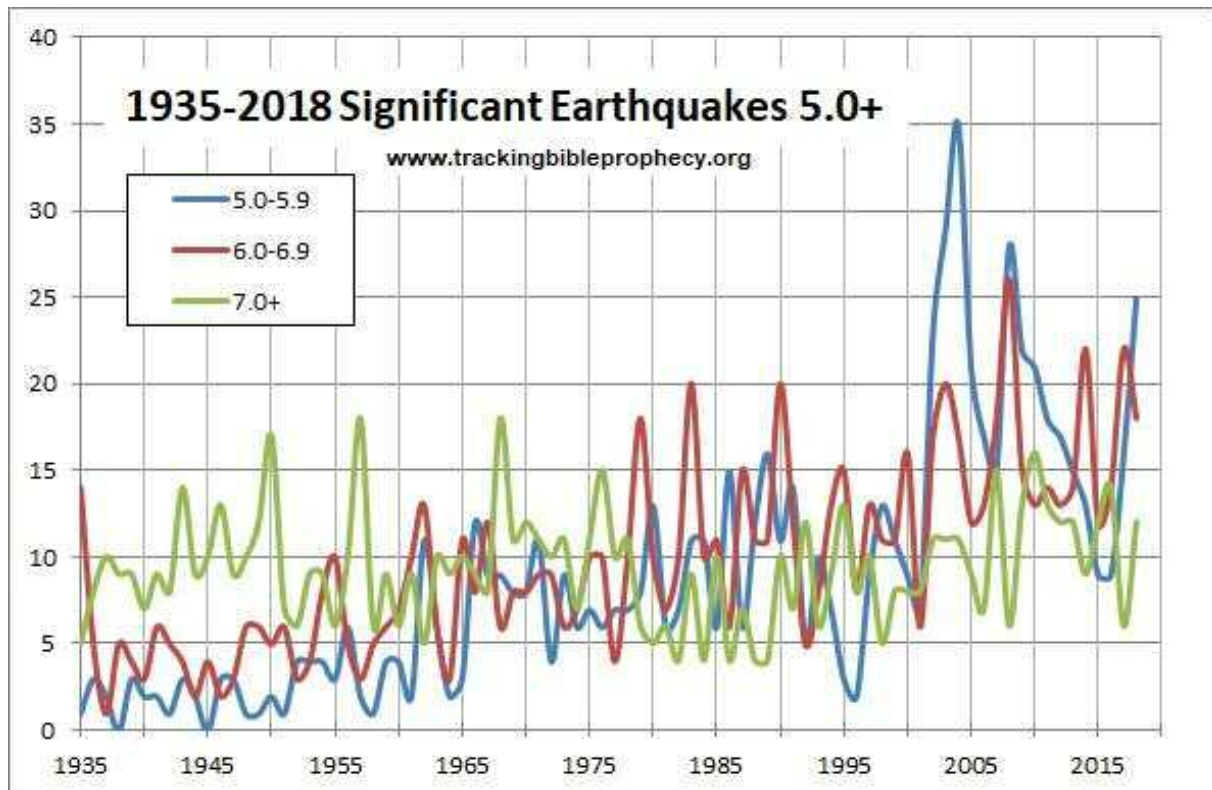
Birth Pains - Part II

Due to the fact that there is a large amount of information that needs to be addressed in the area of earthquakes, I have decided to devote a chapter to this part of the birth pains alone.

Great Earthquakes: The largest recorded earthquake in the United States was a magnitude 9.2 which struck Prince William Sound, Alaska, on March 28, 1964. The largest recorded earthquake in the world was a magnitude 9.5 (Mw) in Chile on May 22, 1960. The earliest reported earthquake in California was felt in 1769 by the exploring expedition of Gaspar de Portola while the group was camping about 48 kilometres (30 miles) southeast of Los Angeles.



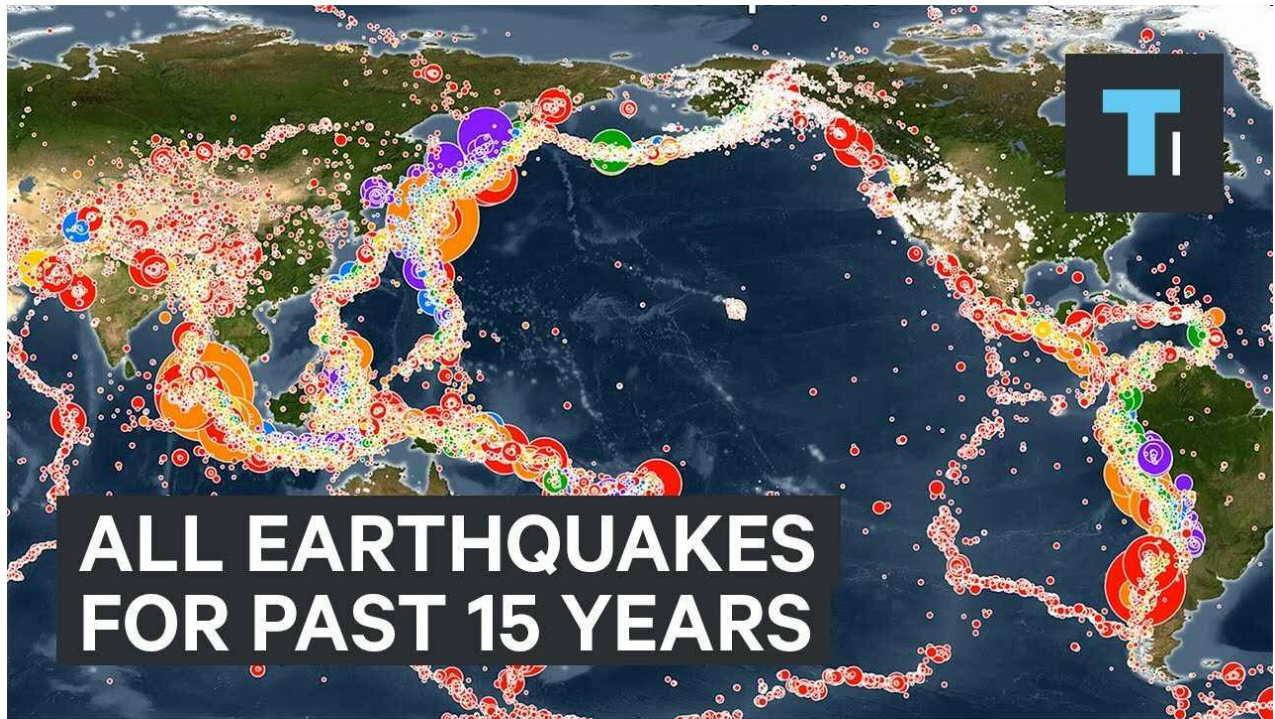
Past earthquake occurrences and earthquake statistics do provide data for forecasting the probability of future events in both space and time. Earthquakes occur every day. In fact, it is estimated that over 1.5 million earthquakes of magnitude 2 or greater (often referred to as M2+ 2 earthquakes) occur every year somewhere on Earth – that’s over 4000 earthquakes per day! For magnitude 3 and larger – events that can sometimes be felt by people if the earthquake occurs in a populated area – the number of occurrences is estimated to be over 400 per day.



“Two potentially destructive earthquakes struck minutes apart in the Indian Ocean and Japan today, generating tsunami alerts for India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan. The larger of the two quakes was a magnitude 7.6 tremor that hit the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean. It was followed less than 15 minutes later by a 6.6-magnitude quake in Japan southwest of Tokyo.”

[Aug. 11/09 Bloomberg](#)

In January 2010, hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives when the nation of Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Close to a million people were left homeless. Only a few weeks later, an astounding 8.8 quake shook the nation of Chile. The Chilean quake was so powerful that scientists estimate it moved the earth’s axis by as much as 8 centimetres and even shortened our day by 1.26 microseconds!



These tremors represent just a few of the thousands of earthquakes that will be recorded around the world this year, according to estimates by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Earthquake Facts and Statistics Frequency of Occurrence of Earthquakes

Magnitude	Average Annually
8 and higher	1 ¹
7 - 7.9	15 ¹
6 - 6.9	134 ²
5 - 5.9	1319 ²
4 - 4.9	13,000 (estimated)
3 - 3.9	130,000 (estimated)
2 - 2.9	1,300,000 (estimated)

¹ Based on observations since 1900.

These numbers have been recently updated, based on data from the Centennial catalogue (from 1900 to 1999) and the PDE (since 2000).

² Based on observations since 1990.

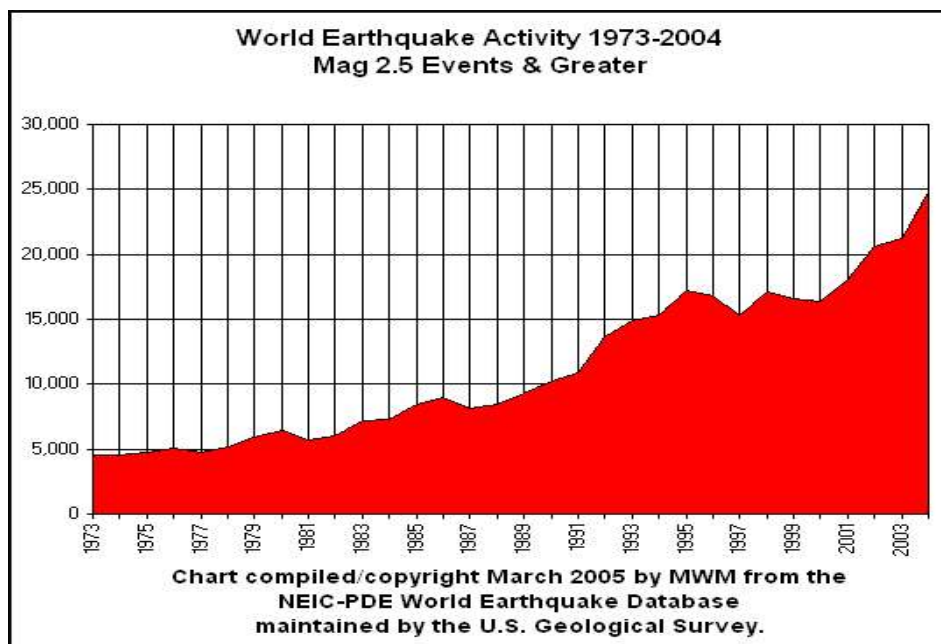
Magnitude vs. Ground Motion and Energy

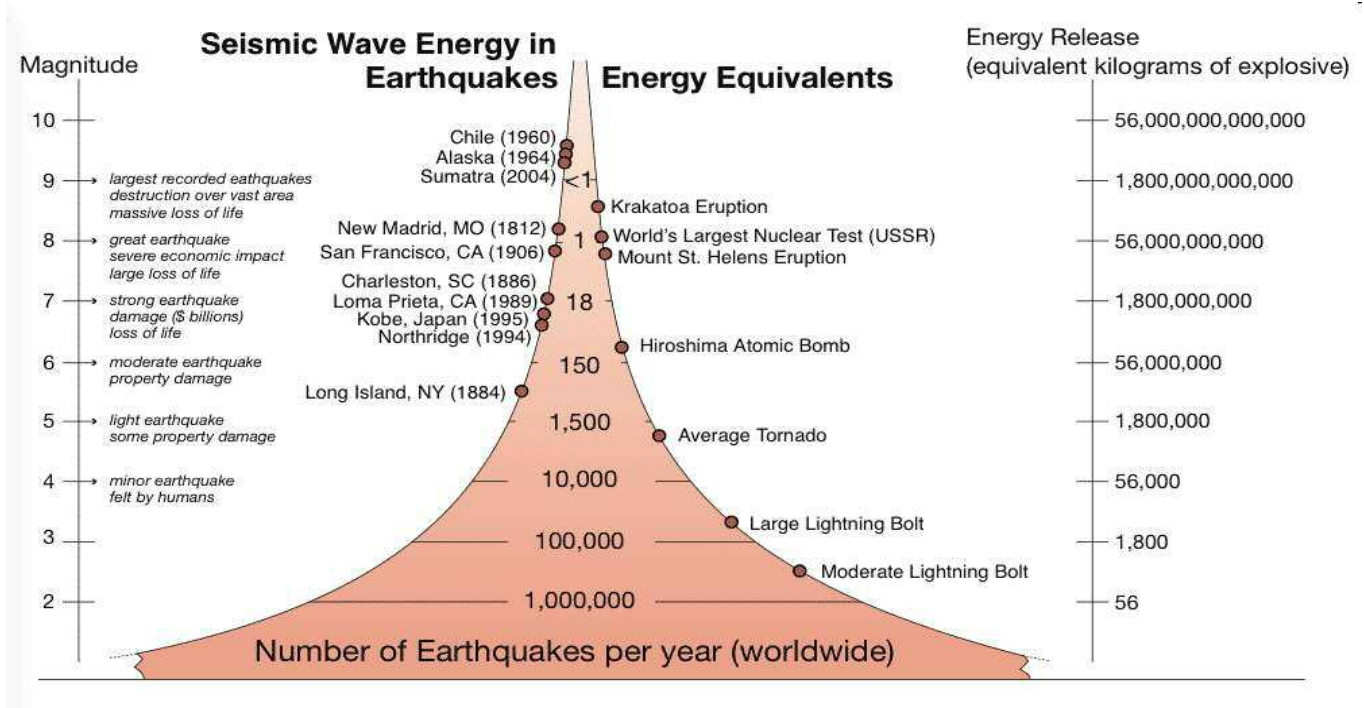
Magnitude Change	Ground Motion Change (Displacement)	Energy Change
1.0	10.0 times	about 32 times
0.5	3.2 times	about 5.5 times
0.3	2.0 times	about 3 times
0.1	1.3 times	about 1.4 times

This table shows that a magnitude 7.2 earthquake produces 10 times more ground motion than a magnitude 6.2 earthquake, but it releases about 32 times more energy. The energy release best indicates the destructive power of an earthquake.

The US Geological Survey estimates that several million earthquakes occur in the world each year. Many go undetected because they hit remote areas or have very small magnitudes. As more and more seismographs are installed in the world, more earthquakes can be and have been located. However, the number of large earthquakes (magnitude 6.0 and greater) has stayed relatively constant.

