

*Fourteen Signs  
Announcing  
Christ's Return*

Global Church of God

# *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return*

*by Roderick C. Meredith*

*Do you know what events will signal  
the biggest event of all time—the  
return of Jesus Christ to this earth?  
Learn what to watch for on the  
chaotic world scene so you will not  
be confused or caught unprepared.*

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## ***Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return***

**D**o you know what lies ahead in your future? What about the future of your nation and the world? We are not living in ordinary times. We are nearing the end of an age—the end of a civilization.

Our time truly fulfills the words which Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke at the beginning of the Great Depression: “This generation has a rendezvous with destiny.” Far more than the 1930s generation which was then fast approaching the most destructive war in the world’s history, we, today, truly have a *rendezvous with destiny!* A world-shaking crisis is inexorably building and will, in the near future, explode the veneer of normalcy which still pervades Western civilization at this time.

Presently, the news media is randomly reporting tragic events taking place whose significance is little understood by the average man or woman. However, these disturbing news stories are not inconsequential but foreshadow remarkable key trends and specific events that are going to change everything you are familiar with in the next few decades!

How can anyone know the future for sure? Who really understands the BIG PICTURE?

There is one Source that really knows what is going to happen. Did you realize that about one fourth of the entire Bible is prophecy and that about ninety percent of all prophecy is for “the endtime”—the time just ahead of us?

These predicted events are sure. Of course, some people are

not interested in Bible prophecy. But they should be, since it is going to affect their own life, their family, their job and their future. There is a real God and the Bible speaks for God. God inspired the words of these prophecies and *they are sure*. We'd better believe they are going to happen and WAKE UP. By the time you finish reading this booklet your eyes will be opened to understand the significance of today's news and where it is all leading.

Listen to what the Apostle Peter wrote about the Bible's prophecies: "So we have seen and proved that what the prophets said came true. You will do well to pay close attention to everything they have written, for, like lights shining into dark corners, their words help us to understand many things that otherwise would be dark and difficult.... For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God" (2 Pet. 1:19-21 Living Bible). Why did God preserve these prophecies for us? Because the great God is working out a marvelous purpose here below, *nationally* and *individually*. We need to study God's inspired prophecies if we wish to understand His purpose!

## Can the Almost Unimaginable Happen?

Do you know what the most important news story of our generation will be? What is the biggest event that is going to *shake the entire earth* within the lifetime of most of you? The Second Coming of Christ will be the *most important event* of this generation. *Christ is coming back!*

Don't make a mistake about it. Jesus' return is not going to happen secretly off in some cave with no one knowing about it. Jesus Christ is literally going to come back to the city of Jerusalem, to the top of the Mount of Olives, to begin governing the entire earth! There will be a *divine, one-world government*. What a shock that will be to all humanity!

This event is specifically predicted throughout the Old and New Testaments of your Bible. Hundreds of millions of people believe (superficially) that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

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The Second Coming is predicted in each of the four gospels, in the book of Acts and in the epistles of Paul, James, Peter and John. Jesus' return is the focal point of the entire book of Revelation. If you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, then you've got to believe in the Second Coming of Christ.

If the King of kings is soon returning to establish the Kingdom of God upon this earth, shouldn't you be getting ready for it? Shouldn't you know how it's going to affect your business, your economic future, your personal safety and everything around you?

You can know what the *signs* are that will precede Christ's coming and watch for them. Why stay *in ignorance* about the meaning of the events taking place around you? Jesus *commands* His genuine disciples to watch and to be ready. "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

Your entire life is about to change. Events will unfold soon to destroy the Western world's way of life as we have known it.

In the gospels of Matthew, Luke and Mark are three accounts of Christ teaching His disciples what to watch for before He returns. Luke wrote, "So you, likewise, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, that **this generation will by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Luke 21:31-33).

Jesus Christ gave a series of signs that must occur before He returns. Evidently, the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy would happen within the lifetime of one generation—once the signs relative to that specific prophecy begin. So Christ *is* coming back to this earth, but not right away. **Not until these signs have occurred!** People who go running around mouthing their own ideas and predictions about Christ's return "tonight" are false prophets. They are not heeding the words of Jesus Christ. The signs listed in Jesus' words must occur *first*.

Soon, mankind will suffer through the most devastating, bloody war in human history which is called in biblical terminology, the

“Great Tribulation.” “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]; but for the elect’s sake [for the sake of God’s repentant, obedient people] those days will be shortened” (Matt. 24:21-22).

The Prophet Daniel described this same period of time, “At that time Michael [an archangel], the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book [of life]” (Dan. 12:1 NRSV). This “time of anguish” is going to be the Great Tribulation.

After describing this coming terrible war, God told Daniel, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed *till the time of the end*” (Dan. 12:9). People won’t be able to understand these things until the endtime. But, we are now entering that time, and these things are now being revealed. “Many shall be purified, cleansed, and refined [God is examining you and me, testing us to see who is willing to obey His Word], but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked shall understand, *but those who are wise shall understand*” (v. 10 NRSV).

Do you understand that our degenerate, corrupt nations are headed for a big fall? Do you fully realize that America’s national debts are almost out of control? When the dam breaks, there will be financial panic. The sober reality is that unless drastic measures are taken soon, America’s national economic life will soon collapse, reordering the world’s economic and political power. And this problem is only one of the many grave problems which are about to come crashing down on our societies so that they will not exist as we now know them.

If you consider yourself a follower of Jesus, then you should pay close attention to His instructions to you, “*Watch therefore*, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). Read on, dear reader, to see what things to “watch” for!

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## 1. Wars, Violence and Lawlessness

**W**atch for wars—big wars, little wars, ethnic wars, wars of all sorts and escalating violence and increasing lawlessness—which will increasingly affect all of the world, especially the English-speaking world.

Often, people think the world is going to get better. Former President George Bush talked about a “new world order” as though there was going to be peace. This post-cold-war time is unstable and extremely volatile—so much so that one of the world’s most respected magazines typified this present time as “strange.... There are few certainties. One, however, is that lions are not going to lie down with lambs: wars will continue” (*The Economist*, Jan 8, 1994, p. 16). The “new world order” is only producing a faltering, fading peace. Events are going to get worse, not better.

Why is our civilization bankrupt of workable solutions to global, peaceful cooperation among nations and ethnic groups? Norman Lear, television producer and political activist, clearly delineated the problem in a speech recently addressed to the National Press Club. “At no time in my life,” said the 71-year-old Lear, “has our culture been so estranged from spiritual values.... Our problems lie beyond the reach of politics alone.”

Again, the gospel of Matthew contains Jesus’ prophecy to His disciples about the state of the world just prior to His Second Coming. “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matt. 24:6-7). While humanity has lived with warfare over the millennia, the sheer annihilative potential of today’s weapons and the possible massive scale of conflict has made for a unique and dangerous time which is unprecedented in history.

Verse 22 is a prophetic qualifier which points to only *our time* of high technology and its awful, brilliantly evil weapons of mass destruction. “And unless those days were shortened [the

time of world war using these new weapons], no flesh would be saved [human extinction]; but for the elect's [God's repentant, obedient saints] sake those days will be shortened." Today's world is full of widespread wars and rumors of wars. There are many ethnic wars taking place—not only in ex-Yugoslavia, but also in the ex-U.S.S.R. and many places in Africa and Asia. Some 29 wars are now being fought around the world!

Certainly the Americas are not immune to race riots and ethnic bloodshed. These inter-community struggles will increase. There will be wars between nation states and civil wars as old amalgams of different peoples fall apart. There will be little wars and there will be big wars. All this striving and pushing will finally result in a great war which will culminate at the *battle of Armageddon* in the Jezreel valley in Israel—at which point Christ will return.

Some will think this is alarmist, pessimistic thinking that is unwarranted due to the innate goodness of men and women. These people exude a quirky kind of optimism, mimicking in the best pollyanna tradition, "Oh, things are going to get better." Well, I am commissioned by God to tell you they are NOT going to get better *until after Christ returns*. Yes, there is a wonderful World Ahead, but realistically you should realize that life is going to get very dark and desperate before a new world dawns.

Have you noticed the completely inexplicable outbreaks of violence—random shootings, murders and mass killings? Jesus Christ predicted this societal breakdown just before his return. "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12). In the United States, we used to think we were a Christian society; perhaps some still do. But today, our leisure time entertainment—TV, videos and movies—rivals ancient Rome's lust for sex, drugs (including alcohol), violence and brutality.

Paradoxically, the United States and Canada have remarkably high percentages of their population who say they believe in God and go to church regularly. This hypocritical national behavior was foreseen as characteristic of the human society existing just before the Messiah's return.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, "But know this, that

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in *the last days* perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *having a form of godliness* but denying its power” (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

Men deny the authority of God, despite a show of religiosity. Paul commands, under inspiration of God, “*From such people turn away*” (v. 5)! Get away from people who talk about religion but deny the authority of God, because they are going to mislead you. They are going to confuse you. This sassy, sarcastic, lust-filled generation is headed for big, big trouble. You need to recognize that and not be a part of it.

