

The World Won't End This Way!



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Incomprehensibly powerful weapons are poised to erase human life—your life, that of your loved ones—from off this planet. Many now believe humankind is doomed. They predict that in the not-too-distant future earth will be rendered desolate and uninhabitable. But they will be proved wrong by a startling turn of events!

THE WORLD WON'T END THIS WAY!

There is good news! A wonderful world tomorrow is coming—despite the threat of nuclear war today.

HOW REAL, many ask, is the threat of human annihilation by nuclear devastation?

“We build all these cities, people have all these children—and they’re going to get killed. There’s no stopping nuclear war now. I mean, they’ve made the bombs—they’re going to use them.”

Who would have expected these perceptive words, expressing feelings shared by many, were voiced by a *14-year-old*?

Let’s face it—many of us adults shun the topic because the horrific aftermath of such a conflagration is so incomprehensible we don’t want to think about it. We practice what one psychiatrist termed “psychic numbing”—we recognize the threat of nuclear war, but we rarely consider the consequences it holds for humanity.

What Does the Future Hold?

Indeed, from philosophers to journalists and politicians—and yes, even to the children of this world, the consensus is widespread that unless humanity undergoes a radical change in its basic thinking processes, nuclear war will come. And when it does, it will be a “calamity *unprecedented* in human history,” according to the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment (emphasis added).

Filled with anger at the possibility of dying in a nuclear inferno, millions have vigorously protested the placing of additional nuclear weapons by the super-powers. Young and old alike bristle at this specter of radioactive horror. They circulate tracts, wear buttons, and other paraphernalia urging peaceful settlements and negotiated arms reductions. Barely concealed anger laces the tone of most of the tracts.

Millions of others, meanwhile, have quietly given up hope, burying their fears in alcohol or drug abuse.

Most writers today articulate the issues clearly and intelligently. Simply put, they don't want to see nuclear evaporation of their cities and neighborhoods. And they no longer trust authorities—parental or national—to prevent such destruction.

We turn to a well-known American essayist for this ominous comment: "...until now the world's great armies have *always* gone to war sooner or later. The great fleet of Darius, the Roman legions, the Spanish Armada and the Wehrmacht were all intended for war and that is what they were used for. Why should the present situation end any differently?"

The qualifier? "Of course we all hope it will end differently," he sadly adds, "but is hope enough?"

That's a realistic, honest question. *Is hope enough?*

Where can you find the answer *with absolute assurance?*

Finding REAL Hope

A journalist asked us a similar question in the press area where we were covering a nuclear disarmament rally.

She had watched the *World Tomorrow* telecast and had seen copies of *The Plain Truth*. She wondered why we would be interested in covering a disarmament rally.

"You say that God is going to destroy the earth," this woman journalist said. "So why would you be interested in any human effort to disarm?"

"Because," we answered, "God *isn't* going to destroy the earth—and neither do we proclaim such a message. What we do proclaim is the good news that God will send his son Jesus Christ to stop humans from destroying the earth and all

humanity on it. Man will continue to misgovern himself to the point where the situation requires divine intervention to avoid ultimate human extinction. Therefore, we're *very* interested in efforts of men, who are cut off from any true knowledge of God, to halt the process of destruction."

Stunned at this remark, she continued as other members of the press joined in: "But doesn't the *Bible* say that God will destroy the earth? And anyway, why do you even use the Bible as your authority and reference point in your telecast and publications?"

What the Bible Really Says

These are fair questions. And we answer them in the pages of *The Plain Truth* and on the *World Tomorrow* program.

But have *you* assumed, like this journalist, that an angry God will smite this planet "filled with sinners"? Do you really know what the Bible says about the causes of the human conditions leading to the "end of the world" and the dawn of a new age?

Notice this biblical account: "Then [at the end—the time we are fast approaching] there will be great misery [*Authorized Version*: "great tribulation"], such as has never happened from the beginning of the world until now, and will never happen again!" (Matt. 24:21, Phillips translation).

This world, already groaning under the complex human problems of war, poverty and starvation, will see yet *worse*.

Indeed, far worse!

"Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor" (Isa. 13:8, *New International Version*).