Scientists are expecting a number of large earthquakes to take place at any time. They are not yet able to fully predict when these will take place so they often will say that in the next 50 years we can expect great or epic earthquakes to shake our world.





Starting in January 2009, the USGS National Earthquake Information Center no longer locates earthquakes smaller than magnitude 4.5 outside the United States, unless they receive specific information that the earthquake was felt or caused damage.

Just what are we to make of all these events in our world? For starters, we can look to God's Word and be confident that He knows what is going on. Jesus said,

“There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events sights and great signs from heaven.”

Luke 21:11

But why do you think the Lord told us these things would come? Was it to cause us to fear? To bring us more anxiety and uncertainty? No! Perhaps the most important part of Jesus' message is found two verses later when He tells us that it will become an occasion for us to share our testimony.

“This will result in your being witnesses to them.”

Luke 21:13

When we hear about wars and rumours of wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes, we don't have to be afraid. It is our time to rise up and share the good news of the kingdom of God.

All That Can Be Shaken

It is critical that we understand—There is more shaking to come! On this point, the Bible is clear. We have already looked at Luke 21. Let's look at a few other scriptures as well:

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth up to the present time."

Romans 8:22

*"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.
7. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty."*

Haggai 2:6-7

*"See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?
26. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."
27. The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.
28. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,
29. for our "God is a consuming fire."*

Hebrews 12:25-29

As Hebrews 12 says, all that can be shaken is going to be shaken. This world and its failing systems, its corrupt governments, even creation itself—it's all going to be shaken so that only the unshakable Kingdom of God will remain. We can count on it happening. All we can do is be prepared and keep in prayer.

“You have shaken the land and torn it open; mend its fractures, for it is quaking.”

Psalm 60:2

It is the Lord who is shaking the earth. He is establishing His unshakable Kingdom and bringing judgment to every structure man has built that is not on the right foundation. But even though the Lord is causing the shaking, we are still called to be intercessors standing between the living and the dead. Let us cry out for those who are suffering:

Prayer: *“You have made the earth tremble, Lord. Now heal its breaches! Bring life to those hanging in the balance, whose foundations have crumbled. People are suffering all around us. They are suffering from disaster and disease. They are suffering economically, emotionally, and spiritually. They need you. They need us who have an answer to their problems. They need us who have Your peace during the shaking.”*

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 6

The Rise of Radical/Militant Islam

The name “*Islam*” literally means “*submission*.” A Muslim is “*one who submits to Allah god*.” It is believed that there are 1.9 billion Muslims in the world or 24.4 % of the world’s population. There are about 1.4 million who live in the United States which is about 9% of the adult population. The largest population of Muslims are found in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mohammed, the founder of Islam, was born in Mecca (in present-day Saudi Arabia) in AD 570. During the seventh century the Arabians worshipped more than 360 different gods which worked out to one for each day of the lunar year. One of those gods was the moon god whose name was Allah. It was during these early years that the prophet Mohammad began to promote the messages that he said he received which formed the verses of the Qu’ran, which Muslims regard as the divine word of god. He quickly declared Allah to be the one true god.

Opposition quickly formed and he was forced along with his followers to flee from Mecca to Medina in AD 620. It was there that he became the head of the first Muslim community. He returned to Mecca in AD 631 where he died the following year. The battle that continues today between the two Islamic sects of Shi’ites against Sunnis began. The Sunni are the largest group consisting of 85% of the Islamic world.

The Sunni believe that Mohammed’s spiritual gifts died with him. The Shi’ites believe that his son-in-law Ali possessed those gifts. The Shi’ites also believe that their leaders, the imams, have the same authority as the Qu’ran.

The Sunni follow the leadership of Mohammed’s personally chosen successor Abu Bakr. It was under Abu’s and his successors leadership that a series of Jihads (holy wars) were launched against Spain all the way to India and even threatened Christian Europe. They were pushed back and settled in the Middle Eastern countries.

Sunni Muslims have five acts of worship which are called the pillars of Islam (the Shi’ite Muslims have eight which overlap). They are:

- 1. To daily recite the Shahada.** - “*There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger.*”
- 2. To pray (salat)** - Muslims pray while bowing towards Mecca five times each day.
- 3. To fast (sawm)** - Muslims refrain from food during the daylight hours throughout the lunar month of Ramadan. They also meditate and reflect and end in a joyous celebration.
- 4. To give alms (zakat)** - Muslims are required to give 2.5% of their income to the poor.
- 5. To make the pilgrimage (hajj)** - Those who are physically and financially able must visit Mecca at least once during their lifetime. It also includes visiting other holy sites along the way.

Pakistani former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wrote about one of the primary aims of militant Islam before she was assassinated by them.

“. . . To promote a clash of civilizations between the West and . . . Islam. The great hope of the militants is a collision, an explosion between the values of the West and the extremists claim to be the values of Islam . . . the attacks on September 11, 2001, heralded the . . . dream of bloody confrontation . . . if the fanatics and extremists prevail . . . then a great fitna (disorder through schism and division) would sweep the world. Here lies their ultimate goal: chaos.”

Benazir Bhutto
“Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West”
Harper Collins, 2008
pp. 2-3, 20

Georges Sada was an Air Force general under Saddam Hussein. He was not a Muslim but rather an Assyrian Christian. He refused to join the Baathist Party. He was considered as Iraq’s top air force pilot. This is what he had to say about the spread of global terrorism.

“I’m often asked about militant Islam and the threat of global terrorism. More than once I’ve been asked about the meaning of the Arabic words *Fatah* and *Jihad*. What I normally tell them is that to followers of the militant brand of Islam, these doctrines expressed the belief that Allah has commanded them to conquer the nations of the world both by cultural invasion and by the sword. In some cases this means moving thousands of Muslim families into a foreign land – by building mosques and changing the culture from the inside out and by refusing to assimilate or adopt the beliefs or values of that nation – to conquer the land for Islam.”

General Georges Sada
“Saddam’s Secrets: How an Iraqi General Defied and Survived Saddam Hussein”
integrity publishers, 2006
p. 285

It is true that the majority of Muslims are not involved in deadly violence and do their best to live at peace with their neighbours. Experts believe that approximately 15 to 20% of Muslims are radical enough to become suicide bombers. That would work out to about 385 million Muslims. This militant/radical lifestyle is being promoted by a number of their clerics. An alarming sermon was given at a mosque in the Gaza Strip that was broadcast live to the Arab world as follows.

“With the establishment of the state of Israel, the entire Islamic nation was lost because Israel is a cancer . . . the Jews are a virus resembling AIDS, from which the entire world suffers. You will find that the Jews were behind all the civil strife in this world . . . We [the Muslims] have ruled the world before, and by Allah, the day will come when we will rule the entire world again. The day will come when we will rule America. The day will come when we will rule Britain and the entire world – except the Jews. The Jews will not enjoy a life of tranquillity under our rule, because they are treacherous by nature, as they have been throughout history. The day will come when everything will be relieved of the Jews . . . Listen to the Prophet Mohammed, who tells you about the evil that awaits the Jews. The stones and trees will want the Muslims to finish off every Jew.”

The text of Ibrahim Mdaire’s Sermon
Quoted from “*The Jerusalem Post*, 19 May 2

It appears that the best way to understand the true intent of radical/militant Islam is to hear what those who once supported it have to say. Yes there are those who have deserted these extremist views and are now speaking out against them.

“If Islam is a peaceful religion, then why did Mohammed engage in 47 battles? Why in every campaign the Moslem armies that fought throughout history, they have slaughtered men, women and children who did not bow their knees to the lordship of Islam? The reign of terror of men such as Saddam, Khomeini, Gadhafi, Idi Amin and many other Muslim dictators are modern examples. If Islam is so peaceful, why are there so many verses in the Koran about killing the infidels and those who resist Islam? If Islam is peaceful, why isn’t there even one Muslim country that will allow freedom of religion and speech? Not one! If Islam is peaceful why is it imparting this awful violence to hundreds of Islamic groups throughout the world who kill innocent people in the name of Allah?”

Don Richardson
“*The Secrets of the Koran*”
Quoting former radical Shi’ite Muslim Reza F. Sada

There is not even one of the 55 predominantly Muslim nations on the earth today where Christians are not persecuted and Jews are accepted. So who is running these nations? **Is this the kind of peace we want within the borders of our nations?**

Of the 32,362 Muslim madrassas (Muslim religious schools) in Indonesia alone (compared to a total of 24,000 institutions of American learning in the US), 92% are controlled by Muslim clerics not by the government. These are becoming the breeding grounds of potential terrorists. These schools are now popping up across the United States.

Tony Blankley was a writer with the Washington Times wrote a book *titled "The West's Last Chance"* in order to bring attention to Islamic infiltration.

“In much of the West, and particularly in Europe, there was a blind denial that radical Islam is transforming the world. Most Europe elites and far too many American politicians and journalists believe that our challenges are business and politics as usual. They are sheep who cannot sense the wolf pack in the woods . . . The threat of the radical Islamists taking over Europe is every bit as great to the United States as was the threat of the Nazis taking over Europe in the 1940s. We cannot afford to lose Europe. We cannot afford to see Europe transformed into a launching pad for Islamic jihad . . .”

Tony Blankley
"The West's Last Chance"
Regnery Publishing, Inc; 2005
p. 21

It is believed that by the year 2040 that 80% of the population of France will be Muslim. At that point they will control the commerce, industry, education and religion. They will also control the parliament. They believe that a Muslim will become the president of France.

The same is true in England. But here they are using the policy of Britain through its pluralistic tolerance. One group in the city of Oxford petitioned the government for the right to broadcast a two-minute “*adhan*” (the Muslim call to prayer) from their 700 member mosque minaret three times a day. Don’t get confused that this is their right to religious freedom it is about making Islam the religion of public space.

In 2008 England’s Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams made a stunning statement that it would be unavoidable that Islam’s legal system of Shiria law would soon become incorporated into British law. He called it “*constructive accommodation.*” We must remember that this law includes “*honour killings*” in cases of those suspected of immorality. The way they are constantly gaining inroads is through a “*biological jihad*” which is simply having babies.

Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at Georgetown University, said “*It amazes me that people don't think there is a clear adversary out there.*”

Al-Qaeda is an international terrorist network that was led by Usama bin Laden [the "Osama" spelling is deprecated, because there is no letter "O" in Arabic]. Established around 1988 by bin Laden, al-Qaeda helped finance, recruit, transport and train thousands of fighters from dozens of countries to be part of an Afghan resistance to defeat the Soviet Union. To continue the holy war beyond Afghanistan, al-Qaeda's current goal is to establish a pan-Islamic Caliphate (the successor of Mohammad as chief civil and religious leader) throughout the world by working with allied Islamic extremist groups to overthrow regimes it deems "non-Islamic" and expelling Westerners and non-Muslims from Muslim countries.

The Taliban, are the Afghanistan's Muslim fundamentalist rulers who harbored bin Laden and his followers. "*Al-Qaeda*" is Arabic for "*the base*." The radical Islamist movement in general and al-Qaeda in particular developed during the Islamic revival and Islamist movement of the last three decades of the 20th century along with less extreme movements.

Some have argued that "*without the writings*" of Islamic author and thinker Sayyid Qutb "*al-Qaeda would not have existed.*" Qutb preached that because of the lack of sharia law the Muslim world was no longer Muslim, having reverted to pre-Islamic ignorance known as jahiliyyah.

One of the most powerful effects of Qutb's ideas was the idea that many who said they were Muslims were not, i.e., they were apostates, which not only gave jihadists "*a legal loophole around the prohibition of killing another Muslim,*" but made "*it a religious obligation to execute*" the self-professed Muslim. These alleged apostates included leaders of Muslim countries, since they failed to enforce sharia law.

To restore Islam, a vanguard movement of righteous Muslims was needed to establish "true Islamic states," implement Sharia, and rid the Muslim world of any non-Muslim influences, such as concepts like socialism or nationalism.

The question is often asked that if not all Muslims are radical extremists, then which groups of them do follow these militant leaders. The most well-known group is Al-Qaida. Al-Qaida has cooperated with a number of known terrorist groups worldwide including:

Armed Islamic Group
Salafist Group for Call and Combat and the Armed Islamic Group
Egyptian Islamic Jihad (Egypt)
Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya
Jamaat Islamiyya
The Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
Bayt al-Imam (Jordan)
Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad (Kashmir)
Asbat al Ansar
Hezbollah (Lebanon)

Hamis (Lebanon)
Al-Badar
Harakat ul Ansar/Mujahadeen
Al-Hadith
Harakat ul Jihad
Jaish Mohammed - JEM
Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam
Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Pakistan
Laskar e-Toiba - LET
Moro Islamic Liberation Front (the Philippines)
Abu Sayyaf Group (Malaysia, Philippines)
Al-Ittihad Al Islamiya - AIAI (Somalia)
Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
Islamic Army of Aden (Yemen)

The origins of al-Qaeda as a network inspiring terrorism around the world and training operatives can be traced to the Soviet war in Afghanistan (December 1979 – February 1989). The United States viewed the conflict in Afghanistan, with the Afghan Marxists and allied Soviet troops on one side and the native Afghan mujahideen on the other, as a blatant case of Soviet expansionism and aggression. The U.S. channelled funds through Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency to the native Afghan mujahideen fighting the Soviet occupation in a CIA program called Operation Cyclone.

Following the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989, Osama bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 had put the kingdom and its ruling House of Saud at risk. The world's most valuable oil fields were within easy striking distance of Iraqi forces in Kuwait, and Saddam's call to pan-Arab/Islamism could potentially rally internal dissent.

In the face of a seemingly massive Iraqi military presence, Saudi Arabia's own forces were well armed but far outnumbered. Bin Laden offered the services of his mujahideen to King Fahd to protect Saudi Arabia from the Iraqi army. The Saudi monarch refused bin Laden's offer, opting instead to allow U.S. and allied forces to deploy troops into Saudi territory.

The deployment angered Bin Laden, as he believed the presence of foreign troops in the "land of the two mosques" (Mecca and Medina) profaned sacred soil. After speaking publicly against the Saudi government for harboring American troops, he was banished and forced to live in exile in Sudan. In 2019, Iran sent missiles to destroy part of the oil production in Saudi Arabia.