The sign of wars, increasing violence and lawlessness is the first thing to watch for.

## 2. Drought and Famine

**D**rought and famine—lack of rain, lack of food—will stalk the earth on a massive scale never seen before. Yes, these things are going to get much, much worse.

When there is drought you also have wild fires—range fires and forest fires. After the fires have burned off the brush, there is always the danger of floods when it resumes raining because there is no vegetation in the burned area’s watershed to retain the precipitation. These catastrophes of drought, famine, fire and flood naturally tend to go together. In Matthew 24:7 Jesus predicted, “**And there will be famines.**” Worldwide famines will engender vicious competition and strife among nations over food. This will mean increased political and military danger, especially for the United States, Britain and the British-descended peoples, whose lands have typically been seen as the *breadbasket* of the world.

Those of us living in the advanced, developed world have thought these things would only occur in places like India, Bangladesh or Africa. How could famine happen to us? It is practically unthinkable to suggest that one dark day the supermarkets

and restaurants would have to close due to lack of food! But famine, the pain of empty stomachs, is going to occur in the United States of America, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere among the English-speaking peoples of the world. Let's understand what God says and why.

Most people just don't understand that it is God Almighty who controls the weather and that He sometimes uses this power to punish nations that displease Him! King Solomon knew this. During the dedication of God's temple in Jerusalem he acknowledged God's power, "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they [the people] have sinned against You..." (1 Kings 8:35). Does God collectively punish a nation for mocking or ignoring His moral, ethical standards? You bet He does! "For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The LORD will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:30-31).

The book of Revelation confirms this coming famine. "When he had broken the third seal [shortly before the coming of Christ], I heard the third Living Being [an angelic personage] say, 'Come!' And I saw a black horse, with its rider holding a pair of balances in his hand. And a voice from among the four Living Beings said, 'A loaf of bread for \$20, or three pounds of barley flour, but there is no olive oil or wine'" (Rev. 6:5-6 The Living Bible).

Yet God is merciful and patient with individuals and nations that have a change of heart. Solomon also understood this point when he prayed, "...when they [the people] pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and give rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance" (1 Kings 8:35-36).

We need to recognize that **God controls the weather!** He punishes His own people when needed. If our nations would return to God with heartfelt repentance, and begin to keep His laws and live His way, then these plagues need not come. But how many of you believe this will really happen? How many of

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you believe that our nations are going to have a heartfelt repentance and get back to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. I think most of us know better. I wish they would, but I doubt that they will. Unfortunately, our nations have some *very hard lessons to learn* about thumbing their noses at God.

### **3. Earthquakes and Other Natural Catastrophes**

God prophesies *earthquakes* and other natural catastrophes are going to increase. Before Christ will return, we are told there will be “earthquakes in various places” (Mark 13:8; Matt. 24:7). In the last few years, most of you realize that there have been frequent earthquakes, sometimes in unusual places. This trend will continue because the Bible indicates that it will. Jesus Christ prophesied of them. And you, too, should be expecting them. Watch, as the number and magnitude of earthquakes grow, because they are going to get extremely devastating.

There have been earthquakes even in ancient times as mentioned in the writings of Josephus (*Antiquities*, bk. 15, chap. 5, sec. 2). The Bible records specific instances of earthquakes in the past and predicts them in the future (Zech. 14:4-5).

These earth-jarring occurrences arise from natural shifts and changes in the earth’s mantle, especially along worldwide earthquake belts or fault lines. But now, there will be more earthquakes even in places where they are not normally expected. John Nance, who recently wrote a book about earthquakes, said, “It’s dangerous arrogance for any of us, wherever we live, to assume the problem is isolated to any particular region. We stand united in the seismic peril” (*Los Angeles Times*, “Superquake May Lie Ahead Almost Anywhere in U.S.,” Mar. 25, 1989).

In the same article Nance warned, “The Eastern Seaboard is in more danger than the West because they are abysmally unprepared, with building standards far less stringent than California which is ‘earthquake country’ in the thinking of many people. An earthquake in the American Midwest or somewhere in New England,

for instance, could be devastating because there is so little readiness and the shock from the unexpected so overwhelming.”

In recent years, scientists have come to a better understanding of the immensity and magnitude of the tremendous fault systems that trace themselves underneath the whole earth. However, not all the earthquakes of the near future will be natural disasters—the usual groans and strains of planet earth’s crust. Some will be directly induced by God as *a sign* of His power, and will be designed to *help people wake up*. God is going to take a direct hand in the affairs of men. The earthquakes specifically mentioned by Jesus Christ as a foreshadowing sign of His return will be unusual by their *location or unparalleled magnitude*.

**Note: Even as we were editing this booklet, the most destructive earthquake to strike Southern California in this century occurred just a few miles west of us! Coincidence? In any case, God is surely stepping up His intervention in world affairs! The recent 6.6 earthquake that struck Los Angeles a week ago today is still spawning “after-shocks” that terrify people close to the epicenter. At least 56 people lost their lives, hundreds of homes and buildings were destroyed. Whole sections of the Los Angeles freeways are still shut down, scores of schools remain closed and thousands of people are still living in tents or sleeping in their cars or in public parks!**

WHY? Most of us understand. But remember that Jesus Christ directly predicted, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and *earthquakes in various places*” (Matt. 24:7). Haven’t there always been earthquakes? Of course. So Jesus must have been speaking of *more* earthquakes than usual—and *more powerful* earthquakes. And certainly that is *exactly* what has been happening over the past several years!

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In Isaiah 29:6, God says of Jerusalem, “You will be punished by the LORD of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire.” God says, “I do NOT change” (Mal. 3:6). He did punish ancient Jerusalem with *earthquakes* and *storms*. Now, He is beginning to punish modern Israel in the *same way*.

“Why pick on Los Angeles?” some local newswriters have asked. The better question would be, “Why NOT?”

Los Angeles is regarded as the media capital of the world. More rotten, vile movies and television shows featuring murder, mayhem and illicit and perverted sex are produced in Los Angeles than in any place else in the world. California has long been regarded as the “leading edge” of almost any form of perversion known to man. So the Great GOD who guides the affairs of men and nations has every right to *punish* such degeneracy and rebellion against His laws and His ways by a people He has blessed so much. And the people here in California—and in most parts of the English-speaking world—have had *many* chances to learn the Truth in the past if they had any genuine interest.

Maybe a good “shaking-up” will get people’s attention! So, dear readers, *watch* for *increasing earthquakes* as a “sign” that Christ is coming soon.

#### 4. Disease Epidemics

A plague of disease epidemics is beginning to worry public health officials all around the world. AIDS is only the most discussed of these “new” diseases. Many old scourges of humanity (malaria and tuberculosis to name just two) are re-emerging as super, drug-resistant diseases that ignore penicillin and other drugs which were formerly used to combat them! Of course, degenerative diseases such as cancers and heart disease continue to affect greater numbers of people, as our food and water supplies become increasingly tainted with the pollutants of our technological age.

The Bible indicates clearly that future disease epidemics will be, in part, spread by wild animals (Rev. 6:8). Some of the worst

plagues of humanity have been animal borne, like *bubonic plague*. Bubonic plague is a naturally endemic problem among wild animals in certain regions. It is only due to society's diligence in maintaining sanitary standards that such problems stay at the fringes of civilization.

People are aware that whenever society is disrupted due to war or natural calamities, there is always the threat of disease. But these disease problems are just a small foretaste of the deadly contagious *pandemics* which are prophesied to sweep the earth. "I heard the fourth Living Being say, 'Come!' And now I saw a pale horse, and its rider's name was Death. And there followed after him another horse whose rider's name was Hell. They were given control of **one-fourth of the earth**, to kill with war and famine and disease and wild animals" (Rev. 6:7-8 The Living Bible).

The Greek word translated "pale" is *chloros* which signifies the pale-green or the sickly yellow-greenish color of severe disease. Jesus Christ predicted that great "pestilences" would be one of the signs to mankind to warn of His imminent return (Matt. 24:7).

Would God afflict the earth with lethal disease plagues? Moses was inspired of God to write this, "Now it shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you on high above all the nations of the earth" (Deut. 28:1). Notice, God speaking directly through Moses is saying if our peoples today would obey God, and diligently observe to do His commandments, He would set us on high above all the nations of the earth. That is exactly what God did do to the ancient Kingdom of Israel at the time of King David. When King David turned to God with all his heart, He began to bless and prosper Israel magnificently.

But what happened when "the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel" because they were disobeying? (2 Sam. 24:1) "So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. And when the angel stretched out his hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction,

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and said to the angel who was destroying the people, 'It is enough; now restrain your hand'" (vv. 15-16). We, whatever our descent or ethnicity, are no better than those ancient Israelites.

The Old Testament Israelites, who accepted a relationship with Almighty God, promised to live by His Word. They praised His Name with their mouths and thought of themselves as God's people. The Great God of the Universe, however, is not impressed with mere words of loyalty and love (hypocrisy), but requires us to back up our words with action, genuineness and honesty.

"What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:14-17, 26).

We must show ourselves as being fully faithful and engaged in our commitments to God. We must do, or at least make serious efforts to do, all that God requires of us in our family, sexual relations, business dealings and every other area of life. Why? Listen to what God inspired to be written for our benefit.

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these *curses* will come upon you and overtake you.... The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.... The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart" (Deut. 28:15, 22, 27-28). *Disease epidemics* are clearly a tool used by God to punish disobedient people.

**Yes, God is going to do all these things to this world, including the modern descendants of Israel, unless we turn**

**back to God in profound, heartfelt repentance in a way that few people have ever done.**

Awesome times are bearing down. We're not talking about some little thing to be done off in a corner. We're talking about the most massive, *event-by-event* intervention by the Creator in the history of this earth. Nothing in the past can even remotely compare to this. Can you grasp the massive effect that these events are going to have on your life? **On everything you have ever known?**

Listen! *God is trying to get your attention.* These soon-coming events are real. They will happen. Don't just believe me. **Believe what is written in your Bible.** Check up and prove it. That is how you come to know God. You've got to know God to get His protection in this coming time.

Again, these coming events will not occur primarily somewhere off in Africa, Asia or somewhere like that. DISEASE EPIDEMICS are going to begin to strike America, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia in a worse way than they have ever done in our entire history.

## **5. The Rise of an Aggressive, Fundamentalist Islamic Power**

**I**n the time of the end, the Bible predicts that there will arise in North Africa or the Middle East, a charismatic personality who will be able to unify, harness and lead a powerful block of nations in which Egypt will have a key role.

“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack *him* [a power located north from the king of the South]; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm *them*, and pass through.... He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians *shall follow* at his heels [will be at his feet or foot-

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steps]” (Dan. 11:40, 42-43).

This is a good example of why you need to watch the daily newspapers. Your newspaper reading is going to be very interesting if you understand Bible prophecy. You will begin to realize, from now on, what is the significance of the massive arms purchases by Middle Eastern countries from weapon-producing countries like North Korea, China, Russia, Eastern Europe and the U.S.A.

Presently, the whole Islamic world in the Middle East and North Africa is being enveloped by a wave of resurgent Islamic fundamentalism which is aggressively promoted and financed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Islamic fundamentalist movements are currently trying to destabilize the moderate, Western-leaning, secular regimes in power, and are seeking to replace them with a unified, resuscitated Islamic caliphate (empire)—the prophesied “king of the South.” The final leader over these reinvigorated Muslim nations will be a tremendous religio-political false Messiah or “Mahdi” who will draw his power from a confederation of those nations. He will provoke the key events written in Daniel 11, which must occur before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

One of the world’s leading news magazines, *The Economist*, had this to say about the potentials of a militant Islamic empire: “An Islamic power, may never come into existence; but, if it did, it would doubtless give the *gun* [war-making ability] priority over the *purse* [peacefully building up its domestic economy and lifestyle]. A new state created out of countries in the western part of the Muslim world, professing the principles of Islam, would have a clear-cut ideology **in open competition with that of the modern West**. If most of its people were Arabs, it would possess the further unifying force of a shared language. And it would have the power of oil, which could be denied to its adversaries or sold for buying the weapons with which to fight them.

“The pugnacious new arrival would confront *two ready-made enemies*. One would be *Europe*, its centuries-old quarrel with western Islam still liable to flare up over places like Bosnia. Then would come Russia, whose border with Islam in central Asia

remains a blur. It is by no means impossible that a new Islamic power would get into a fight with both Europe and Russia—and, if it did, it might look for an ally to China, which also has a border quarrel with Russia” (*The Economist*, “The New World Order,” Jan. 8, 1994, p. 23).

Do you think that fanatical Muslims will not use those weapons? You had better believe they will. And the Bible prophecies show how it is all going to turn out. This great charismatic “Mahdi” (Messiah) will gather together the forces of Islam in a final “jihad” (holy war) against the morally corrupt nations of the West, whose religion, lifestyle and values represent a deadly challenge to the Islamic dream.

He will feel emboldened to provoke or attack the European Union (Dan. 11:40). This angers the fierce “king of the North” and the forces of the king of the South will be *completely crushed* by this European power. The king of the North will then come down “like a whirlwind” (v. 40) and take over the Middle East, including the Holy Land (vv. 41-42). The king of the North’s armies will seize control of the region’s vast oil reserves (v. 43).

These soon-to-happen events will be awesome to witness. The “king of the North,” a future European Napoleon or Hitler type of powerful, dynamic leader, will react mightily with a blitzkrieg retaliation. *This dramatic military response against the king of the South will set off a chain of other events.*

“And they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the *abomination of desolation*” (Dan. 11:31). As we’ll discuss later, right at the end of this age, there is either going to be a *temple*, or a special *altar* in Jerusalem. And the priests of the family of Aaron are again going to offer the daily animal sacrifices prescribed in the Old Testament until a great military power comes in and places there what is called the *Abomination of Desolation*.

The story continues in Daniel chapter 12. “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.” This is

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talking about the American, the British Commonwealth and the Jewish people. So, right after this great Muslim “king of the South” causes a war, and the European “king of the North” conquers much of the Middle East, then this king of the North comes west against God’s people, to *strike at us*. This is the beginning of the Great Tribulation. This is the same time Jesus described in Matthew 24:21, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor EVER SHALL BE.”

We need to realize where all these things are leading, and how they are going to affect our lives—your life, your family, your children, your job, your future.

## **6. An Ascendant European Union Seeks Global Primacy**

**D**id you know the European Community (EC) no longer exists? Quietly and unperceived by most North Americans, on November 1, 1993—All Saints’ Day in Europe—the European Union was officially inaugurated, empowered by the ratified Maastricht treaty. “Citizenship of the Union is hereby established,” proclaimed the treaty (*The Economist*, “Lie back and think of Europe,” Nov. 6, 1993). It is true that this Union is certainly not yet a strongly federated entity. At this time, it is a rather hodge-podge confederation having areas of pooled sovereignty, trade being the area of greatest unity and cooperation. As of January 1, 1994, the world’s largest free-trade zone went into effect in Europe. Known as the European Economic Area, this free-trader paradise has 372 million consumers and an annual gross domestic product of \$6.6 trillion. The European Union’s goal is to achieve a common currency and foreign policy by the end of the decade.

Today, however, Europe languishes in recession and self-doubt with unemployment throughout the Union averaging 10 percent. Europe still depends on the United States for some political and military leadership. For how long will this situation go on? A key

event to watch for before the return of Jesus Christ is the transformation of Europe into a strong political, economic and *military entity*—whose revival, in the spirit of the ancient Holy Roman Empire, will startle, shake and dominate the world's power politics.

Revelation 13 describes the revival of a great military power. The symbolic language which the Apostle John used about a fantastic *beast* rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, depicts a recurring, evil political system which has greatly oppressed and heavily influenced the peoples in Western civilization, and through them, the entire world.

The seven heads represent seven distinct revivals of this evil empire over a long period of time. The ten horns represent the ten leaders (kings) of the constituent nations which will make up this ungodly federation that will first of all fight against God's saints. "And it was granted to him [the leader of the ungodly empire] to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation" (Rev. 13:7). These ten leaders will also fight against Christ Himself at His return! "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they *will give their power and authority* to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful*" (Rev. 17:12-14)

This final seventh *revival*, in form, will be similar to the European Union—ten different nations or groups of nations will be represented by ten different kings or presidents. These ten heads of state "receive authority for ONE *hour* as kings with the beast" (v. 12). In other words, they are going to rule for a *very short time* along with the final "Hitler."

That is shocking! The Bible is discussing a wholly evil empire that is yet to arise—not some political power way back in history somewhere. Life in the future will not be "kinder and gentler." This final system is just ahead of us in time sequence, and the men and women in this oppressive government are going to

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## **literally fight Jesus Christ at His coming!**

Right now we are living in an unstable transition period of world history. “There is going to be a *new world order*. It may not be the one you would have liked, or were hoping for after the defeat of communism and the slapping down of Saddam Hussein. But a reordering of the world’s pattern of power, a new configuration of strong and weak, is almost certainly on the way.... order emerges from the interplay of three, four or five powers which create a shifting pattern of alliances and enmities among themselves. This is the dance of the dinosaurs. A new world order is not something to be wished for or wished away. It is the next arrival on the conveyor-belt of history” (*The Economist*, “The New World Order,” Jan. 8, 1994, p. 21).