From around 1992 to 1996, al-Qaeda and bin Laden based themselves in Sudan at the invitation of Islamist theoretician Hassan al Turabi. The move followed an Islamist coup d'état in Sudan, led by Colonel Omavalues. During this time, bin Laden assisted the Sudanese government, bought/set up various business enterprises, and established training camps.

A key turning point for bin Laden, further pitting him against the Saudis, occurred in 1993 when Saudi Arabia gave support for the Oslo Accords which set a path for peace between Israel and Palestinians.

Due to bin Laden's continuous verbal assault on King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, on 5 March 1994 Fahd sent an emissary to Sudan demanding bin Laden's passport; bin Laden's Saudi citizenship was also revoked. His family was persuaded to cut off his monthly stipend, the equivalent of \$7 million a year, and his Saudi assets were frozen. His family publicly disowned him. There is controversy over whether and to what extent he continued to garner support from members of his family and/or the Saudi government.

In June 1995 an even more ill-fated attempt to assassinate Egyptian president Mubarak led to the expulsion of EIJ, and in May 1996, of bin Laden, by the Sudanese government. According to Pakistani-American businessman Mansoor Ijaz, the Sudanese government offered the Clinton Administration numerous opportunities to arrest bin Laden. Those opportunities were met positively by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright but spurned when Susan Rice and counter-terrorism czar Richard Clarke persuaded National Security Advisor Sandy Berger to overrule Albright.

After the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan was effectively ungoverned for seven years and plagued by constant infighting between former allies and various mujahideen groups. Throughout the 1990s, a new force began to emerge. The origins of the Taliban (literally "*students*") lay in the children of Afghanistan, many of them orphaned by the war, and many of whom had been educated in the rapidly expanding network of Islamic schools (madrassas) either in Kandahar or in the refugee camps on the Afghan-Pakistani border.

The Call for a Global Jihad

On February 23, 1998, Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, a leader of Egyptian Islamic Jihad, along with three other Islamist leaders, co-signed and issued a fatwa (binding religious edict) calling on Muslims to kill Americans and their allies **where they can, when they can.** Under the banner of the World Islamic Front for Combat Against the Jews and Crusaders:

“The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies—civilians and military—is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it, in order to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque [in Jerusalem] and the holy mosque [in Makka] from their grip, and in order for their armies to move out of all the lands of Islam, defeated and unable to threaten any Muslim. This is in accordance with the words of Almighty Allah, 'and fight the pagans all together as they fight you all together,' and 'fight them until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah.'”

The Goals and Objectives of Jihad are:

Establishing the rule of god (Allah) on earth
Attaining martyrdom in the cause of god (Allah)
Purification of the ranks of Islam from the elements of depravity

Tactics include assassination, bombing, hijacking, kidnapping, suicide attacks. Numerous reports and public bin Laden proclamations indicate strong desire to obtain and utilize biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. Targets tend to be prominent symbols (public buildings, embassy and military personnel, etc.) of the United States, its allies, and moderate Muslim governments.

While Al Qaeda leaders are hiding in the tribal areas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the middle-tier of the extremist movement display heightened activity in Somalia and Yemen. Because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States is unable to pay sufficient attention to Somalia and Yemen, which has caused the US some serious problems recently.

The group has targeted American and other Western interests as well as Jewish targets and Muslim governments it sees as corrupt or impious — above all, the Saudi monarchy. Al-Qaeda linked attacks include:

- The Charlie Hebdo shooting occurred in Paris, France on January 7, 2015. 12 people were killed and 11 were wounded. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility
- The 10 May 2010 Iraq attacks were a series of bomb and shooting attacks that occurred in Iraq on 10 May 2010, killing over 100 people and injuring 350, the highest death toll for a single day in Iraq in 2010
- Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Danish embassy in Pakistan on June 2, 2008.[32] Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, a high-ranking member of Al-Qaeda, issued a statement after the bombing, claiming that the attack was a response to the 2005 publication of the Muhammed Cartoons
- The 2007 Yazidi communities bombings occurred at around 8pm local time on August 14, 2007, when four co-ordinated suicide bomb attacks detonated in the Kurdish towns of Kahtaniya and Jazeera (Siba Sheikh Khidir), near Mosul. Iraqi Red Crescent's estimates say the bombs killed 796 and wounded 1,562 people,[28][29] making this the Iraq War's most deadly car bomb attack during the period of major American combat operations.
- May 12, 2003 car bomb attacks on three residential compounds in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- November 2002 car bomb attack and a failed attempt to shoot down an Israeli jetliner with shoulder-fired missiles, both in Mombasa, Kenya
- April 2002 explosion of a fuel tanker outside a synagogue in Tunisia, Northern Africa
- September 11, 2001, hijacking attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon
- October 12, 2000 U.S.S. Cole bombing in Aden, Yemen killing 17 crew members and wounding 39.
- August 7, 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Al-Qaeda is suspected of carrying out or directing sympathetic groups to carry out the May 2003 suicide attacks on Western interests in Casablanca, Morocco; the October 12, 2002 nightclub bombing in Bali, Indonesia; the 1993 World Trade Center bombing; and a series of incidents in Saudi Arabia against U.S. targets from 1995 to 1996

Plots linked to al-Qaeda that were disrupted or prevented include: a 2001 attempt by Richard Reid to explode a shoe bomb on a transatlantic flight; a 1999 plot to set off a bomb at Los Angeles International Airport; a 1995 plan to blow up 12 transpacific flights of U.S. commercial airliners; a 1995 plan to kill President Bill Clinton on a visit to the Philippines; and a 1994 plot to kill Pope John Paul II during a visit to Manila.

Al-Qaeda's Operations Manual

In the early 1990s, al-Qaeda produced the Encyclopedia of the Afghan Jihad, a detailed how-to guide for using handguns, explosives, and biological and chemical weapons, in print and on CD-ROM. Materials belonging to a captured al-Qaeda operative in England detailed techniques for forgery, surveillance, and espionage.

Al-Qaeda has autonomous underground cells in some 100 countries, including the United States, officials say. Law enforcement has broken up al-Qaeda cells in the United Kingdom, the United States, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Albania, Uganda, and elsewhere. They are still known to be in Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia, Chechnya, Eritrea, Kosovo, the Philippines, Somalia, Tajikistan, and Yemen, and now Kosovo. Additionally, al-Qaida has been linked to conflicts and attacks in Africa, Asia, Europe, the former Soviet Republics, the Middle East, as well as North and South America.

The headquarters of al-Qaeda are not known anymore.

“Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon this week told the Iranian people by radio that a regional war initiated by Teheran was a distinct possibility, adding that *‘Israel is committed to defending its citizens and if attacked will act accordingly.’*”

‘A fear exists that Iran - as it becomes more pressured by sanctions – will goad those under its patronage in Hizbullah and Hamas to initiate military action against Israel. There's also a possibility that Iran will make a military move against the Arab Gulf states and harm the flow of oil to the world, in which case the entire situation will degrade into widespread confrontations.’”

“*The Jerusalem Post*”
August 24, 2010

“Radical Islam ... has changed the course of nations and affected the lives of millions. It is the reason every airport in the West is an armed camp and every land is on constant alert. Ground Zero is the site of the most lethal attack of that worldwide movement, which consists entirely of Muslims, acts in the name of Islam, and is deeply embedded within the Islamic world. These are regrettable facts, but facts they are. And that is why putting up a monument to Islam in this place is not just insensitive but provocative.”

The Ground Zero Provocation
“National Review Online”
August 20, 2010

So how are we as Christians to face this threat against our peace and livelihood? We must first of all realize that we cannot turn back the hands of time. We also are unable to change what the Bible says will take place. We will cover these references more closely in Chapter 11 when we study Ezekiel 38, 39.

It is important that we do not become disheartened with all the information I have compiled for you. God is still on the throne and He will fulfill His perfect will as clearly displayed in biblical prophecy. We still have an opportunity to reach out to anyone and everyone who has not yet accepted Christ as their personal Saviour.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

II Peter 3:9

Jesus also taught his disciples how to respond to the enemies of their day.

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matthew 5:44

Paul wrote to the yearly church and said,

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:21

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 7

The Rapture of the Church

“About the time of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist on their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamour and opposition.”

Sir Isaac Newton (AD 1643 – 1727)

Anyone who has a caring heart has difficulty hearing news reports that someone's loved one has vanished without a trace. They never had an opportunity to find closure. There is not a wake or a funeral. They never get a chance to look down into the casket and say goodbye. The impact of this single event resonates out into many members of the family, their loved ones and friends.

Yet just imagine the global impact that will be felt when every single born-again Christian will vanish without a trace at the same moment? This could amount to 1/6 of the earth's population or one billion people. Can you imagine the impact this will have upon those who are left behind?

“Jumbo jets plummet to earth as they no longer have a pilot at the controls. Driverless buses, trains, subways, and cars will cause unimaginable disaster. Classrooms will suddenly be without teachers . . . Doctors and nurses seem to abandon their patients in the middle of surgical operations, and patients will vanish from operating tables. Children disappear from their beds. People run through the streets looking for missing family members who were there moments ago. Panic grips every household, city and country.”

Bruce Bickle and Stan Jantz
“Bible Prophecy 101”
Harvest House Publishers, 1999
P.124

It will be an unparalleled time in history. Confusion will run rampant because of a host of rumours. I'm sure that some will say that an alien invasion was responsible. News reporters will try to decipher what is truth. The word “*panic*” seems to be an understatement to describe the worldwide reaction. Just imagine the reaction of those who had been taught the Bible truth but refused to accept Christ as their personal Saviour? If they had only listened to that Bible-believing pastor or their brokenhearted parent! But the time for deliverance will be passed.

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming (παρουσία parousia par-oo-see'-ah) of the Son of Man.

38. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39. And they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

40. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

41. Two women will be grinding with the hand mill; one will be taken the other left.

42. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know what day your Lord will come.”

Matthew 24:36–42

The Scriptures clearly teach that wickedness (lawlessness) increased upon the whole earth **prior** to the flood just as it is doing today.

“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart were only evil all the time.

6. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.”

Genesis 6:5,6

In the midst of all of the wickedness lived Noah, a righteous man who was blameless among the people of his time (Genesis 6:9). We also know that Noah was a preacher of righteousness (II Peter 2:5). After listening and following the command of the Lord, he built an ark of safety for him and his family. The ark was also used to save the animals before **God closed the door (Genesis 7:16)**. The rapture will begin at the time when God will save His people and judge those who reject His warning. **He will once more shut the door upon the Gentiles as He begins the final seven years of tribulation to bring about the salvation of the nation of Israel.**

There are some prophetic teachers who believe that because there is mention of people from **“every tribe and language and people and nation”** (Revelation 5:9; 7:9) that there will still be time for Gentiles to get saved during the tribulation. Unfortunately, biblical translation from one language to another can cause problems. For instance . . .

“Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes– who are they, and where did they come from?’

*14. I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’ and he said, ‘**These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**’”*

Revelation 7:13, 14

Here is a case where the little word **“the”** changes the whole meaning. It should not have been inserted before the words **“great tribulation.”** Christians worldwide have and continue to be suffering through great tribulation. The numbers of Christian martyrs are staggering. Even those of us in the Western Hemisphere are experiencing a different type of tribulation but it is still quite aggressive. It is great tribulation!

We must understand that *“the rapture”* is the reward for the Church for being faithful. The word **“rapture”** is from **“rapere”** found in the expression **“caught up”** in the Latin translation of I Thessalonians 4:17.

*“After that, we who are still alive and are left will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever.”*

I Thessalonians 4:17

Those who truly are the bride of Christ will not have to go through **the great tribulation.** It will be a time when God will pour His wrath out upon the entire earth (Revelation 6:16,17; 14:10, 19; 15:1,7; 16:1, 19; 19:15).

“and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”

I Thessalonians 1:10

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Thessalonians 5:9

A. Who Makes up the Real Church?

The New Testament Greek word for “*church*” is “*ecclesia*.” Which has four important meanings.

1. An Assembly of People - When used in this way it is simply a gathering of people (Acts 7:38) as well as for a religious worship time (Hebrews 2:12).

2. An Assembly of Christians - This describes Christians gathered in a local church (Acts 8:1,3; 11:22, 26). It also speaks of a group of churches (I Corinthians 16:19; Galatians 1:2). This does not mean that everyone gathered are true believers (Revelation 2-3).

3. The Total of Professing Christians - This is used of Christians without speaking of their locality as in Christendom (Acts 12:1; Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 15:9).

4. The Body of Christ - These are the Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13).

Some often wonder whether the word “*ecclesia*” is ever used to describe Israel. Jesus said,

*“. . . on this rock **I will** build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

Matthew 16:18

There is no doubt that He meant that the Church would be built through the works of His disciples right up to our present time. It is never used as a term for the Old Testament saints.

“A particular importance is the fact that *ecclesia* is never used of an assembly or body of *saints* except in reference to saints of the present age.”

Dr. John F. Walvoord
“*The Rapture Question*”
Zondervan Corporation
1979, p. 23

Therefore, only those who place their trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be taken up during the rapture.

B. Jesus's Teaching

“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would've told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 14:2,3

Jesus made it clear that He was going to “**prepare, provide or make ready**” a place that we will occupy. The place that He was going to prepare for us is likened unto many rooms (Greek - “**monē**” which means “**a staying, dwelling, residence, abode, mansion**”).

Another important part of our Lord's teaching was found in Matthew 25 that begins by saying (“**At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like . . .**”)

C. A Jewish Wedding

In order to understand the parable of the 10 virgins, one must understand the cultural practices of the Jewish people surrounding their weddings during the time of Jesus. The main point that Jesus tried to bring out was that the mark of a faithful Jewish bride and wedding party was found in their oil lamps that were trimmed and ready to use.

Once a marriage contract was established, the bridegroom would leave his bride and return to his father's house (saying, “*I go to prepare a place for you*”). The groom would then go to his father's house and begin building not only their bridal chamber but also their entire home. The bridesmaids were obliged to wait for his return. He normally would return around midnight in order to make sure that they were ready with oil in their lamps. It would be dangerous to walk the dark streets without a proper lantern with lots of oil.