One of the major characteristics of this federated union, described in the Bible as “Babylon the Great,” is its enormously attractive economic prosperity and wealth. Material goods will abound for those who cooperate and submit to “Babylon.” The Bible says this about the coming, wicked federated union, “For all the nations have drunk the fatal wine of her intense immorality. The rulers of earth have enjoyed themselves with her, and businessmen throughout the world have grown rich from all her luxurious living” (Rev. 18:3 The Living Bible).

Humanity will become seduced by one of the oldest of false gods—the golden calf of materialism and pleasure. Revelation chapter 18, verses 12 and 13, give a partial listing of the commodities being traded in “Babylon.” At the end of verse 13 it lists, “...and bodies and souls of men.” The original Greek text is talking about not only living human beings being sold as slaves but also the *dead corpses* of men.

In Hitler’s Third Reich human bodies were sold. Dental gold was picked out of the mouths of gas chamber victims for remelting into ingots. Skin was used for lamp shades. Hair was used to stuff pillows and make fabric. Could this happen again? Perhaps you didn’t grow up during World War II as I did. This is exactly what happened in what was supposed to be the most educated, cultured nation on earth—Germany! That was the nation with the

greatest number of people with master's and doctor's degrees, proportionately, of any peoples on the earth.

Don't think these things can't happen again! God says these things WILL happen. There will be a revival of an evil empire in the same spirit as the pagan Roman Empire. It will hate God's people and the Word of God.

Watch closely the economic powerhouse being constructed in Europe. Keep an eye open to see if they can reduce their social-welfare costs, which are now weakening their competitiveness against the Asians and North Americans. Look carefully at their military spending levels. Will the European Union develop a united military force outside of NATO, beyond American control? Will they start to spend an extra two or three percent of their gross domestic product on European military forces to dramatically improve their armed forces to American levels of computer-and-satellite efficiency, stealth technology and "smart" weapons?

Will the European Union develop a single currency which would be an attractive alternative to the U.S. dollar for the world's hard currency reserves? Will the European Union emerge as the dominant weight in world trade talks?

We do need to understand the momentous times in which we live. A new world order is in the process of emerging. Will the present European Union transform itself into "Babylon the Great"? Watch! The Bible's prophecies *are* going to be fulfilled before Christ returns—that is the whole point.

A crucial element is yet missing from the picture that will be essential to the creation of "Babylon the Great." All of the awesome empires of the past were led by charismatic, dynamic leaders, such as Adolf Hitler, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles the Great, Charlemagne, Justinian, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great and Nebuchadnezzar.

The Bible does give us some information about this coming "great" leader who will assume political and military control of "Babylon the Great." Notice the time setting of this prophecy, "And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purge them, and to make them white, *until the time of the end;*

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*because it is still for the appointed time*” (Dan. 11:35). The context of this prophecy is the endtime. Also, it is important to point out that the nature of many prophecies is dual. That is to say, there was one preliminary fulfillment of a prophecy in antiquity, and there is to be a yet future fulfillment of that Scripture.

We learn in this chapter in Daniel that a powerful leader is yet to come on the world scene. This “king,” who is going to rise up in Europe, “shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god; shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods...” (Dan. 11:36).

Some Bible students assume this is talking about the great, end-time false prophet, who will be contemporaneous with the rising political-military leader. But there are to be two different individuals involved. Verse 36 is about the secular-power leader—the coming dictator—who will be a charming *flatterer*; cunning, egotistical and ruthless. This leader is destined to exalt himself above any other religious entity. He will be “full of himself.” “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper **till the wrath has been accomplished**; for what has been determined shall be done” (Dan. 11:36).

God uses vicious leaders like the coming “king of the North” to punish His hypocritical people, who say they worship Him and print His name on their money (the Americans), but do not *do* the things He commands. This future “Hitler” will execute God’s wrath especially upon the peoples of America and the British countries because as nations they have rejected God’s values and chosen sinful pleasures and conveniences.

“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel [whose descendants are now living in the U.S.A. and the British countries and other places]: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the end *has come* upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations shall be in your midst;

then you shall know that I *am* the LORD!’

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster; behold, it has come! An end has come, the end has come; it has dawned for you; behold, it has come! Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble is near, and not of rejoicing in the mountains. Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, and spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst. Then you will know that I *am* the LORD who strikes’” (Ezek. 7:2-9).

This coming king of the North “shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above them all” (Dan. 11:37). This despicable political leader is going to cooperate with a false church system for a time, but he is not attracted to its religious teachings personally, and only wishes to use it to achieve power. He sees himself above it. In his enormous ego he tries to make a god out of himself.

“But in their place,” this coming Hitler type is going to, “...honor a god of fortresses,” or a god of munitions, as some translations have it; “and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, precious stones and pleasant things” (v. 38). This powerful individual is going to dedicate tremendous amounts of international resources to building up his military machine. And he is going to virtually worship his power and that military machine. “He shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall make more wealthy, and shall appoint them as rulers over many, and shall distribute the land for a price” (Dan. 11:39 NRSV).

Here is this awesome power of a coming “Hitler,” and, as we explained, there are going to be exactly ten nations or groups of nations eventually in Europe having ten kings or rulers over them. They are going to give their power and strength to this coming

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dictator, this “Hitler,” for a short time just before Christ’s return. And as verse 40 shows, this European power block is also going to fight against the Islamic power block to the south.

## 7. A Powerful Religious Figure Leads a Religious Revival

One of the definite “signs of the end times” which will herald the close of this present evil age is the arrival on the scene of a *great false religious leader*, called in the Bible the “*false prophet*” (Rev. 19:19-21). This religious leader will possess great charisma, and will exercise a very powerful influence over a political power—the soon-coming “Beast” (Rev. 13, 17, 19). He will be the long-prophesied, influential *head* of a great, militant church in Europe. Together, this combination of personal charisma and awesome power to influence others, will have an enormous effect on the fortunes of the nations of the Western world.

This coming *false religious leader*—a leader who is prophesied to sit astride the end-time “Beast” (the revival of a governmental system having characteristics similar to the old Holy Roman Empire which was a combination of church and state) is described in the forty-seventh chapter of Isaiah. “Come down and sit in the dust, o *virgin daughter of Babylon*” (v. 1). Notice this is a *daughter* of ancient Babylon. A modern sort of Babylon is to rise up! “Sit on the ground without a throne, o *daughter* of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate” (same verse).

Who, then, is this “lady” mentioned in the forty-seventh chapter of Isaiah? God’s Word gives us a clear answer, “Sit in silence, and go into darkness, o daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the Lady of Kingdoms” (v. 5). This woman is called the “Lady of Kingdoms” because she has a *fornicating political relationship* with, and actually *rules over*, quite a number of different kingdoms or governments of this world.

Now continue this important end-time prophecy, “I was angry with MY people,” says God (v. 6). Who are God’s people? There are *two ways* this can be properly understood: *one* is the

Church of God, the *other* is God's physical people, Israel—"You [Israel] only have I known of all the families of the earth"—Amos 3:2. This prophecy is definitely speaking *nationally*, so this is *not* talking about God's true Church. Clearly, this is speaking about the endtime nations which comprise *modern Israel*.

So God says, "I have profaned My inheritance, and given them into your [the Babylonish system's] hand. You showed them no mercy; on the elderly ['ancient' people, Israel—KJV] you laid your *yoke* very heavily" (Is. 47:6).

Notice the word "yoke." This is a *yoke of slavery* laid upon us by the daughter of the ancient Babylon. "And you said, 'I shall be a lady forever,' so that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the latter end of them" (v. 7). And so this modern "lady," this false religious system, is going to put a yoke on God's *birthright people*—those who have received their tremendous national inheritances from God Almighty.

God speaks of this *woman* as being a "Lady of Kingdoms," putting a "yoke" on the neck of God's chosen people, Israel, and says this Babylonish "lady" will not think she is doing any terrible thing when she afflicts God's people. Then He says, "Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely, who say in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children'" (v. 8). "But," God says, "these two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children, and widowhood" (v. 9).

That's what God says! But *where* is this explained in the Bible? How can we *know* that this is an *endtime prophecy*?

Let's turn back again to the book of Revelation, where He is talking about this same system. God says, "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of *her fornication*, the kings of the earth have committed *fornication* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury" (Rev. 18:3). A great religio-political trading system!

Well, what is that trading system? Verse two says, "Babylon

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The Bible often uses *symbols* to convey certain enigmatic messages to God's people. Those symbols are always interpreted in the *Bible itself*, and should *not* be interpreted according to mere *human interpretation* (2 Pet. 1:19-21). What does a "woman" symbolize in Bible prophecy? A *woman* (virgin or lady) is often used in Scripture to symbolize a *church*. *God's true church* is referred to as a *virtuous woman*, a "virgin" (Rev. 19:7-9; Eph. 5:27-32; 2 Cor. 11:2).

On the other hand, *Satan's false churches* are depicted under the symbol of a loose woman, a "harlot" (Rev. 17:1-18; Is. 47:1-15). Many in the world will look upon the false church as though it were God's true church, and think of her as a "*virgin daughter of Babylon*" (Is. 47:1), and call her a "Lady of Kingdoms" (v. 5). However, this forty-seventh chapter of Isaiah clearly reveals that this woman is, in fact, no "virgin," no true "lady," in the sight of Almighty God. Rather, she dabbles in all sorts of "sorceries" (v. 9), and "enchantments" (v. 12), and will consequently come to a sudden, awful destruction (vv. 1-15)!

In Bible prophecy God uses "beasts" to symbolize *political powers* of this world (Dan. 7:1-12, 8:3-21). In Revelation 17 the "woman" sits astride the "beast," showing that she exercises great control over the political kingdoms of this world. It is a matter of *history* that a woman (a great *church*) did exercise great *control over the European kingdoms of this world* during many past centuries—especially during that period of time (c. 500 A.D.-1500 A.D.) known as the Middle Ages. According to Bible prophecy, that same woman (or lady) will again exercise great control over the nations of Europe in the "time of the end."

the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a habitation of *demons*, a prison for every *foul spirit*." Yes, this modern Babylon, which is now in the process of forming in Europe, will be a very sophisticated, wealthy system that will soon dominate most of Europe. Yet it will be *heavily influenced by Satan!*

Notice God's warning to His people, "*Come out of her, my*

*people*” (v. 4). Dwelling in this Babylonish system will be some of God’s people (this applies both *physically* and *spiritually*)—and they are commanded to “Come out... lest you share in her *sins*, and lest you receive of her *plagues*. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” (vv. 4-5). And so this Babylonish system and the people in it are going to be warned!

Now notice verse 7, “In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for *she* [this modern Babylon] says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’” Do you remember those words? That’s quoting directly from Isaiah 47. Yet, modern Babylon is going to say those words!

“Therefore,” God says, “her plagues will come in *one day* [just like God said back in Is. 47:9]—death and mourning and famine. And *she will be utterly burned with fire*, for strong is the Lord God who judges her” (v. 8).

But first, the modern descendants of ancient Israel are going to be brought down and punished by God through this system. These people are going to be punished *as no peoples have EVER been punished* in modern history, because of their flagrant disobedience, and their going after every ungodly abomination.

## **A Great False Religious Leader**

The *great false religious leader* is going to rise up very soon now—in our very day! He is going to *deceive*—not a few hundred people like David Koresh and his Branch Davidians—but he will deceive hundreds of *millions!* Yes, prophecy indicates that *hundreds of millions* of people will be deceived! That is exactly what is going to occur before Christ’s coming.

The Apostle Paul, in a letter concerning the Second Coming of Christ, says, “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...” (2 Thess. 2:1). He then cautions God’s people “NOT to be soon shaken in mind or *troubled*, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if

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from us, as though the day of Christ had come” (v. 2). Some were even writing letters purporting to be from Paul. “Let no one deceive you by any means; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition** [or son of destruction]” (v. 3).

Clearly, a great *false religious leader* is going to rise up before Christ returns to this earth. What will be the attitude and *modus operandi* of this great false prophet? “Who opposes and **exalts himself above all that is called God** or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that *he is God*” (v. 4).

This man will have *supernatural POWER* to deceive! He will have the ability to perform *great miracles* such as causing fire to come down out of the sky (Rev. 13:13-14). Will you follow such a man? Or, will you now begin to study and understand your Bible so you will know what is ahead? “And he *deceives* those who dwell on the earth by those signs [miracles] which he was granted to do in the sight of the *beast*, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image of the *beast* who was wounded by the sword” (Rev. 13:14).

This great false religious leader is going to have tremendous impact on the Western world—don’t make any mistake about it! You need to watch for these things so that you will not be misled or deceived by him (the soon-coming great “false prophet”) or by *any man*! “**Take heed that no one deceives you**” (Matt. 24:4)! Keep alert! Keep your eyes open! Be on the lookout for a great, charismatic *false religious leader*—a “false prophet”! He, like the early New Testament false prophet, Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-11), will deceive hundreds of millions into thinking he is a great servant of God.

If you *know* God’s Word—and *obey* it!—you will *not* be one of those many millions who will be deceived by the soon-coming, great “false prophet”!

## **8. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God Preached to all Nations**

**T**he great “Olivet prophecy” of Jesus Christ is pivotal in understanding future events. In Matthew 24:3, Jesus was asked by the

disciples, "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" As we have seen, Jesus first warned them about false prophets, wars and rumors of wars leading to world war, famines, disease epidemics and earthquakes, and said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows" (v. 8).

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation" (v. 9). The coming Great Tribulation is going to affect the Church as well as national Israel. "And [they will] kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake." This verse is quite significant because it says, in effect, that God's true Church and Work will be known by *all* nations. People won't hate it unless they know about it, will they? They are going to hate the true Work of God because **they will hate its message.**

"But he who endures to THE END, shall be saved" (v. 13). The end of what? Well, certainly the end of your physical lives individually, but this also applies to those alive at *the end of this age*. By this statement, Jesus intended to signify the end of 6,000 years of human experience and sin under the influence of Satan the Devil which is heralded by the Second Coming of Christ as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

In verse 14 Jesus mentions another sign that must happen before His Second Coming—and it is happening right now. "And *this gospel* of the kingdom"—the good news of the coming Kingdom or world-ruling government of God, based on God's laws—"will be preached in all the world as a WITNESS to all the nations." This Gospel is good news, but it contains a warning. Every nation on earth, not just a few, will hear about this as a "**witness,**" not to convert them, but as a testimony of **God's future intentions.**

This is not the time when God is trying to convert everyone, as many ministers, who are trying to "save" the world now, would have you believe! God is not going around like a lonely hound dog, wagging his tail and hoping someone will pay attention to him. Through his sins, man has *cut himself off* from God (Is. 59:1-2). Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last

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day” (John 6:44). This is the only way one can come to God. God is proclaiming the Gospel, witnessing to humanity so that those who are willing can seek Him. Whoever has their mind opened by God can understand. You are reading part of God’s “witness” right now!

## **9. When Faith Again Becomes a Matter of Life or Death**

**W**atch for *persecution of Christians* and the Church of God that keeps the Commandments of God (Rev. 12:17; 14:12). Jesus said, “Then they will deliver *you up to... kill you*” (Matt. 24:9). Here He is speaking to His people, His genuine disciples. The Apostle John gave the Church and anyone who reads the Bible a *test* to determine who is a *bona fide* Christian and who masquerades as such. “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4).

It is these commandment-keeping Christians who will be persecuted. “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake” (Matt. 24:9). Jesus clearly foresaw that the world would be full of religious confusion during the endtime. “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many” (Matt. 24:11). Only the few seem to understand. Only those called by God. Verse 12 shows the result of this spiritual blindness and confusion: “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” So at the end there will be widespread chaos and lawlessness. And God says much of it can be traced back to false teachings and religious confusion from a Babylon of denominations and religions.

God’s people are going to be persecuted at the time of the end, just as the early Christians faced vicious attacks. “If the world hates you,” Jesus told the disciples, and this certainly applies to us, His disciples today, “you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would

love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18-19).

This present society around us is **going to get increasingly hostile to God’s people and the moral standards they live by!** The political, business, media, cultural and religious elites are going to feel *condemned* by the true Church of God which will not compromise with God’s Word. God’s Church is going to be *politically incorrect*. This world is going to feel guilty.

How about you? If the Word of God reveals some Truth to you which may be inconvenient, embarrassing, or personally or financially costly—what would be your reaction? Will you get angry at God because He’s meddling? God says He has a right to tell you what’s right or wrong in the most sensitive areas of your life. Some people will even start spitting in hatred at the mere thought that Someone else seeks to impose His values on them! And they won’t like it. All animals and human beings blink when suddenly exposed to light when they’ve been in darkness. They don’t like that bright light. So it is with the light of the Truth.

“Remember,” Jesus said, “the word that I said to you. ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20). Did the religious and political authorities of Jesus’ time keep His Word? No, they didn’t. **They crucified Him instead.** But Jesus continued, “But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they *do not know* Him who sent Me” (v. 21).

## 10. A Crisis Strikes Jerusalem

**W**atch! The modern nation of “Israel,” populated by the descendants of the biblical tribe of Judah (plus significant remnants of Levi and Benjamin) will suffer serious military losses with part of its territory *occupied by enemies* just before the Second Coming of Christ. This is of utmost significance! Many students of Bible prophecy declare that 1948 saw the great regathering of Israel in the Holy Land and the final establishment

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of the nation of Israel. **That is absolutely wrong!** This was just a *precursor*, a small *forerunner* of the gigantic regathering of the remnants of ALL TWELVE TRIBES of Israel that is yet to occur. Meanwhile, the hard-pressed Jewish people in Israel are going to be attacked and defeated once again. This is difficult to say, but the Bible makes that very, very clear.

“Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zech. 14:1-2).

“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy in exchange [as payment] for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink” ( Joel 3:1-3).

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near” (Luke 21:20). Jerusalem has been partially surrounded by armies in recent years, but we are going to see Jerusalem completely surrounded by armies. Notice this prophecy, “Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains” (v. 21). Those who trust in God, those who believe in Christ, those who are true Christians are *going to understand* what to do when these things occur because they will have been studying these various signs as Jesus said. They will have been watching and praying. They will flee to the mountains. “Let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance” (vv. 21-22).

So in the future, Jerusalem, the political and emotional capital of Israel, will be overrun by her enemies, until Christ returns and fights the aggressor nations (Zech. 14:3). Once again the city

of prophets, kings and the Messiah is going to be brought down and punished horribly. This major event in the prophetic endtime scenario will witness further outrage.

## 11. The Abomination of Desolation

When the city of Jerusalem is attacked and conquered, the foreign occupying power will begin what the Bible calls the “abomination of desolation.” What is that? Jesus Christ describes this abomination of desolation in Matthew 24:15-20. Start with verse 15, “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation’ [a loathsome contamination], spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place... then let those who are in Judea [today known as the modern state of Israel] flee to the mountains.” The people in Judea, when they see this terrible abomination of desolation, are instructed to flee to the mountains.

Prophecy predicts that Jerusalem is again to be surrounded by armies (Zech. 12:2), and an idol will be set up in a holy place. Jesus warns those who are faithful to escape quickly when this desecration takes place. “Let him who is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes” (Matt. 24:17-18). In other words, you’re to *get out* immediately when you see this happening because if you wait—it will be too late to safely escape. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those with nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath [God’s people will be keeping the Sabbath]” (vv. 19-20).

There is a historical parallel to this endtime overthrow of Jerusalem and the erection of an idolatrous object on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. In the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, some 160 years before the First Coming of Christ, pigs were sacrificed as offerings by the pagan Seleucid Greeks upon the altar of God. A statue of Zeus, the chief Greek god, was set up. Something similar is going to occur once again. We are living during a time which is like the calm before a menacing, destructive storm. If

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you had been a Jew in Germany in 1935, would you have been alert to your people's future destiny? Would you have taken appropriate action to save the lives of your family members? You need to be paying attention to what is happening in world events! The cost of ignorance, laxness or a dilatory attitude will be extremely high.

Remarkably, an important implication of Matt. 24:15 is that there will once again be animal sacrifices on an altar at Jerusalem's Temple Mount dedicated to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel! Another Scripture confirming this states, "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up..." (Dan. 12:11).

Since there is prophesied to be a place of sacrifice, many wonder if there is going to be a great *Temple* raised up in Jerusalem. An alternative idea would be that there is going to be merely an *altar* set up, as happened when the Jews returned from their captivity in Babylon (Ezra 3:2). *Watch for this in your world news.* Prophecy clearly shows that the Jews are once again going to be sacrificing at Jerusalem. Whether in a temple or at a simple altar is not yet clear. The Jewish people—remember the Six Day War—*move swiftly and courageously* when they are urgent about something.

From the time that the daily sacrifices to God are stopped by a foreign aggressor (possibly by the coming "king of the North") and the abomination of desolation is set up—"*there shall be 1290 days*" (Dan. 12:11). This Scripture discusses a certain period of time after the abomination of desolation until the end of this present civilization when Christ returns to this earth as King of kings to usher in a genuinely new world order, the Kingdom of God.

"Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days. But you," God told Daniel, "go your way, till the end; for you shall rest" (Dan. 12:12-13). In other words, Daniel would not himself see the fulfillment of the prophecies God inspired through him. Daniel was to live out his days and die *never having understood* the prophecy he was inspired to write down. But today, we can read Daniel's words and understand, *if* we begin to walk with God and study these things thoroughly. We need to realize that

we are living in momentous times when all these things are about to occur. Let that motivate us to *really study* God's Word. And most importantly of all, let us obey our God in all things!

## 12. The Collapse of the English-speaking Nations—The Great Tribulation

**B**efore the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom, watch for the decline and eventual conquest of the English-speaking nations by their enemies! The biblical terminology for this event is "The Great Tribulation."

The Word of God reveals that the worst, most indescribably terrifying time in the entire history of this planet is soon to occur. This terrifying time (the Great Tribulation) is also spoken of as the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer. 30:7). It will be such an awful time that the destruction and genocide of the Second World War will seem like a picnic in comparison!

Let us, therefore, examine the Scriptures dealing with this dramatic alteration in the world's power structure which, like a powerful steel trap, will suddenly spring upon an unsuspecting world! Most of us will live to see these cataclysmic times, whether we realize it or not. "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people" (Luke 21:23). When you really understand this prophecy, Jesus was here speaking nationally of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples, the Jews and others of the modern-day descendants of the ancient nation of Israel when He uttered that staggering prophecy.

Notice this same prophecy in a parallel account in Matthew, "For then will be *great tribulation*, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive];** but for the *elect's* sake [for the sake of God's people] those days will be shortened" (Matt. 24:21-22).

In the past, it was not possible to *exterminate* all human life from off this earth. You might have had a devastating war in

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Europe, or in the Middle East, but you would still have millions of people untouched elsewhere in the world in Africa, Asia, Australia or in North or South America. But Jesus prophesied of a unique time in the history of humanity. No nation can feel secure from the utter annihilation which is now possible by thermo-nuclear warfare!

In the 1950s, it finally became possible to blast all human life off this planet. During the last 40 years, we have now multiplied our ability to assure our destruction many times over. Scientists tell us today that we now can erase all human life from this earth at least TWENTY TIMES OVER! Christ is describing our time today! No Roman army of Jesus' day could ever boast of such murderous power.

Here is what the Prophet Jeremiah said about this same time, "Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning *Israel* [whose modern descendants partially include the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples] and *Judah*.... 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of *fear*, and not of *peace*. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great [Jeremiah prophesied under inspiration] so that NONE is like it'" (Jer. 30:4-7). There has never been a time of trouble in human history like this one. Whose time of trouble does this terrible tribulation pertain to? It is the time of "JACOB'S TROUBLE" (v. 7).

It will be a time of trouble so great that NONE is like it. There cannot be *two times* of trouble like this. This is the same time of trouble described in Matthew 24:21, the same time described in Mark 13 and Luke 21, the same time of trouble described back in Ezekiel 36 and Daniel 12 and elsewhere as the "Great Tribulation." It is the time of *God's intervention* to chastise His chosen people. Nevertheless, speaking of that woeful time of trouble, God says, "I will not make a complete end of you" (Jer. 30:11). So he is *not* going to utterly *destroy* us, but He is going to punish us severely—to shake us to the roots of our very being in order to wake us up. He will correct and humble His

people in order to wake them up before it is too late!

This unprecedented time of trouble is going to be directed primarily against the American and British-descended Commonwealth peoples, though the other modern-day descendants of Israel are also going to have troubles. But *why* against our peoples? Because the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people have been recipients of God's *tremendous birthright promises as the descendants of the Patriarch Joseph* (Gen. 49:22-26). For more information request our brochure on this subject, *America and Britain in Prophecy*. In God's eyes, blessings also impart responsibilities. We are *not a favorite or pet* people, but we have been chosen *by God for a very special purpose*. Unfortunately, we have failed to fulfill that purpose. Let us understand *why* and *what* will happen.

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:30)! May God Almighty speed that great day!

We Americans and British-descended Commonwealth peoples have been materially blessed above all nations on the earth for the last 200 years. During that 200-year period, the English-speaking peoples have wielded mighty power which thwarted the belligerent, aggressive nations—the Central Powers in World War I and the Axis Powers in World War II. Twice in this century, we have restored a warring world to a measure of peace and security. Yet in spite of that, most of our peoples, individually, have turned away from our God. We continue to praise the LORD hypocritically. “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines’” (Mark 7:6-7 NRSV).

There are numerous endtime prophecies which reveal to our Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples exactly what God Almighty says will happen to us—if we don't turn from our present wayward course of disobedience to Him and His commandments.

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## The Pivotal Old Testament Prophecy

The pivotal prophecy in the entire Old Testament is found in the twenty-sixth chapter of Leviticus. When we rightly understand our *national identity*, this prophetic chapter takes on new, urgent meaning. Here is basic, foundational information for *modern Israel* among whom are to be counted the American and British-descended peoples of the Commonwealth. Those Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples are part of the descendants of the so-called “Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.” This prophecy is talking about our ancient ancestors, and it is also speaking of our children and grandchildren at the end of this age.

We should watch for the fulfillment of those prophecies which foretell the downfall of the United States and Great Britain, insofar as their national prestige and power are concerned, even *before* their cities are totally demolished in a future round of world war—World War III—which will be the most deadly time humanity will ever experience.