It is clear that if they did not live in a manner of expecting his arrival at any moment that they would tend to become slack in maintaining the proper level of oil that would be necessary to make it through the night.

Any bridesmaid who was not ready when the bridegroom returned was not allowed to be in the bridal party. There would be no time for them to get the oil.

*“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. **And the door was shut.***

*11. Later the others also came. Sir! Sir! They said, **open the door for us!***

*12. But he replied, I tell you the truth, **I don’t know you.***

13. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Matthew 25:10–13

D. Paul’s Teaching

Paul was a writer who spoke with conviction as he was taught by the Holy Spirit. He was used by God to unveil the mystery of many theological truths. **He made it clear that there would be a difference between the appearance of the Lord to rapture His church and the second coming at the end of The Great Tribulation time.**

It was in Paul’s first epistle to the Church of Thessalonica that he emphasized over and over again about the coming of the Lord (I Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11,23).

“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

14. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

15. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul made it clear that he believed in the resurrection of the dead. Those who have died over the centuries as Christians will first of all have their souls reunited into their resurrected bodies. Then we as Christians who are still alive at the time of the rapture will instantly be given a resurrected body so we can meet the Lord in the air. It will happen like a thief in the night (I Thessalonians 5:2) and in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:52).

“I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

52. in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

53. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.”

I Corinthians 15:50-53

We cannot enter heaven in our present state. We must be given a resurrected body. It will never perish or be able to be corrupted by sin from that point on.

“Accordingly, there is a series of resurrections that the Bible presents, namely, Christ first, then the resurrection of Matthew 27, then the rapture, then the resurrection of Old Testament saints and tribulation saints after the tribulation.”

Dr. John F. Walvoord
“*The Rapture Question*”
Zondervan Corporation
1979, p. 208

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21. Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that we will be like his glorious body.”

Philippians 3:20, 21

E. Peter's Teaching

Peter was one of the disciples who was very close to Jesus. It doesn't surprise us that he would want us to know what will take place when the Lord appears.

*“And when the Chief Shepherd appears (**Gr - “phaneroō” or manifestly declare**), you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”*

I Peter 5:4

Peter also spoke about the trials that will test their faith before the appearing of the Lord or the time that He is revealed (**“apokalupsis”** which means **“disclosure: - appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation”**). This is speaking of the second coming of the Lord.

*“These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed **“apokalupsis.”**”*

I Peter 1:7

E. John's Teaching

The main part of John's teaching of the revelation of Jesus Christ deals with the time period that takes place immediately after the rapture of the Church. I will deal with these in more detail in the following chapters.

John was given a panoramic view of end time events. Prior to the beginning of the tribulation period he writes specific messages to seven churches located in Asia minor. One of those churches was spoken to in very positive words. It was the Church in Philadelphia. It was a faithful church that was going to receive a specific reward. It once again offers support to the belief that God will remove His true Church before outpouring His wrath.

*“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you **from** the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”*

Revelation 3:10

A very important time period is stated as we begin the revelation containing chapters 4 – 22. It seems clear that God will deliver this faithful Church **from** this hour of trial and not simply preserve them **through** the trial.

“After this I looked . . .”

Revelation 4:1

Pre-tribulation scholars believe that this chapter, and this statement, ushers us into a time period directly following the rapture of the Church. There is no clear mention of the rapture of the Church anywhere in Revelation chapters 4 – 18. The **“After this”** begins to unfold the prophecies that concern the time beginning with The Tribulation.

John also wrote:

*“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears (**Gr -“phaneroō” or manifestly declare**), we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
3. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”*

I John 3:2, 3

One last thought that I wish to leave with you is the meaning of a few words. There are two important words to understand when we are talking about the Lord’s return. They are **“α ᾠκαλύψις, apokalupsis”** (e.g. I Peter 1:7) which means **“manifestation, appearance or an unveiling.”** This is a word that I will speak more of in chapter 12. We must be careful not to mix up the Rapture of the Church with the Second Coming of Christ.

The second word is **“ε ᾠφανεία, epipháneia”** which means **“a manifestation; appearing or brightness”** This is another word which speaks specifically of our Lord’s Advent both past and future. This is not concerning the Rapture but rather the time of His Second Advent when He shall shine forth in the beauty of His holiness. This word was used in six passages speaking of the Lord’s return, the millennial advent of Christ (i.e. - II Timothy 1:10; Titus 2:13).

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 8

The One World Government & False Religion

“It is important to understand the present time and to prepare for the future, but it is equally important to examine past developments that have led to the present and will lead to the future.”

Ron J. Bigalke Jr.

No one can begin speaking about a one world government without looking into the stages that led to its final culmination in end time events. One very important focal point began out of Europe through the expeditions of the Crusades and that of Marco Polo (1254 – 1324). These changes brought about the Renaissance as well as a new beginning of economic thought.

The Crusades fostered the idea for trade and travel that radically altered the Medieval Times. There was a growth in cities and a vast demand for a variety of goods in Europe. There was a great desire for the new luxuries found in the East.

It was during this time that the middle-class began to form. The focus on most groups was acquiring greater wealth. It was during the 16th and 17th centuries that the political landscape began to change. The feudal loyalty (local lords) were replaced by that of a national identity.

Marco Polo not only inspired an expansion of trade but also a desire to become better educated. It was during these times that compasses, clocks and charts along with maps became greatly improved. Bookkeeping and contracts were established to maintain proper records of the booming trade. Gutenberg's Press (c. A.D. 1440) allowed many more people to benefit from the production and consequent distribution of books.

Trade policies began to take form. The kings began to offer their support to the mercantilists. Countries began to realize that they could gain plenty of gold and silver in their treasuries if they increased their exports of goods. Low wages were common and even led to child labour. The increase in the national treasury also began the development of borrowing money at increasing rates of interest. This increasing trade among countries continued from the 15th to the 17th century.

There was a group that took form in France during the age of reason and enlightenment (A.D. 1750 – 1800). They were called the Physiocrats. They rejected government control because it seemed to increase wars, distress, taxes, and luxury for the upper class. It eventually led to the French Revolution. They felt that the government should loosen its control on the farmers to allow them to not only produce more food but have control over the food they produced. This was essentially the same thought as we hear from conservatives today.

These Physiocrats believed that the mercantilists were giving too much attention to industry and manufactures than they did to agriculture. This was the beginning of the supply and demand concept of trade. Farmers produced the food and sold it for profit and with their money they were able to buy other manufactured goods.

This stood in stark contrast to those who supported socialism. Socialism always leads to an increase in government control and a decrease in personal freedoms. People work for the state instead of for themselves. Government increases in size. The goal of socialism is to abolish economics through private ownership. The government takes control of everything and everyone. This includes the production of goods, education, religion, financial systems, judicial systems etc.

In other words the growth of government should be a concern for everyone who cherishes their liberties. One of the liberties that are destroyed by big government is always our religious freedom. A case in point can be found very quickly in the history of the nation of Israel.

It took place during the period just preceding the death of Samuel. The people wanted a king just like the nations that were surrounding them (I Samuel 8:5). Samuel was told to tell the people that God was displeased with their decision and that a king would make continuous demands upon them (I Samuel 8:9 – 20).

The US and Canada along with other industrialized nations of the world are heading in the same direction. Many of the changes that we have witnessed recently can be attributed to the economic growth and decline. We saw some of our greatest growth after World War II up to the year 2000. Since that time the GDP of Western nations has been considerably reduced.

It appears that most economists believe that we have headed down a road that will be difficult to change. It has now become a global problem. That is why the nations are gathering together to find a global solution.

Churches and other para-church organizations are being criticized for not doing more to help the needy. At the same time many nations that are increasing their national treasuries through the export of oil are doing very little in comparison. Many are Muslim nations who are not helping out during the many disasters that we hear about.

Christian values and principles are being attacked constantly through the media. Liberal government is also doing all it can to bash and destroy Christian values. We are seen as a big problem to advancing their ideas. The battle lines are being clearly drawn.

Those with a globalist viewpoint believe that we are getting better and becoming more prosperous. This materialistic viewpoint is leading to a humanistic agenda. It is grounded in the greed that mankind has to have more and more. It led us into a global meltdown and the Bible says it will even be worse in the future (Revelation 18). **So where are we heading now?**

“In advance of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meeting in Washington last weekend, the Institute of International Finance, a group that represents 420 of the world's largest banks and finance houses, issued yet another call for a one-world global currency. "A core group of the world's leading economies need to come together and hammer out an understanding," Charles Dallara, the Institute of International Finance's managing director told the Financial Times in London.”

The Washington Times
“*International Financiers Call For One-World Currency*”
October 12, 2010

Any merger that finds its common denomination as its financial stability is heading down a dangerous road.

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – does not come from the Father but from the world.

17. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

I John 2:15–17

“It is written, Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

The devil is once again offering the world as he once did Jesus to bow down and worship him and he has promised to give them not only the kingdoms of this world but also all of its splendour. We must become very firm in our belief that we cannot serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24). Remember that there is always a deceitfulness of wealth.

“The one who received the seed that fell among thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it on fruitful.”

Matthew 13:22

So it should be clear that the “false religion” of the time just before the Return of Christ will include a warped emphasis on wealth. I believe the Bible is warning us against an unbalanced prosperity doctrine. God will prosper us but I believe we must be very careful that we do not worship the money that we are blessed by. It is often linked with drunkenness which indicates that our decisions will become marred.

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation (drunken nausea), drunkenness (intoxication) and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

35. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

36. Be always on the watch and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you will be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Luke 21:34–36

The corporations of this world have begun amalgamations that make them not just mega-corporations but huge conglomerates with incredible assets. There are many layers of financial accountability that are hanging as millstones around the necks of humanity because of their decisions. Humanity is now living in a cage where everything is defined by costs, prices, monetary gains and losses. At the same time people know less about truth and values than they ever have. The Bible says that these will all fall in the day (Revelation 18:17).

The financial elites of our world have gathered together to propose solutions to stabilize the world’s finances.

- ◆ The creation of the world’s financial authority, an institution that would set policies for all financial institutions in the world.
- ◆ An establishment of an International Credit Insurance Corporation.
- ◆ Exchange rate system reform. The most radical form of this idea is to adopt a single world currency, issued by a world monetary authority.
- ◆ Reforms in the way international debt problems are resolved, allowing countries to declare bankruptcy protection in the same way as corporations. This solution would lead to an international bankruptcy court.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

“Towards Reform of the International Financial Architecture: Which Way Forward?”
New York, 2001

All of their recommendations will lead to bigger government controlling the people. This selected group will make the few decisions that will affect the world just as they are doing now.

The Bible has a number of warnings against those who live in such a manner (James 5:1–6). We need to be careful that we do not “*fatten ourselves in the day of slaughter.*” We must also be careful that we do not become like the Laodicean church

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’”

Revelation 3:17

The Bible also does not speak very highly of the final and fourth kingdom that man sets up before God sets his eternal kingdom into place.

*“The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. . . .
25. He will speak against the most high and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half the time.”*

Daniel 7:23, 25

So there is clearly going to be a continual convergence of not just financial institutions but also multinational corporations. Yet that is not all that we should be taking note of. There is definitely an increasing movement toward a one world government. The governments of the Western world were put in place for the protection of its people. Government should be limited to carry out the desires of its people in a way that offers them a peaceful life.

The difficult irony that we face every day is that as a Christian we are to be in subjection to those who govern over us (Romans 13:1). Yet we also realize that we are heading toward a one world government that is controlled by Satan (II Thessalonians 2:8–12). We are soon to see 200 nations become one. The purpose of any government that God puts in place is clear,

“ . . . so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out to him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

Acts 17:27

A government is God’s way of treating us good (Romans 13:4). They will have to stand before God and make an account for their actions. Unfortunately, the final one world government will not surrender its will to God. Therefore, it will not act in a manner that is pleasing to God or His people.

Daniel made it clear through his written prophecy that the final kingdom that the antichrist rules over will be compiled of 10 kings and one kingdom. Some of the kings will be strong and some of them will be weak (Daniel 2:42).

One writer suggests that the 10 kings that the antichrist will rule over will be . . .

Europe
Far East
Middle East
North America
South America
South Asia
Central Asia
Australia and New Zealand
Southern Africa
Central Africa

Arno Froese
“United Europe’s Power Play”
Harvest House, 1997, page 292

The European Union is encouraging the eradication of borders within all of Europe. During its amalgamation there have been no shots fired. No propaganda was generated or no hate speeches were spoken. It was amazing to see.

We have seen their economic, financial, military, political and religious unions joined as one. They are united in their diversity. Its member states have set up common institutions to which they delegate some of their sovereignty so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically on a European level.

Initially they began with six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom joined in 1973, Greece in 1981, Spain and Portugal in 1986, Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995. In 2004 the biggest ever enlargement took place with 10 new countries that joined. They now have a common currency which they call the Euro.

So it seems clear that this one world government is already being pieced together. Individual governments are increasingly laying aside their sovereignty to be part of it. This is setting the stage for the antichrist to set up his kingdom of oppressive domination.

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 9

The Antichrist/Mark of the Beast

We seem to hear more often about the need for “*a new world order*” or “*the dawning of a new age*.” The way of thinking on a global scale has changed considerably over the past decade. Mental problems are on the increase. Suicide has become the number one killer of our teenagers. This points to the fact that there is becoming an increase in the loss of hope. People are waiting for some rider to come in on a white horse and fix all the problems.

Christian who study their Bibles realize that there are two riders to consider. Both of them are depicted as riding a white horse. One will be a false christ or antichrist (Revelation 6:1–2) while the other will be the True and Living Christ (Revelation 19:11–16). Those who know the truth will not be deceived into following the wrong leader.

“And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”

II Peter 1:19

The stage is being set for the antichrist to take the leading role as the global leader. The process has taken almost 2000 years. The prophet Daniel gave to us a picturesque view of how it will transpire. It came about because of the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was given by God. Daniel interpreted the dream and explained about the empires that would rise and fall until the final empire led by God Himself (Daniel 2:31 – 45).

The empires of Babylon, Media Persia, Greece and Rome have both risen and fallen. But we must never believe that the spirit behind these empires have died with them. Their nature and ways of thinking and acting have continued to compile throughout the centuries.

The final temporary kingdom has been forming for years. It is described as one that is made up of 10 toes that are a mixture of iron and baked clay. It will consist of kings and kingdoms that are both strong and weak.

I. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Beginning back in the 70s we witnessed the emergence of European nations in a new alliance. Diplomatic efforts soon combined the greatest think tank.

A. Economic union - This group realized that they had to unify or lose out as world leaders. Nation after nation began to form this union. The balance of power began to shift back into the hands of these European leaders.

B. Military union - They quickly realized that they were going to have to protect the riches that were increasing. Both France and Germany began to conduct unified military exercises. They led the way in the standardizing of weapons and transportation systems.

C. Political union - Europe was strongly divided by class, race, religion, as well as a sense of national destiny. Major changes were going to be needed. We quickly saw the dissolving of the Soviet Union. Next were the wars in the Balkans, Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

Even with all of its advancement there are still several things that need to be overcome. One is that Europe must find an effective, forceful, charismatic, dynamic leader. He must come up with clever ideas and clear goals. He must be a man with a plan that the world will accept.

He must also come up with a new ideology. He must come up with a way of unifying people through focussing their minds toward a vital core of a new age idea to encompass everyone. But something else is needed to help initiate this change.

1. Global Economic Collapse - Many who are looking at the “big picture” see a plan at work. A few years ago the world woke up to recognize that it had just gone through a nightmare which was called “*a global meltdown.*” Many financial experts are saying we are on the verge of the next one which will have an even greater effect upon the world. People have begun to be much more sensitive to the level of taxation and uncontrolled spending along with big government.

2. The Threat of Nuclear War - Nuclear proliferation is continuing with no expectation of a slowdown. Our world superpowers now have the ability to begin a nuclear war. It seems like the real danger is now coming from rogue nations. North Korea and Iran are boasting the production of nuclear energy. It will soon give them the ability to produce nuclear warheads. The stage is being set for a world leader to bring peace. Unfortunately it will be a false peace.

*“While people are saying, ‘peace and safety,’
destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor
pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not
escape.”*

I Thessalonians 5:3

II. OTHER EMERGING SIGNS

There is something else that we must keep close attention to. There is no doubt that there is an emergence of these signs.

A. Apostasy - There are approximately 400,000 churches in the United States alone. But the questions we should be asking is how many of them still believe the Bible to be the authoritative Word of God? How many believe in the deity of Jesus Christ? How many believe that we are saved through our faith alone in Jesus Christ? How many believe and teach that there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun? How many are waiting for the rapture of the church and believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ?

Unfortunately, organized religion will become the main tool in the hands of the antichrist. Statistics clearly show that there has been a falling away in our Western churches.

“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for, that day will not come, until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, a man doomed to destruction.”

II Thessalonians 2:3

The word used for “**rebellion**” is “**opistimi**” which means “**to stand away from, to betray a former loyalty, to turn your back on an earlier commitment.**” This is why it is translated “**the falling away**” in a number of versions of the Bible.

B. Anarchy - We can be very thankful that God has placed a restraint at this time upon the evil lawlessness that is growing worldwide. Governments around the world feel that they are losing control of their people. Massive groups are marching in the streets and destroying property. California has recently passed a law not to charge anyone who steals under \$1500.00.

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

8. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

9. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

10. And in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved.”

II Thessalonians 2:7–10

C. Delusion - People are very foolish if they think they'll be thinking clearly during this time. There will be much confusion. It will be next to impossible to understand the difference between truth and lies.

“For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12. and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”

II Thessalonians 2:11,12

The Antichrist will to emerge as the world leader as he places himself above God.

“He will oppose and exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”

II Thessalonians 2:4

It is vital that we discern the sign of the times (Matthew 16:1-3). If not, we will be deceived by the spirit of this age. It is clear to those who are studying end time prophecy that a shift is taking place in our world to prepare for the rise of the Antichrist.

III. THE IDENTITY OF THE ANTICHRIST

The word “antichrist” is used four times in the New Testament and all of them are by the apostle John (I John 2:18, 22; 4:3; and II John 7). The prefix of the word “**anti**” has the meaning of “**being against or instead of.**” So he will oppose the true Christ and try to convince the world that he is the Christ. He will become the most powerful dictator our world has ever seen.

A. His Names - His other names indicate to us what kind of dictator he will become.

- *“the ruler (or “prince” NKJV) who will come”* (Daniel 9:26)
- *a “stern-faced (or “fierce” NKJV) king”* (Daniel 8:23)
- *“a master of intrigue”* (Daniel 8:23)
- *he will “do as he pleases”* (Daniel 11:36)
- *a “worthless shepherd”* (Zechariah 11:16 – 17)
- *“the one who brings destruction”* (II Thessalonians 2:3)
- *“the man of lawlessness”* (II Thessalonians 2:8)
- *“in accordance with the work of Satan”* (II Thessalonians 2:9)
- *“a beast”* (Revelation 13:1; 16:13; 19:19, 20)

B. Other Names

- *The little horn* (Daniel 7:8)
- *“the man doomed to destruction”* (II Thessalonians 2:3)
- *“the king of Babylon”* (Isaiah 14:4)
- *the rider of the white horse* (Revelation 6:1-2)
- see *“scarlet beast”* (Revelation 17:3)

C. His Kingdom - His kingdom will expand quickly to encompass the whole world (Revelation 13:3-8). It will find its roots in Europe and grow out of the fourth kingdom that was seen in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniels visions (Daniel 2: 40–43; 7:23–25; 8:23–25; 11:36-45).

D. His Leadership Abilities

1. **He Will Be a Charismatic Leader** (Daniel 7:7-8, 25; Revelation 13:5)
2. **He Will Be a Cunning Leader** (Daniel 11:21)
3. **He Will Be a Cruel Leader** (Daniel 7:23, 25)

E. His Profile

1. **He Will Be Politically Inconspicuous** (Daniel 8:10, 24; Revelation 13:1)
2. **He Will Emerge from a Gentile Nation** (Daniel 7:1–8, 23–25)

“A widely held belief throughout the history of the church has been the notion that antichrist will be of Jewish origin. This view is still somewhat popular in our day. However, upon closer examination we find no real scriptural basis for such review. In fact, the Bible teaches just the opposite... the antichrist will be of Gentile descent.”

Thomas Ice
“The Ethnicity of the Antichrist”
Pre-trib Research Center

*“He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers
or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard
any God, but will exalt himself above them all.
38. Instead of them, he will honor a God of
fortresses; a God unknown to his fathers he will
honor with gold and silver, with precious stones
and costly gifts.”*

Daniel 11:37, 38

3. **He Will Be Spiritually Blasphemous** - (Daniel 7:25; II Thessalonians 2:4)
4. **He Will Have Limitations** (Revelation 13:5,7 *“was given”*)

5. He will be Intimidating (Daniel 7; Revelation 13:2)

“Think of the Golden majesty of Babylon. Of the mighty ponderous massiveness of Cyrus the Persian. Think of the beauty and the elegance and the intellect of the ancient Greek world. Think of the Roman with his laws in order and his idea of justice. All of these glories will be summed up in the majesty of this one eventual *Antichrist* who will be like Nebuchadnezzar, like Cyrus, like Tiglath Pileser, like Shalmanezer. Like Julius Caesar, like Caesar Augustus, like Alexander the Great, like Napoleon Bonaparte, like Frederick the Great and Charlemagne, all bound up into one.”

Dr. W. A.. Criswell
“*Expository Sermons on Revelation*”
vol. 4, 1995, p. 109



Tiglah Pileser
The most successful military leader
of Assyria who became king



Shalmanezer III
Another King of Assyria



Frederick the Great
King of Prussia
1740-1786



Charlemagne
King of Franks
748-814



F. Worship of the Antichrist - One distinguishing feature that will set him apart from every other leader in our world today is that he will gain the worship of everyone on earth. This is just like the emperor worship that came from Rome (Revelation 13:12-15) as well as what was expected in Babylon in worshipping Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:5,6). He will not just be honoured. He will be worshipped.

G. A Biography of the Antichrist - The Bible is clear as to what we can expect the antichrist to do . . .

- He will make a peace covenant with Israel for 3 ½ years (Daniel 9:27)
- He will put an end to the Temple sacrifices and offerings (Daniel 9:27)
- He will set up the abomination of desolation at the Temple (Daniel 9:27)
- He will cruelly persecute the Jews (Isaiah 28:18)
- He will be healed of a fatal head wound (Revelation 13:3)
- He will be worshipped worldwide (Revelation 13:12)
- He will hate God (Daniel 11:37)
- He will love war (Daniel 11:37)
- He will pay tribute to those serving in his army (Daniel 11:38, 39)
- He will invade Israel and other nations including Egypt (Daniel 11:41,42)
- He will be ultimately defeated by Jesus (Daniel 11:45; Revelation 17:8-14)

G. The Mark of the Beast - Another way that he will be distinguished is that he will force everyone to receive a mark either on his right hand or his forehead as an indication that they are consecrated to him (cf. - Exodus 13:9, 10; Revelation 13:16–18).

No one will be able to conduct business without having this identifying mark or name or number. Yet anyone who receives this mark will also doom themselves to receive the wrath of God (Revelation 14:9–12).

We now have radiofrequency identification or RFID. It works with the implantation of a tiny chip (0.05 x 0.05 mm). These chips are now used in retail stores to identify shoplifters. They're also placed into family pets and Alzheimer patients to track them down if they become lost. They are now beginning to be used as personal identity markers that are surgically implanted under a patient's skin and loaded with information about the individual.

There is however a new threat to anyone who has an RFID symbol on their credit card or passport. A scanner can pick up anyone's credit card number and the date of expiration. They can also get all your personal information on your passport. This is now being sold to thieves around the world. All of this is heading toward an advanced way of thinking that will question the security of one's personal information. Identity theft is becoming a real potential to help usher in a new way to handling our money through electronic transactions and credit card use. Buyer beware!

There is no doubt that we are moving to a cashless society. Esso and Shell began with what was known as their Speed Pass. The Japanese are now using cell phone Smart Cards to pay their bills. Many cities including ours have implemented a new parking system that have eliminated the old meters. There is also a new system for businesses that is called Pay by Touch which uses our fingerprint for identification instead of a pin number.



The system is getting ready and being fine tuned every day for the rule of the Antichrist. Years ago it seemed a little far-fetched, but not anymore.

“Somewhere at this moment there may be a young man growing to maturity. He is in all likelihood a brooding, thoughtful young man. Inside his heart, however, there was a hellish rage. It boils like a cauldron of molten lead. He hates God. He despises Jesus Christ. He detests the church. In his mind there is taking shape the form of a dream of conquest. He will disingenuously present himself as a friend of Christ and the Church. Yet . . . he will, once empowered, pour out hell itself onto this world. Can the world produce such a prodigy? Hitler was once a little boy. Stalin was a lad. Nero was a child. The tenderness of childhood will be shaped by the devil into the terror of the *antichrist*.

Gary Frazier
“*Signs of the Coming of Christ*”
1998, p. 149

The Bible not only warns us of this coming Antichrist but also tells us how to keep our hearts from being troubled. We are to continue to keep our trust in God who will soon be coming to take us to be with Him (John 14:1-6). We must all be ready, because that day could be today!

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 10

The Tribulation

People often struggle when they begin to realize that those who are left behind in the time of the tribulation/great tribulation will be punished by God (See chapter 7 page 3). It's hard to accept the fact that God will pour out His wrath upon those who live on the earth.

The prophet Zephaniah warned the people that the Day of the Lord was near (Zephaniah 1:7). The next few verses tell us that God was going to punish the princes and king's sons, the superstitious, idolaters; those filled with violence and deceit as well as the complacent. He made it very clear that God was going to pour out His wrath (Zephaniah 1:15, 18; 2:2; 3:8).

God's anger and wrath will also be poured out during the last seven years on this earth before the final millennium. The names given to this period of time are the tribulation (the beginning 3 ½ years) and the great tribulation (the final 3 ½ years). The word "**tribulation**" means "***a pressing, oppression, affliction, distress, burdened, troubled.***"

The Schedule of Events During the Time of the Tribulation?

1. The Jews will continue returning to Palestine in unbelief that Jesus was their Messiah (Isaiah 17:10,11; 66:3,4) and will rebuild their Temple (Revelation 11:1,2).
2. The antichrist having appeared, and becoming the head of a world empire, the Jews will enter into a treaty with him (Daniel 9:27; cf. John 5:43).
3. In the midst of the seven years, he will be revealed as the Antichrist (Revelation 11:7; II Thessalonians 2:3), and will break his treaty with Israel, probably because they refuse to worship him.
4. At this time God will have two special witnesses in the world for 3 ½ years, then the Antichrist will cause their murder (Revelation 11:3-7).
5. He will stop the daily sacrifice in the rebuilt Temple (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:1).
6. He will cause his own image to be put up as an object of worship (Revelation 13:14; II Thessalonians 2:3,4).
7. In the midst of the Tribulation the devil and his angels will be cast to earth (Revelation 12:7-12; 13:5; Daniel 7:25; 9:27).

8. The Holy City will be trodden down (Daniel 9:26; Revelation 11:2).
9. There will be terrible woes in the earth (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 13:17).
10. The death penalty will be inflicted upon those who refuse to worship the Antichrist (Revelation 13:15; 20:4). There will be unparalleled persecution (Revelation 13:16–17).
11. Behind it all, God has a purpose in relation to the Jews (Ezekiel 22:20; Isaiah 1:25; 4:4; Zephaniah 1:12, 13; Zechariah 13:9).
12. The remnant will no more reject Christ (Isaiah 4:3; 10:20; 17:7,8; Hosea 5:15).
13. At the end of this time great armies will gather to put the knowledge of the Lord out of the earth (Revelation 16:14-16; 17:14).
14. The Lord will then appear in power (Isaiah 12:4-6; 26:21; Zechariah 14:3,4).
15. Christ and His glorified saints will execute judgment in the earth (Jude 14; Revelation 1:7; II Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11; Isaiah 26:21; 59:20)
16. The power of the Antichrist will be immediately broken (Isaiah 30:33; Revelation 17:8; 19:20).
17. The assembled armies will be destroyed (Zechariah 12:9; Revelation 17:14; 19:21; Malachi 4:2,3).
18. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:2,3).
19. The Antichrist and False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).
20. The Saints and resurrected martyrs will reign with Christ (Revelation 20:4-6).