These troubles will build up, and you are going to see these things begin to take shape before your very eyes. The decline of the American and the British-descended peoples—the breaking of the pride of our power (Lev. 26:19)—and, finally, the destruction of our nations —is *certain* unless we truly repent and turn back to our Creator, the true God of the Bible!

Speaking of the coming endtime Great Tribulation, God says, “If you do *not* obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you. I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you” (Lev. 26:14-17). God Almighty says He is going to bring us down very low. If we continue transgressing His

commandments, He is going to discipline us in more ways than we can begin to imagine.

## President Nixon Pinpoints America's Loss of Will

In his very insightful book, *The Real War*, former President Richard Nixon proves that we have the *power* but we have lost the *intestinal fortitude*. We have lost the determination. Mr. Nixon writes, "What America does suffer from is not itself a terminal illness, but rather a sort of *creeping paralysis* that could become terminal unless treated. Together with our allies in the Western world, we have the capacity to survive, to prosper, to turn back the challenges to our security that are being mounted with increasing force. The question is whether we will use that capacity" (p. 6).

Have we lost the *will* to use the great power which we have been given to exercise in the world arena? American waffling in Haiti, Bosnia and Somalia are dangerous precedents. Power is beginning to slip from our grasp. Nuclear and other high-tech weapon proliferation make it increasingly costly and difficult for America to exert her will without "unacceptable" costs—even against comparatively small nations like North Korea, Libya, Iraq or Iran.

We need to recognize the fact that our power is beginning to slip from our grasp, and we need to understand *why* this is happening—and will continue to accelerate. We have lost our will because, on a national level, God is not with us anymore. We still have the awesome *power*, but we no longer have the ability, the confidence, *the will* to use that power. As a result, that power is itself beginning to fade away.

Mr. Nixon continues, "America's *failures of will* in recent years have been partly the product of weariness after nearly forty years of bearing the burdens of world leadership. They clearly result in part from the traumas of *Vietnam* and *Watergate*. But more fundamental—many of those who profess to be the guardians of our ideals have instead become the architects of our retreat" (*The Real War*, pp. 7-8).

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Now continuing in the twenty-sixth chapter of Leviticus, God says, “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you *seven times more* [or “sevenfold more” as many versions render it] for your sins. **I will break the pride of your power**” (Lev. 26:18-19).

Our pride is going to be brought down very low. As President Nixon stated, we are experiencing “a failure of will.” That’s already beginning to happen. If you follow the news, you will read of the intractable problems America and the British-descended nations of the Commonwealth are now facing, such as our out-of-control *national debts*.

Our competitors for global power and influence are looking down on us with increasing glee as we stumble in resolving domestic and international problems. These things are happening to our peoples because we have turned aside from God. We have not obeyed the God of our fathers.

In Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are powerful prophetic warnings for us today, because God does not change (Mal. 3:6, Heb. 13:8). God promised that *if* we would *obey Him*, He would set us “high above all the nations of the earth” (Deut. 28:1). However, *if* we do *not obey* God and keep His commandments: “Cursed shall you be in the *city*” (Deut. 28:16). Are we cursed in our cities? Think about it. Millions of Americans are afraid to go out of their own homes at night. Elderly people and women and others all over this land are afraid to venture out in the evening—in this “land of the free, and the home of the brave”! We’re locked in our homes like prisoners! No, we are not blessed in our towns and cities.

Further, our disobedience would bring upon us curses in our food supply, curses in sexual relations and curses in whatever policies or programs that we nationally attempt because we have turned aside from the Great God.

The growing *effect* of our national sins *includes* escalating crime, violence, marital infidelities, sexual perversions of all sorts, lying, cheating, stealing and every foul thing imaginable that is disgusting in the sight of a just and holy God. The selfishness and

decadence of our “modern lifestyle”—which is based on egotistical pride and vanity—are gnawing like voracious termites at the structural frame that holds in place the edifice of our national greatness. How long before our house collapses? Look around you and consider.

In spite of our great material blessings, the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-descended nations have turned away from God. We have plummeted in our moral standards. We have become nations of perverts, liars, thieves and murderers. And God is going to chastise us for our own good as God rebukes and chastens every son He loves (Heb. 12:6).

God says, “Therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness” (Deut. 28:48). In other words, these English-speaking nations (including the Jews and others residing in them) are going to be taken into a terrible *captivity*. God says we will be “in need of all things; and He will put a *yoke of iron* on your neck until He has destroyed you” (same verse). Isn’t that pretty plain? God is going to take us into *national slavery*. The Holocaust of World War II will seem mild in comparison. Our peoples will not *all* die, but we will no longer exist as *nations*, not as the United States of America and the British-descended nations of the Commonwealth, after this awful punishment from God Himself!

“The LORD will bring a nation from far away, from the end of the earth, to swoop down on you like an eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, a grim-faced nation showing no respect to the old or favor to the young” (Deut. 28:49-50 NRSV). This will not be Mexico or some nation nearby, but from “afar.” From the end of the earth—from way over *in Europe*. This enemy will be “...as swift as the *eagle* flies.” It is interesting that *three* major nations on earth use an eagle as their symbol. One is the *United States*, another is Russia and the third is *Germany*. It will be “a nation whose language you will not understand” (v. 49), “a nation of fierce countenance...” (v. 50), meaning a very warlike nation.

God reveals that we are going to be besieged in our own gates

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(v. 52), and our peoples are going to be so hungry, so desperate that they will resort to very desperate measures in the coming age—even turning to hideous *cannibalism* (v. 53).

Finally, we will be taken into SLAVERY by a coming great power that is now beginning to rise up in Europe!

## **God Promises to Deliver His People!**

God says He will humble us and correct us, but He also promises to deliver us from all our troubles—when we truly learn our lesson and *turn from our many abominations!*

The Prophet Daniel also speaks of this same time of GREAT TRIBULATION. “At that time Michael [a great archangel] shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of *your people*; and there shall be *a time of trouble*, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time” (Dan. 12:1). Clearly, “your people” includes God’s “birthright” people, descendants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.”

“*And at that time your people* [all the descendants of the Patriarch Israel] *shall be delivered*, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (vv. 1-2).

The time setting is unmistakable. Daniel is talking about the resurrection to immortality of the saints of God which shall occur at the seventh or “last trump” when Jesus returns to this earth with all His mighty angels, to establish the Kingdom of God to rule for 1,000 years (1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4; Rev. 20:4). Daniel is *not* speaking of something which happened way back in the Middle Ages. This prophecy concerning the Great Tribulation period leads right up to the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the very end of this present evil world (Matt. 24:21-30).

As the foregoing prophecy reveals, God Almighty Himself will order one of His mighty angels, Michael, to stand “watch over” the *people of Israel*, who at that time will have had their power broken, and will have been scattered into many nations as captive slaves.

God's miraculous deliverance of His people is clearly revealed in the thirtieth chapter of Jeremiah, "'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the LORD, 'nor be dismayed, o Israel; for behold, *I will save you* from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. For I am with you... to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But *I will correct you* in justice, and will *not* let you go altogether *unpunished*'" (Jer. 30:10-11).

The remaining verses in this thirtieth chapter, as well as the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah, go on to explain how God will greatly *bless His people*, once they have truly learned their lesson, "Then out of them shall proceed *thanksgiving* and the voice of those who *make merry*; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small" (v. 19).

What will be the final state of the peoples of Israel, after God delivers them from their captivity at the hands of a cruel oppressor? "Hear the word of the LORD, o nations, and declare it in the *isles* afar off [includes the British peoples], and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.' For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the LORD—for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all.

"Then shall the *virgin rejoice in the dance*, and the young men and the old, together; for I will turn their mourning to *joy*, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow. I will satiate the soul of the priests [God's servants] with abundance, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD" (Jer. 31:10-14).

Unfortunately the *bad news* prophesied by God's Word of a terrifying time of trouble, which will soon spring upon an unsuspecting, heedless world, *must come first!* What a tragedy that our

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peoples won't hear and return to their God! That time will be the worst time of trouble this earth will ever experience (Matt. 24:21; Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1)!

But the *ultimate in good news* is that God's Word also predicts the imminent return of Jesus Christ to this earth. He will deliver the modern-day descendants of Israel (of whom the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations and also the Jewish people are part) from a horrible time of *captivity* and trouble. God says He will sweep aside all human governments (Rev. 11:15-18; 19:11-21). Christ will then banish Satan, so that he will no longer be able to mislead the nations (Rev. 20:1-3), and after removing Satan from power over the nations, the Great God will establish the Kingdom of God upon this sin-cursed, war-torn earth (Is. 11:1-9; Rev. 20:1-4).

The Prophet Daniel also wrote the good news of the establishment of the glorious Kingdom of God, "And in the days of these kings *the God of heaven will set up a kingdom* which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and *it shall stand forever*" (Dan. 2:44).

Furthermore, Daniel says, "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the *saints* of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him" (Dan. 7:27).