This outline of events was compiled by Rev. N. Schlarbaumin in his notes on Ages and Dispensations.

Now that we have had this overview, I will take the rest of this lesson to describe in detail and in chronological order what the Bible says about the seven years of tribulation that will come upon this earth. It is not a matter of if these events will take place, but rather **when** will they take place!

I. The Breaking of the Six Seals (Revelation 6)

A. The First Seal (Revelation 6:1,2)

This will begin with the rider of the white horse which represents the inauguration of the false time of peace under the antichrist (cf. Daniel 7:24, 25). I dealt with all of these in much more detail in my study on The Book of Revelation. It can be found on our church website.

The main thing to understand here is that this rider is NOT Jesus. It is the antichrist who deceitfully tries to win the support of the Jews which he does for a period of time. Many scholars believe that this will happen up to the middle of the tribulation time. In other words, he will take reign for 3 ½ years before he is rejected by the Jews. It may happen at the beginning.

B. The Second Seal (Revelation 6:3,4)

The second horse will be one of a fiery red colour. It is symbolizing the war that will last the entire duration of the antichrist's reign. Rebellion and bloodshed will saturate the world.

“Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.”

Revelation 6:4

This can be called the seven-year world war because no one will escape its effect.

“War will continue until the end and desolations have been decreed.”

Daniel 9:26

C. The Third Seal (Revelation 6:5,6)

“When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creatures say, ‘Come!’ I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.”

Revelation 6:5

This seal will usher in a time of great famine. Prices for basic commodities will skyrocket because of their scarcity indicated by the pair of scales. It will be intensified because of God's judgment on nature itself. Poverty and luxury will coexist.

D. The Fourth Seal (Revelation 6:7,8)

“I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.”

Revelation 6:8

The word **“pale”** comes from the Greek word **“chlorus”** which we derive our word **“chlorine.”** Chlorine is a deadly gas. It is yellowish-green in colour. It has been described as **“a corpse like colour.”** Over a fourth of the world’s population will be destroyed.

E. The Fifth Seal (Revelation 6:9-11)

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.”

Revelation 6:9

The fifth seal will introduce the time of great martyrdom. This will be mainly because these people will not take the Mark of the Beast. So these who are slain will not include those who became martyrs prior to the rapture of the Church.

“They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign LORD, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’”

Revelation 6:10

This verse is speaking of Israel once again. This is not so much avenging as it will be vindication and justice (Romans 12:19). Jesus’ blood speaks of better things than that of Abel’s (cf. Genesis 4:10; Hebrews 12:24).

F. The Sixth Seal (Revelation 6:12-17)

When this seal is broken open, there will be a cataclysm of events. It will begin with a great earthquake followed by the sun turning to black and the moon to red. The stars will even fall to the earth. Every mountain and island will be repositioned. It will be a time of unsurpassed destruction when great fear will fill the hearts of everyone on earth.

There are other references to this great and terrible period of time (Isaiah 24:21-23; 13:9-11; Joel 2:10 Zechariah 14:1-5; Micah 4:1)

Comparison of the Seals with Matthew 24

Seal Judgments – Revelation 6 – 11

Matthew 24

Seal 1 - vss 1,2	False Christ - vs 5
Seal 2 - vss 3,4	Wars - vs 5
Seal 3 - vss 5,6	Famine - vs 7
Seal 4 - vss 7,8	Pestilence - vs 7
Seal 5 - vs 9	Kingdom Preaching - vs 14
Seal 6 - vs 12	Earthquakes - vs. 7

G. The Seventh Seal (Revelation 8:1)

In between the sixth and seventh seals, we find that God will seal 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:1-8). Then we are given a glimpse into heaven where those who are wearing white robes are worshipping God (Revelation 7:9 –17).

The opening of the seventh seal will begin the sounding of the first trumpet.

II. The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8-9)

Before the sounding of the seven trumpets, John is given a scene from heaven when an angel will gather the prayers of God's people. It clearly indicates that God will be in control of what will take place on earth. We must always keep in mind that this is The Revelation of Jesus Christ not of the Antichrist.

A. The First Trumpet (Revelation 8:7)

As the first angel sounds his trumpet, we find that hail and fire mixed with blood will be hurled down to the earth. It is very similar to what was spoken of in verses four and five. Perhaps the reason for this judgment will be because of the inhumane way that the martyrs will be treated as indicated by their prayers. The effect of this single trumpet sound will be that a third of all of the earth, trees and grass are burned up.

B. The Second Trumpet (Revelation 8:8-9)

As the second angel sounds his trumpet, we are told that a huge mountain that is full of fire will plunge into the sea turning a third of it to blood. It will also destroy a 1/3 of the living creatures as well as 1/3 of all the ships will be destroyed. This will create a problem much worse than the recent red coloured algae that has been happening more frequently around the ocean of Europe. It cannot be this kind of judgement because algae does not destroy ships.

C. The Third Trumpet (Revelation 8:10,11)

As the third angel sounds his trumpet, we find that the focus will turn from the sea to the rivers and other tributaries. This blazing star will destroy 1/3 of them.

The name of the star is Wormwood. This is also the name of a plant that has a very bitter taste. The Old Testament (Proverbs 5:3 – 4) uses it as a symbol of bitterness and sorrow. Although Wormwood is not poisonous, its bitter taste suggests death. It is often associated with gall (cf. Lamentations 3:19; Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15).

D. The Fourth Trumpet (Revelation 8:12,13)

The removal of light from the earth will take place when the fourth trumpet begins to sound. Darkness is a sign of judgment (Isaiah 13:10; Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18; Matthew 8:12; Mark 13:24). It was the ninth plague for the land of Egypt. A third of the light of the sun the moon and the stars will be removed. This will have disastrous effects upon the climate.

The next judgments will be both strong and swift like that of an eagle.

E. The Fifth Trumpet (Revelation 9:1-12)

The fifth trumpet will begin with what is called The First Woe. A star (most likely an angel) is set to open the abyss. A dense smoke will darken the sky. Locusts will appear from the smoke. Locusts in the Old Testament are symbols of destruction that the people were helpless to defend themselves against (Deuteronomy 28:42; I Kings 8:37; Psalms 78:46). Locusts breed in the desert and invade cultivated areas in search of food. They travel in a column 100 feet high and up to four miles long. They are normally indiscriminate of anything in their path.

These locusts will be given power like a scorpion. The scorpion feeds on its prey at night. They strike with great speed. They are hostile to man. Notice that these have the power, not the appearance of a scorpion. They are told not to damage the remaining grass but only to bring severe pain upon those who have not received the seal of God on their foreheads.

They will be given five months to torture the ungodly which is the life cycle of a locust. It also corresponds to the length of the dry season (May through to September) when the danger of a locust invasion is always present. Many will try to die but will be unable to.

Many writers have tried to give an explanation as to the appearance of these locusts with the sting of a scorpion. It is difficult to be pragmatic in any description. The two names given to the one who was leading them are “*Abaddon*” which means “*destruction*” (Job 31:12) and “*Apollyon*” which means “*destroyer*.”

F. The Sixth Trumpet (Revelation 9:13-21)

The six trumpet will begin what is called The Second Woe which will bring death instead of torture. It will release an army of 200 million mounted troops which will be stationed at the Euphrates River.

Time magazine had a report in the 1980s that the Peoples Republic of China boasted a militia of over 200 million men and women. The Peoples Republic of China flag is bright (blood) red, with a large star (yellow – five pointed) in the corner with four smaller stars (yellow) with an arch around the main star. The Nationalist China flag (not shown) is mostly red (3/4) and the top last quarter is blue with a white sun in the middle of it.



Three plagues are mentioned which are fire, smoke and sulfur that proceed out of the mouths of the horses. These horses are described with tails like snakes. Even this kind of affliction and death will not be enough to cause people to stop worshipping idols and the demons behind them.

Before the seventh trumpet sounds, we once again are given insight as to what is taking place in heaven. Remember that our main focus in studying should be kept on God. There is a verse in chapter 10 that highlights this truth.

“But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

Revelation 10:7

Another important event will take place before the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Two witnesses (Revelation 11:1-14) will be sent to the Gentiles who have taken over Jerusalem for 3 ½ years. These witnesses will be killed and raised back to life after 3 ½ days. A severe earthquake will destroy 1/10th of the city along with 7,000 people. The Second Woe will pass.

G. The Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19)

The seventh trumpet will open for us a view from heaven of multitudes of people along with the 24 elders worshipping God. God will also unveil the Ark of the Covenant before heaven unleashes a violent storm along with a terrible earthquake.

We are then told that the devil will begin his massive persecution of the Israelites. God will protect those who place their trust in Him for 3 ½ years which is the final part often called “The Great Tribulation.”

H. The Two Beasts (Revelation 13:1-18)

The first beast (the Antichrist) will rise out of the sea which is symbolic of a world of restlessness and chaos. He will be possessed by the devil and one of his main purposes will be to lead people into devil worship. This will last for the final 3 ½ years.

The second beast (the False Prophet) will also be instrumental in causing people to worship Satan. He will draw people to the Antichrist which will just be another way of worshipping the devil.

I. The Lamb and the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5)

Once again we see that God will be there to protect His people (cf. 7:4-8). These are the ones who are sealed with the mark of God on their foreheads.

J. The Three Angels (Revelation 14:6–13)

People are often confused in the fact that an angel is sent to proclaim the eternal gospel to everyone living on earth. Even though the gospel will be preached during this time it does not mention that any respond to it and accept Christ.

NOTE – There is no indication that any Jewish believer will be any more successful at proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles than was Noah or Lot. The term “unregenerated mankind” is often used to describe this lost condition. There is also nowhere in Scripture where an angel is responsible for leading someone to Christ. Although they are often involved in administering judgment toward those who do not respond to the warning they give on behalf of God.

The proclamation of the Gospel will simply be a prelude to the judgment that is coming.

K. The Harvest of Judgment (Revelation 14:14–20)

Most of us think of a harvest as a positive time. This harvest will be quite different. God will now have His fill of false worship and unrighteousness. This winepress will gather the blood of the ungodly.

“The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.

20. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and the blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia (which is about the length of Palestine which is 184 miles).”

Revelation 14:19, 20

L. Seven Angels with Seven Plagues (Revelation 15:1-8)

Heaven will truly stand out in stark contrast to what will be taking place on earth. Heaven will burst forth with praise and worship while the earth will resound with cursing.

We are told that the seven angels that will be sent with the seven last plagues will be shining forth as they carry out their duties. God’s judgment is always righteous. Smoke will fill the heavenly temple to declare both the glory and the power of God.

M. The First Bowl of God’s Wrath (Revelation 16:1-2)

The first of these final judgment plagues will be directed only toward those who have taken the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. They will have painful sores all over their bodies. Most liken these sores to boils.

N. The Second Bowl of God’s Wrath (Revelation 16:3)

The second bowl will be directed toward the sea. It immediately will turn to blood and kill everything that is within it. This will have a massive effect upon the world’s food supply.

O. The Third Bowl of God’s Wrath (Revelation 16:4-7)

The third plague will be against all the rivers and springs turning them into blood. Once the water is undrinkable there will be no escape from the doom to come. No one can survive without drinking water.

This will become the world’s judgment for shedding the innocent blood of the saints of the prophets.

P. The Fourth Bowl of God’s Wrath (Revelation 16:8-9)

The fourth bowl will bring about a massive heat wave as the sun scorches the earth and everything upon it. Their hardened hearts will curse God.

Q. The Fifth Bowl of God's Wrath (Revelation 16:10-11)

The fifth angel will pour out darkness upon the entire earth. Once again we are reminded of the fact that the people will not repent but rather curse God.

R. The Sixth Bowl of God's Wrath (Revelation 16:12-16)

When the six bowl is poured upon the earth, we are told that the great Euphrates River is dried up. This will prepare the way for the kings of the earth to make their way to fight in the battle of Armageddon. According to many recent reports, this is already taking place. Half of its supply is already gone.

S. The Seventh Bowl of God's Wrath (Revelation 16:17-21)

The final bowl will complete God's wrath upon the earth. A terrible thunderstorm will be followed by the most severe earthquake that has ever taken place on earth. The earthquake will destroy both mountains and islands.

The storm will create hailstones that will be 100 pounds in weight. The largest recorded hailstone to date fell in Bangladesh, India on April 14, 1986. It weighed 2.2 pounds. The largest hailstone to fall in the United States was in Nebraska and was 7 inches in diameter and weighed 1.67 pounds.

T. The Woman that Rides the Beast (Revelation 17:1-18)

This woman is described as a great prostitute who sits on many waters which symbolizes the people of the world. She will be a great source of corruption within both politics and religion.

The Lamb of God will overcome not only her but everything and everyone she influences.

U. The Fall of Babylon the Great (Revelation 18:1-24)

This judgment will bring an end to all of the commercial trade throughout the world. No one will be able to escape the effect of this global meltdown.

This will be the worst nightmare that this world has ever witnessed. Even though it is well-detailed, it is still difficult for our minds to fathom.

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 11

Impending War (Armageddon) - Ezekiel 38,39

I. The Meaning of the Name

The name Armageddon comes from the Hebrew word *“harmageddon”* which means *“the mount of Megiddo.”* It is made of two words *“har”* which means *“mount”* and *“megiddo”* which means *“slaughter.”* So the proper meaning is really *“Mount of Slaughter.”*

II. The Location of Megiddo

Armageddon is not actually a battle as much as it is a place. The mountain of Megiddo is found in northern Israel in what was known as the plain of Esdraelon. It is the land that reaches 15 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea to the northern part of Israel. It is about 18 miles south east of Haifa, 55 miles north of Jerusalem and just over 10 miles from Nazareth.

In modern times this area became a great swamp until the state of Israel drained it and made it a beautiful and fruitful plain. This area will not be able to contain all of the armies and that is why the Scriptures indicate that the total land needed for these armies will be about 200 miles in length which would engulf the entire Holy Land.

Armageddon is the same place where Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites (Judges 4–5). It was also the place where Gideon defeated the Midianites (Judges 7). King Saul was killed on this plain by the Philistines (I Samuel 31). Ahaziah was slain here by Jehu (II Kings 9) and King Josiah was slain by the invading Egyptians (II Kings 23).

There been many battles fought in this area of land including the Crusaders, the Egyptians, Persians, the Druze, the Greeks, the Turks, and the Arabs. One of the more recent battles was fought in world war one by the British General Edmund Allenby against the Turks. One scholar by the name of Alan Johnson has said that there have been more than 200 battles fought at or near this location. No wonder it is called the Mount of Slaughter.

“All armies of the world can manoeuver their forces on this vast plain . . . there is no place in the whole world more suited for war than this . . . [it is] the most natural battlefield on the whole earth.”

Napoleon Bonaparte
1799

This battle will not just be limited to the valley of Megiddo but will also include the Valley of Jehoshaphat which is believed to be directly east of Jerusalem (Joel 3:2,9-14).

*“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East.
13. Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and of the mouth of the false prophet.
14. They are the spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.”*

Revelation 16:12 – 14

There is plenty of speculation about who or what these three frogs represent. The Bible calls them demons who will perform miraculous signs. They will influence the kings of a number of nations to gather to fight this horrendous war. By looking at three portions of Scripture we find out that there will be three major groups of nations that will join forces to fight this battle.

III. The Northern Confederacy

The first military power that will fight against the authority of the beast and his armies of the revised Roman empire will be one of a northern confederacy. This confederacy is described in Ezekiel 38:1 – 39:25 (cf. 38:15; 39:2); Daniel 11:40; Joel 2:1 – 27 (cf. 2:20); Isaiah 10:12; 30:31–33; 31:8-9. The main passage that must be understood is found in Ezekiel 38:2-6.

It needs to be understood that the Prince of Rosh is called Gog. The land is called Magog and is composed of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. Scholars look back to Genesis 10:2 to understand the history of these names. It is concluded that Rosh today is the land of Russia.

The first nation that will be federated with Russia will be Persia [Iran and Iraq](Ezekiel 38:5). The second will be Cush or Ethiopia. The third nation will be Put or Libya. The fourth nation is called Gomer which is Germany. The fifth is called Togarmah which most believe to be Turkey or Armenia and may also include other nations of Central Asia.

IV. The Kings of the East

According to Revelation 16:12 the antichrist and his armies will be invaded by the kings of the East. The Euphrates River was the original eastern boundary of the Roman Empire. This confederation of armies will make their way over the Himalayan mountains and cross the Euphrates River.

V. The King of the South

The third power that will come against the antichrist is spoken about in Daniel 11:40. He will be very powerful and will conquer many countries. But he will not be able to overcome either the armies from the East or the North. He will come to an abrupt end (Daniel 11:45).

This battle will bring about much bloodshed for the enemies of God's people.

“They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and the blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia (about 180 miles or 300 km).”

Revelation 14:20

This may appear to be an exaggeration of what will take place. It may help to compare it with the words spoken by the Jewish historian Josephus.

“When they [Romans] link in numbers into the lanes of the city, with their swords drawn, they slew those whom they overtook, without mercy, and set fire to the houses whether the Jews fled . . . they ran everyone through whom they met with, and obstructed the very lanes with their dead bodies, and made the whole city run down with blood, to such a degree indeed that the fire of many of the houses was quenched with these men's blood.”

Josephus
“The War of the Jews, Book 6”

VI. Many Battles

Many do not realize that the battle of Armageddon will actually consist of many battles. The word used in Revelation 16:14 for **“battle”** is the Greek word **“polemos”** which speaks of **“a war or a campaign.”** It is believed that this campaign will last for 3 ½ years. The other word that could have been used was **“mache”** which would be used more of as singular battle. This distinctive is supported by R. C. Trench in Synonyms of the New Testament as well as Thayers Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament.

So it is believed that the war that begins with the Pan Arab and Russian invasion of the Middle East will begin with the use of conventional weapons. As these armies begin to lose the battle they will shift to the use of nuclear weapons. This coincides with what is written in the book of Revelation. The disasters due to God's judgment will increase with the seven seals, the seven trumpets and finally the seven bowls.

These 21 judgements are believed to be the preludes to a final siege that will take place perhaps within a few weeks (Zechariah 14). This will take place just before the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It will become the final showdown of Gentile power dominated by Satan himself and his blasphemous opposition to the Lord. I will deal with this more in the next chapter.

I'm sure you are like many other people who find it difficult to see why God allows the world's condition to reach such a deplorable state. In fact, many people have asked why doesn't God just stop it all before it gets out of hand? There is no doubt that God is not delighting in all of this (II Peter 3:9). These events must take place to fulfill the Scriptures.

"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem.

3. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves . . .

8. On that day the Lord will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the Lord going before them.

9. On that day I will set out to destroy all nations that attack Jerusalem."

Zechariah 12:2,3,8,9

Those who study biblical prophecy are painting a very bleak picture of what the world will expect at that time.

These armed forces will unleash all of the horrors of the modern weapons of mass destruction. The chemical, biological and nuclear weapons will create devastation beyond anything ever experienced in history. The sophisticated armaments laboratories of the West and Russia have produced doomsday weapons during the last two decades that can devastate whole cities. Particle beam weapons and massive laser weapons can reflect off the satellite's mirrors and destroy entire army battalions. Experiments have proven that weather warfare is possible. Some of my sources have told me that certain weather disasters during the last decade were caused by climatic experiments."

Grant R. Jeffrey

"Apocalypse - The Coming Judgment of the Nations"

p. 199, 1992

Anyone who believes that there is peace on the horizon is living in a make-believe world. Some believed that the Oslo Accords would bring in a peace process. It was doomed to fail because it was built upon a false premise. It assumed that by reducing the size of Israel that the radical Muslim community would be appeased. It is not the size of Israel but rather the existence of Israel that is the problem. This accord actually guarantees a war in the Middle East because it denies Israel the ability to protect themselves by conventional weapons and therefore we'll leave them no option other than the nuclear option.



Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton, and Yasser Arafat
at the Oslo Accords signing ceremony on 13 September 1993

Robert Hunter who served as an US ambassador to NATO, in a private meeting at NATO head quarters in Brussels said that *“a nuclear war in the Middle East is certain – not just likely. The only question is one of timing.”*

Rear Admiral Ed Schaffer, Director of Naval Intelligence was quoted as saying, *“Somewhere, sometime – but in this decade – someone is going to use a nuclear weapon in earnest.”* He spoke those words in the mid 1990s.

VII. The Soviet Union

So some may ask how exactly does Ezekiel 38 and 39 fit into all of this prophecy. One must understand that the breakup of the Soviet Union has set the stage for Ezekiel 38 to take place. The Soviet Union consists of 15 republics that embrace over 110 ethnic minorities. Many of these minorities are tribal groups. The largest of the republics is the Russian Federation. There are five republics in Central Asia which are the keys to Ezekiel 38. They include Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan and Kirgystan.

Kazakhstan is the fourth largest nuclear power in the world. It is the home of the Baikonur Cosmodrome which is the primary space facility of the former Soviet Union. These people do not have a hard-currency to buy food to feed their people. But they do have nuclear weapons. They are Muslims. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out whom they are going to sell these weapons to when they need food.

VIII. Living in Safety

This confederacy of armies that will attack Israel will come at a time that sometimes confuses people. The portion I'm speaking of is found in Ezekiel 38:7-9. There is a statement that has been often misinterpreted.

“They (Israelis) had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety.”

*Ezekiel 38:8
cf. 38:14*

The Hebrew word to describe this “*safety*” is “*batach*.” It is used 162 times in the Old Testament, of those times 130 of them refer to be “*insecure as a state of mind*.” It can easily be translated as “*a false confidence*.” They will be placing their trust in some of the nations that are not going to stand up for them.

Some of them include Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish (Ezekiel 38:14). It is believed that Sheba and Dedan include Saudi Arabia. Some writers believe the merchants of Tarshish and their young lions include nations that are part of the Dominion of Great Britain.

Saudi Arabia comprises mostly of Sunni Arabs while other nations including Iran and Indonesia are comprised mostly of Shiite Muslims. The Saudi Arabians have never been forgiven for allowing the West to use their land in the battle called the Desert Storm against Iraq. These militant groups also wish to take over Mecca and Medina. Saudi Arabia has been trying to change the balance of power in the Middle East. But Russia is involved in arming such nations as Iran because they need the oil that they produce.

God will make it clear to the nations of the world that it is His land and that it is because He is holy that they will not accomplish their goal of annihilating Israel (Ezekiel 38:16). One of the ways that God will protect them will be by creating a great earthquake that cannot be compared with anything this world has ever seen (Ezekiel 38:18-20; Revelation 16:18-20).

God will also bring such confusion against the enemies of Israel that they will begin attacking each other. That will be followed by more plagues that brings much more bloodshed. These will include heavy torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur (Ezekiel 38:22).

Ezekiel 39 - After the War

Once this war ends and God proclaims Himself as the Holy One of Israel, there will need to be a time to clean up the plunder even as God will do His part in the re-creation. There is a very interesting portion found in Ezekiel 39:9-10. It speaks to the fact that they will use the weapons for fuel for seven years.

According to a document sent out from the Pentagon from the US Naval Institute proceedings in April 1992, the shelf life of Soviet warheads is seven years. There is believed to be 43,000 nuclear weapons that are believed to be now on the black market with this limited shelf life.

Seven months after the war will be used to bury the dead (Ezekiel 39:12). They will even hire professionals to help them and make sure that they are buried east of the Dead Sea which will be downwind to Israel. Anyone who finds a bone will simply mark it and leave it for those who will be hired to bury the dead. Even wild animals and birds will be summoned to the area to devour the flesh of those who were killed (see also Revelation 19:17-18, 21).

I love the way this chapter ends. It highlights the glory of God that will be seen among the nations of the world (Ezekiel 38:21). It will be a time when the house of Israel will once again be reunited with their God (Ezekiel 38:22-29). It ends with a powerful truth.

“I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

Ezekiel 39:29

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 12

The Second Coming of Christ/The Millennium

It has been rightly said that *“A little ignorance is never a good thing.”* It wasn't very long ago that the store shelves were being filled with books predicting a series of cataclysmic events that would end the world at the turn of not only the century but the millennium. Those books have made it to the burning barrel where they deserve to be.

The latest date that is being feverishly set is December 21, 2012. Its proponents focus upon the Mayan Prophecies, Planet X and Nibiru (black hole). They also attempt to look at different religions, civilisations and ideologies such as the Sumerians, Egyptians and Nazi Germany.

The 2012 phenomenon comprises a range of eschatological beliefs that cataclysmic or transformative events will occur on December 21, 2012 which is said to be the end-date of a 5,125-year-long cycle in the Mayan Long Count calendar.

“Astronomers and other scientists have rejected the apocalyptic forecasts as pseudoscience, stating that the anticipated events are contradicted by simple astronomical observations. NASA has compared fears about 2012 to those about the Y2K bug in the late 1990s, suggesting that an adequate analysis should preclude fears of disaster. None of the proposed alignments or formulas have been accepted by mainstream scholarship.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_phenomenon

I. The Second Coming

There is however something we can trust as the truth that will take place according to the Scriptures. The next time that Jesus comes back to earth which we call the Second Coming, will be much different from His first advent. He will not come as a baby in a manger but will come as the Conqueror riding a white horse. He will not be wrapped with swaddling clothes but instead He will be adorned with clothes of royalty in a robe dipped in blood. He will not have a door of an inn closed to Him but will have heaven opened to Him. His voice will not be a cry of a baby but rather it will thunder like the sounds of many waters. He will not be coming as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world but rather he will be coming as the Lion of the tribe of Judah to bring forth everlasting judgment. A more detailed account of this is recorded in Matthew 25:31–46. Those whom He blesses will receive the inheritance of their reward which will be a life of peace and joy in the millennium.

Isaiah also proclaimed what this kingdom and King would be like.

“ . . .and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 9:6-7

Our Lord will come like no other conqueror. No one will be able to stop Him from becoming King over the whole earth

“I will gather all nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. After the city will go into exile but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. 3. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. 4. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south . . . 5. Then the LORD my God will come and all the holy ones with him . . . 9. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.”

Zechariah 14:2-5,9

“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded great empires; but upon what did the creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions would die for him.”

[Napoleon Bonaparte](#)

A. His Designation

*“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war . . .
12. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. . .
13. And his name is the word of God . . .
On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”*

Revelation 19:11-13,16

“In these names we have set forth first our Lord’s dignity as the Eternal Son; second, His incarnation – the Word became Flesh; and last, His second advent to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

Dr. Gary Ironside
“Revelation”
pp.187 – 188, 2004

B. His Description

1. His Eyes

His eyes are described as burning like a flame of fire that can see past all hypocrisy (Revelation 1:14; 2:18; 19:12). Nothing will be able to escape His righteous judgment.

2. His Robe

We are told that His robe will be dipped in blood, which reminds us that He is the sacrificial Lamb of God (Revelation 19:13). We are also told earlier that He *is “the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world”* (Revelation 13:8). We need to be reminded that Jesus will be represented as the Lamb of God throughout all of eternity. It will be a constant reminder that the reason we are in heaven is because of His sacrifice and not because of our works.

3. His Head

His head will be crowned with many crowns (Revelation 19:12). This will once again prove that there will be no one who will be able to challenge His sovereign rule.

“If I thought there was a devil in hell that Christ did not govern, I should be afraid that devil would destroy me. If I thought there was a circumstance on earth, which Christ did not overrule, I should fear that that circumstance should ruin me. Nay, if there were an angel in heaven that was not one of Jehovah’s subjects, I should tremble even at him. But since Christ is King of kings, and I am his poor brother, one whom He loves, I give all my cares to Him, for He careth for me; and leaning on His breast, my soul hath full repose, confidence, and security.”