Finally, the nations shall have passed through the Great Tribulation, and will have arrived at the time which all the prophets foretold—the establishment of the Kingdom of God to rule all nations—bringing peace, prosperity, health and happiness to all nations!

### **13. Heavenly Signs and Day of the Lord**

**N**ext—*after* the Great Tribulation—there are to be dramatic astronomical signs in the heavens visible to everyone on earth. "Immediately *after* the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars

will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Matt. 24:29).

God really will intervene in human affairs! And He is even going to intervene with nature and show *this* generation that there is a *real* GOD. Even after the modern nations of Israel are in captivity, God is not through yet. We have professed to being Christian nations, but nationally we are filled with deceit, vanity, avarice and violence.

Notice Revelation 6: “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind” (vv. 12-13).

Here are incredible parts of a crescendo leading up to Christ’s return. Almost like a vast fireworks display in the evening sky, we will literally see the transition from the Great Tribulation to intensified punishments directly from God on any who are still unrepentant in defiant rebellion to their Creator. Notice verse 17: “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Here in Revelation 6, the six seals outline the same events Jesus told the disciples would occur at the end. As the seals are opened we have first, *false prophets*; second, *wars*; third, *famines*; fourth, *disease epidemics*; fifth, *Great Tribulation* (including martyrdom of saints). The sixth seal is the *heavenly signs*. In Joel 2 also we see that the heavenly signs occur *before* the great and terrible Day of the Lord. “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, *before* the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD” (v. 31). We already saw in Matthew 24 that the heavenly signs come *after* the Great Tribulation. What yet remains before the Kingdom of God can be fully established?

## 14. The Seven Last Plagues

**A**fter the first six seals of Revelation 6 are opened, we read: “For the great day of His WRATH has come, and who is able to stand?” (Rev. 6:17).

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Then, after describing the protection of the 144,000 and the great multitude in Revelation 7, chapter 8 describes the opening of the seventh seal—God’s *direct punishment on a rebellious world*. This consists of the seven trumpet plagues described in Revelation chapters 8 and 9.

Finally, in Revelation 11:15, the Seventh Trumpet—the famous “Last Trumpet”—is sounded. Christ returns in *power and glory*. But even as He returns, the deceived nations of mankind are going to *fight and curse* Him who is their very Creator! (Rev. 16:21; 17:14).

So, as He comes, Christ pours out the awesome seven last plagues described in Revelation 15:1 and 16:1-21. *Study* these passages. These plagues are going to be indescribably HORRIBLE!

But even here, God—who rebukes and chastens every son He loves (Heb. 12:5-6)—is doing this to bring men and nations to their senses! As you read these passages, you see that *every* mountain and *every* island on earth will be SHAKEN. There will be virtually NOTHING left for hard-headed, vile, rebellious men to hang on to of their former world. Everything around them will be removed or DESTROYED. Mankind will come to realize that he is NOTHING compared with the Creator God of the universe.

Hundreds of millions of men and women will finally acknowledge, as Job finally did, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:5-6). In a way they have *never done before*, human beings will truly REPENT and be willing to *listen* to the Truth—LISTEN to God’s true ministers and teachers and OBEY their Maker.

Then they will truly *understand* these statements of God in Isaiah, “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would fail before Me, and the souls which I have made” (Is. 57:15-16).

Finally, then, humanity as a whole will have been made *humble* and *teachable*. They will yield to the Living Christ and the

resurrected saints who will join Him in *ruling this entire earth* in the World Ahead. This world government established by Christ will be known as the Kingdom of God and it will be the active, hands-on, *governing leadership* of God on this earth!

## What Lies Just Ahead?

So what will happen? Unless we, as nations, *bitterly* REPENT of transgressing God's laws, the future of America and the British-descended Commonwealth countries looks grim indeed. For every great nation and empire in history that has descended into the depths of immorality, like we are now experiencing, has come to an end.

Will America's or Britain's *preachers* wake up and begin to preach *obedience* to the laws of God? Will our *political leaders* turn to their Creator in true godly fear, making God and His ways a vital part of our national life? Will the *educators*, the psychologists and sociologists begin to build their concepts on the foundations of the Word of God? What do you think?

The answer seems obvious. We, along with most of our fellow English-speaking nations around the world, are in for a time of national calamity—actually, NATIONAL PUNISHMENT—unprecedented in the annals of modern human history. Month by month, year by year, more and more things will somehow go wrong for us. Our national debt will increase. Our immorality and crime rate will increase. Our cities will become even less safe, as they are racked by lawless hoodlums, gang warfare, race riots—and finally food riots, because of the impending drought and famine prophesied to strike our peoples.

Describing this very situation for our peoples in the “latter days,” God states, “And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all

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your soul. **When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days**, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them” (Deut. 4:27-31).

Yes, if we do not heed—nationally or individually—the WARNING going out now and over the months and years just ahead, we will have to absorb the **full brunt of God’s corrective punishment**.

At the same time, you can be certain there will be *other voices* of lying deception saying not to worry, everything is going to be fine. “‘For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously with Me,’ says the Lord.... And said, ‘It is not He’” (Jer. 5:11-12).

In other words, our people will say these prophecies are not real, God is not speaking, this is just some doom and gloom preacher talking nonsense. The skeptics will say, “Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine” (v. 12). Yes, even false ministers will speak evil of God’s true ministry. “And the prophets become wind, for the word is not in them.” In modern jargon, they are saying that God’s servants are a bunch of “windbags”; don’t pay attention to them, “for the word [of God] is not in them” (v. 13).

God clearly forewarned us that there will be cynics and doubters who will contradict and ridicule God’s warning through His true servants, “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle... that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets... knowing this first: that *scoffers will come in the last days*, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation’” (2 Pet. 3:1-4).

## What Should You Do?

Now, *you* should realize that our nations are in mortal peril. Everything you have ever known will be changed over the next

decade or two. Your future, and the future of your children and grandchildren, is really at stake.

There is a REAL God in charge. He rules over men, and over the nations of men, perhaps more directly and more profoundly than many of you have realized. Turn to Daniel 4:25 where Daniel, talking to King Nebuchadnezzar, said, “They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, **till you know that the Most High RULES in the kingdom of men**, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” God speaking through Daniel said, “The Most High rules in the kingdom of men.” God gives office and authority to those whom He chooses. “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings” (Dan. 2:20-21). God is in charge of governments and He often determines the outcome of elections and the rise of literal kings, monarchs and dictators in the nations throughout this earth.

We need to have faith in God’s power. The Eternal God is the true God who *rules over all*, and He does *intervene* in this world’s rotten, misguided society whenever necessary in order to accomplish His purpose.

So listen to what God says about these societies and about your near future. “But take heed to yourselves,” Jesus said, “lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing” (Luke 21:34). Perhaps you might say, “Well, there’s a few years yet to go.” Yes, there are a few—maybe very few. But don’t let your heart be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the cares of this life and that day come upon you *unexpectedly*. For it will come “as a snare”—like a little deadly trap that catches an animal before it realizes what hit him. *Don’t let that happen to you*. Christ is coming and His coming will be “as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth” (v.35) who are unprepared or deceived.

*Even if our nations as a whole will not repent, you can certainly change* and you can be forgiven and protected during the coming Great Tribulation. Jesus Himself gave this assurance.

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Write for our free booklet, *What is a True Christian?* It will tell you in much greater detail what *you* should do.

Jesus commands us to watch. Prove the things in this booklet from the very Word of God. Look these things up so you will understand. Let the Bible talk to you. Those who trust in God—those who believe in Christ, those who are *bona fide* Christians—are going to understand when these things occur, because they will have been studying these many *signs* as Jesus said.

So, we are to watch these events, *praying* that God would help us surrender our lives to Him and His Son Jesus Christ, and that we will accept Him as our Savior and our Boss, our Lord, our Master, our High Priest, our coming King. Then, through His Spirit within us, we must keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (1 John 3:22). Thus, we can begin to walk with the God who gives us life and breath and truly prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Personally, you can arouse yourself to an intense awareness of what's happening. You can begin to diligently study the Bible and see what it really says. **Cry out to God in earnest prayer!** Ask Him for guidance and strength to do what is right! Seek Him for deliverance for you and your family in the turbulent years ahead! Then you can turn to Him with all your heart and start obeying His laws. You can accept the true Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and surrender to let Him *live His life in you*.

As you sincerely seek God and believe in the true Gospel which Jesus Christ Himself taught, you will learn what the Lord requires of you.

Do it and He will enrich your life with understanding and purpose. He will grant you the gift of eternal life in His soon-coming Kingdom (John 3:16; Rom. 6:23). And He will deliver you from the coming worldwide catastrophe which Jesus predicted so vividly.

As Jesus Christ Himself instructed, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36)!

The **Global Church of God** offers a variety of free literature written specifically to help you better understand God's purpose for the world as a whole and your life in particular. Booklets that might interest you include:

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