Charles Spurgeon
“The Saviour’s Many Crowns”
From a sermon delivered October 30, 1859

C. His Armies

The apostle John is showing the armies of God that will follow Jesus from heaven (Revelation 19:14). Those who are soldiers in this army will never fight. We will not be clothed in battle fatigue but rather dressed in fine linen that will be white and clean. The battle is the Lord’s and so will be the victory.

*“This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.
8. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
9. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power
10. on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.”*

II Thessalonians 1:7-10

Even the half-brother of Jesus spoke of this army.

*“See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones
15. to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*

Jude 14,15

II. The Millennium

There is argument whether there truly will be a period of 1,000 years for Christ to rule and reign before eternity is once again established.

“As out of seven years every seventh is the year of remission, so out of the 7,000 years of the world the seventh millennium shall be the millennium of remission, that God alone may be exalted in that day.”

Rabbi Kattina
“The Jewish Gemara”

“Six thousand years must needs be fulfilled that the Sabbath may come.”

Hippolytus of Rome (c 170 – c 236)
was the most important 3rd-century theologian
in the Christian Church in Rome

“The world endures six thousand years, two thousand before the law, two thousand under the law, and two thousand under the Messiah.”

Rabbi Elias

I know that there is some confusion that arises about where we as Christians will be during the millennium and what we will be doing. Will we be in the New Jerusalem in heaven or will we be on earth? The answer is that nothing is said about the New Jerusalem until after the millennium. Therefore, I would conclude that we will rule and reign with Him first on earth for 1,000 years (Matthew 25:21,23).

*“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
6. And has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”*

Revelation 1:5,6

“If we endure, we will also reign with him.”

II Timothy 2:13

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on earth.”

Revelation 5:10

“Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:6

“See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice.”

Isaiah 32:1

Then after that time we will rule and reign forever with God (Revelation 22:5). We are looking for that same city that the patriarch Abraham saw by faith.

“For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

Hebrews 11:10

A. The Renewal and Restoration of All Things

*“And that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus
21. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.”*

Acts 3:20, 21

There are few that would argue that our world needs to be restored. We have been polluting our water systems, cutting down our forests and placing industrial pollution into our air and soil. There is a time coming when God will *“destroy those who destroy the earth”* (Revelation 11:18).

The prophet Ezekiel declares that there is going to come a time when God will restore the waters even of the Dead Sea (Ezekiel 47:9-12).

B. Peace Will Be Restored

*“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.
7. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
8. The infant will play here the hole of the cobra and a young child will put his hand into the viper’s nest.
9. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mount, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”*

*Isaiah 11:6-9
cf. 65:25;66:12*

C. The Fullness of Joy

There will not just be a time of joy but a fullness of joy which shall be everlasting (Isaiah 61:7, 10; 65:17-19; Jeremiah 31:7-14; Zephaniah 3:14-17; Zechariah 8:18-19)

D. Holiness Restored

Every thing and everyone will become holy in God's eternal kingdom. The land will be holy, the city will be holy, the Temple will be holy, and all of the subjects who serve the Lord will be holy (Isaiah 1:26, 27; 4:3, 4; 35:8; Jeremiah 31:23; Ezekiel 36:24-30; 37:23; 43:7)

E. A Glorious Kingdom

The glory of God will be manifested in its fullness (Isaiah 4:2; 24:23; 40:5; 60:1-3).

F. Comfort will Abound

God will ensure that there will be no needs that will even need to be comforted (Isaiah 30:26; 40:1,2; 49:13; 51:3; Revelation 21:4).

G. Justice will Reign Supreme

There will be no bribes or cunning lawyers to deal with (Isaiah 9:7; 11:5; 42:1-4; Jeremiah 23:5).

H. The Knowledge of God Will Fill His Creation

It will be such a pleasure to see God's knowledge filling the earth and everything in it. The wisdom of men will be clearly seen as foolishness to God (Isaiah 11:1,2,9; Isaiah 54:13; Habakkuk 2:14).

I. Sickness Will Be Removed

Our Lord will ensure that sickness will never enter His kingdom (Isaiah 33:24; Jeremiah 30:17; Ezekiel 34:16; Revelation 21:4).

J. All God's People Will Be Protected

There will be a supernatural work of preservation during the millennium which will carry on into eternity (Isaiah 41:10; 62:8-10; Jeremiah 23:6; Ezekiel 34:27, 28; Joel 3:16, 17; Amos 9:15; Zechariah 14:16,17).

K. Longevity Will Be Restored

No one will die at an early age (Isaiah 65:20; Zechariah 10:8).

L. Worship Will Be Unified

There will be no false gods to worship during this time (Isaiah 45:23; Zephaniah 3:9; Zechariah 8:23;13:2; 14:16; Malachi 1:11).

There are many other vivid descriptions of what we can expect during the millennium. None of which can truly describe what we will actually experience. It is something that we must make sure that we do not miss. Are you ready?

END TIME PROPHECIES

Chapter 13

The Great White Throne Judgement

The final chapter in our study of end time prophecies relates to the words that the apostle John recorded at the end of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

12. And I saw the great, dead and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

14. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

15. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:11–15

I. Pretrial Verdict of Purging

We need to be careful not to confuse this time of judgment with one that is spoken of earlier in time (Matthew 25:31 – 46). The word used for **“nations”** who will be gathered before him is the word **“ethne”** which can be translated **“all Gentiles.”** It is a common word used to describe those who are of a non-Jewish background (Romans 3:29; 9:24; 11:13; 15:27; 16:4; Galatians 2:12) although it is used occasionally to describe Jews (Luke 7:5 John 11:48, 50, 51, 52; Acts 10:22).

This will be a judgment that sets up the Gentiles for the outpouring of God’s wrath. This could be seen as the verdict. Sentencing is also mentioned as it often is during the time of the verdict but yet the nations will be sent into their eternal hell only after they stand before the Great White Throne Judgment in heaven. The judgment in Matthew 25 (Matthew 13:24-50) will take place on earth. One should not conclude that our salvation is based upon works (James 2: 26; Ephesians 2:9). It is during this time that He separates the good from the bad. It will prepare those for the millennium Kingdom. It is a pretrial to the final day of judgment.

II. Six Important Words

There are six important words used in Scripture to describe the place of the dead until and after the time of the resurrection. Some are temporary locations while others will be permanent.

A. Sheol

The first word is ***“sheol”*** which is used 65 times in the Old Testament and is translated ***“hell”*** 31 times (cf. - Deuteronomy 32:22; Psalm 9:17). It is also translated 31 times as the ***“grave”*** (cf. I Samuel 2:6; Job 7:9). We also find it used three times translated as ***“pit”*** (Numbers 16:30, 33). This was the common word used in the Old Testament ***“to describe the abode of the dead.”*** They were in a conscious state (Deuteronomy 18:11; I Samuel 28:11–15).

It is clear that it is a place down in the earth. As to the nature of those who are found here it is clear that they are in a state of the dead.

B. Hades

The second word is ***“hades”*** which is the New Testament word that is practically equivalent to ***“sheol.”*** It is translated as ***“hell”*** in every case except I Corinthians 15:55 where the word is translated ***“grave.”*** The word is most often used ***“to describe the unsaved dead who are in miserable torment waiting for the resurrection that will bring them before the Great White Throne Judgment (Luke 16:22-24).”*** There is only one way to exit Hades and that is at the final judgement that will send them to an eternal hell without Christ.

C. Abraham’s Bosom

Jesus made it clear that the souls of those who had placed their trust in God and followed His Word before Christ’s resurrection went to this place of comfort known as “Abraham’s Bosom” (Luke 16:22, 25, 26). Those in both Hades and Abraham’s Bosom can communicate with each other but cannot cross over.

When Christ died upon the cross we are also told that the graves of holy people broke open and they were resurrected back to life (Matthew 27:50–53). This was another proof that it was God who had power over the resurrection. This event added to the evangelistic thrust that eventually brought half of the population of the world into a belief in Jesus Christ by the second century.

D. Paradise

It is believed that when Jesus defeated Satan and ***“led captivity captive (in his train - NIV)”*** (Ephesians 4:8) that these precious souls ended up in paradise. Now that Jesus has risen from the dead everyone who dies in Christ immediately goes to this place called Paradise.

Jesus made it clear that the thief who was dying on the cross would be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:43). Instead of going to Abraham's Bosom, Christians now go directly into the presence of God. It is believed that it is another word for the New Jerusalem, the city of God in heaven that Christ is preparing for His bride.

It must be clear though that those that live there do not yet have the resurrected body. They are waiting the day of the rapture so they can receive their new immortal, and incorruptible bodies. The apostle Paul wrote to the early church to tell them that he had been "*caught up to the third heaven*" (II Corinthians 12:2). Most writers believe that this is synonymous with "Paradise." The apostle John is shown a vision of the New Jerusalem and records this promise,

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

Revelation 2:7

E. Tartaros

It needs to be clear that "*Tartaros*" is neither "*Sheol*" or "*Hades*" where everyone initially goes after they die. And it is not "*Gehenna*" where the wicked find themselves after death. Tartaros is reserved specifically for evil angels whom God would not allow to be free (Jude 6; II Peter 2:4). The word is also used in the Septuagint (Job 40:20, 41:21).

The Catholic Bible in I Enoch 20:2 says that Uriel is the jailer of 200 angels that sinned. This is not the abyss or the bottomless pit where Satan will be cast for 1,000 years.

F. Gehenna

This word is used 12 times in the New Testament (Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; James 3:6). It describes the final state of the unsaved after they receive their final judgment. It is a place of eternal punishment. It was symbolically described as the Valley of Hinnom. This is the Valley where the idolatrous worship of Molech took place and where children were offered into the fiery arms of this idol. It was also known as the city dump and the place where the people brought their entrails and internal organs of an animal and their decaying or waste matter known as offal. It was a place where the fire never went out and the stench was incredible.

III. The Time of the Great White Throne Judgment

The Great White Throne Judgment will take place at the end of the final Millennium. It will finally seal the eternal destination of all the wicked who have died from the time of the Garden of Eden up to the time of Satan's final rebellion at the end of the Millennium. This will end 7,000 years of spiritual struggle.

IV. The Outcome of the Great White Throne Judgment

People have often wondered why God has waited so long and has not judged the sinful ways of mankind more speedily.

“When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of people are filled with schemes to do wrong.

12. Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God.”

Ecclesiastes 8:11, 12

We must be assured that God knows when the timing will be right and no one will escape the punishment of their wrongs who have not asked for forgiveness.

“For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:14

V. The Place of the Great White Throne Judgment

It is clear that this judgment will take place in heaven not on earth (Revelation 20:11). Anyone who believes and teaches that the earth will be restored and we will dwell on it for eternity is a false teacher.

This will be the final judgment. This will allow for a complete and final trial for every single soul that has been unwilling to surrender their lives to God. It will be very clear that God will be completely just.

VI. The Book of Life

Every word and every deed that has not been forgiven will stand as a testimony against the accused.

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”

Revelation 20:12

Not only will every word and deed in thought and action be judged, but also the most important decision we could ever make. No one will make it into heaven who have not asked Jesus Christ to forgive them of their sins.

“If anyone’s name was not found in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:15

Everyone who has received the salvation that Jesus provided will have their names written down in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

“Nothing impure will ever enter it (the Holy City, the new Jerusalem), nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

Revelation 21:27

VII. The Degrees of Punishment

Not everyone who goes to hell will receive the same judgment and therefore the same punishment. God will stand as a just God doing what is totally right (cf. - Genesis 18:25). The measure that they judged and treated others will be used to judge and treat them (Matthew 7:1,2). Those who lived hypocritical lives will receive even greater damnation (Mark 12:38-40). Jesus even mentioned that those who had a greater knowledge of His will would be beaten more than those who did not (Luke 12:47, 48).

It is within biblical reason to believe that adult Hitler will receive greater damnation than an individual who simply refused to confess his sins and asked for forgiveness. One thing is for sure that Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet will all receive a terrible judgment.

VIII. Eternal Punishment

There will be no rest for those who receive the Mark of the beast from this eternal judgment.

“And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or anyone who receives the mark of his name.”

Revelation 14:11

There will be no end to the punishment they will receive.

“Then he will say to those on his left, depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Matthew 25:41

IX. The Judgment of Fallen Angels

There was a point after God created the heavens and the earth and before He created man that there was a rebellion in heaven. One third of all the angels joined with Lucifer and were cast out of the presence of God.

Some teach that some of these fallen angels impregnated the woman on earth so God had to place them in Tartaros. They base it upon their interpretation of Jude 6,7; Genesis 6:1-7. I don't come to the same conclusion as they do but I do believe that God has and will judge fallen angels (Matthew 25:41).

We are told that during the time of the great tribulation that Satan once again tries to declare war in heaven. Both he and his angels will once again be defeated.

*“Another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads
4. His tail swept a third of the stars of the sky and flung them to the earth.”*

Revelation 12:3,4

“The great dragon was hurled down – the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

Revelation 12:9

X. The Final Fall of Satan

Lucifer was part of God’s original creation. It is believed that he was created before earth was created. There are several portions of Scripture, one which is a description of the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:12–15) while the other describes the king of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:12–19). Both appear as symbolic of Satan.

Lucifer was given a prominent place in God’s creation. He was on the same level as Michael the Archangel. He chose to rebel against God and foolishly attempted to overcome God and take over heaven. He was cast out of heaven and began his work of deceiving the nations. The Bible is very clear about how and when Satan will be finally judged (Revelation 20:7-10).

XI. Assurance From the Great White Throne Judgement

People today are trying many different ways to find access to God and assurance for their future. What they need to do is stop inventing their new ways and surrender to the only way. If God allows us to come to Him by whatever means we feel is right, then the death of Jesus on the cross was unnecessary.

We must admit to the fact that we are born as sinners. There is nothing in our power that can overcome sin. Only Jesus can forgive sin and remove it from our lives.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

The only way we can be assured that we will not stand before the Great White Throne Judgment is to surrender our lives to Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive us of all of our sins.

My prayer is that though this study that you have made that decision. Also I hope that you see the need to live in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord. May your spirit continue to seek after God and may you search the Scriptures that your faith may increase.