Few understand the cause of these tragedies that will so affect all mankind.

Fewer still have any knowledge of the *good news* about the solution to today's mounting problems. The good news that Jesus will return to *cut short* mercifully these tragic days, for, "if those days had not been cut short *no human being would survive*" (Matt. 24:22, Phillips).

To implement the solution to today's evils, Jesus Christ will intervene in world affairs to establish a way of life that is now practiced by only a very few—a way of living that's

based on giving, caring and real love. If you survive to live into this great new world of joy, peace and prosperity, the Bible says you won't be living today's way of suffering and pain anymore. You won't be allowed to!

When Christ returns to restore the government of God over the whole earth, he will halt the final awesome battle of man against man (Rev. 16:14-20, Zech. 14:1-4, 12). He will return with supreme authority to bring humanity a *new government* (Dan. 2:44).

Why do so few understand that the actions of human governments—governments based on taking, not giving—*cause* today's global problems?

And further, that behind these actions exist attitudes and forces that *flaw every attempt* at world peace?

What Only the Bible Reveals

Why do *The Plain Truth* and the *World Tomorrow* telecast stand on the authority of the Bible in announcing this good news?

First, consider the world you live in. If you read today's newspaper—any paper—you are instantly reminded of the squalor, the turmoil engulfing most of the human race.

Why must we have strife, starvation and warfare? Why, despite genuine human interest and efforts, are we unable to resolve racial tensions, murders, family breakups and divorce? Do you realize that there is a *cause* for every effect? Do you realize that there are only *two* basic ways of life?

Let's understand this! Humanity suffers the evils—the curses of war, theft, crime—because men and women overwhelmingly embrace a way of taking, getting, hurting. For simplicity's sake, we call this the way of "get." And few realize that this way of "get" *causes*—automatically nets—the evils and social plagues besetting humanity today!

The opposite way—the way of giving, of love and concern—is intimately revealed in the Bible. It is thought of highly in the words of men, but *rarely* fully understood and practiced in deeds!

This hypocritical world is so blinded, so completely confused (Rev. 12:9), it cannot of itself comprehend what this "give" way of life really means!

The Only Source

There is only ONE source that authoritatively reveals this missing knowledge so desperately needed. This source is the Holy Bible. Yet today no book is more completely MISunderstood.

Only the Bible reveals a complete way of living that would bring peace, world disarmament, abolition of poverty.

But a deceived humanity, in abysmal *ignorance*, won't practice it! By personal, individual choice, men and women reject the authority of the Bible—purposely rejecting the LIVING spiritual laws that govern this universe.

The result? “Justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. *Truth is nowhere to be found*, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey” (Isa. 59:14-15, NIV).

None of this need ever be. The laws established by the great God—summarized in 10 overall principles known as the Ten Commandments—were established for our benefit, to guide human beings to happiness. And God blesses those who keep and obey them!

Notice what happens to those who sincerely yield their lives to God's revealed way of life and obey his laws: “. . . see what I will do, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not then open the very sluices of heaven to pour a blessing down for you, a [physical] harvest more than enough . . . all nations shall call you happy, the Lord of hosts declares, for you shall be a land of delight” (Mal. 3:10-12, Moffatt).

This is your personal choice—to continue in the way of competition, jealousy, greed and eventual human destruction, or to embrace a way that brings genuine satisfaction and real happiness.

The way of real understanding stands open to you. What's your choice?

ARE WE IN THE LAST DAYS?

How can you know whether we are near "the end of the world"? Can we prove it?

ARE we now in the biblically prophesied "time of the end"? President Reagan, of the United States, spoke of world conditions seemingly indicating we may be nearing "Armageddon."

The atomic scientists some time ago set the doomsday clock one more minute forward from four to only three minutes till "midnight." An editorial in the *U.S. News & World Report* referred to this seemingly imminent time, saying it would appear that the world's only hope now lies in the sudden appearance of "a strong hand from some place."

Time was, when some wild-eyed freak shouting a "doomsday" warning was ridiculed as "off his rocker." But today serious world leaders and scientists are saying grave things about the current drift in world conditions. Some prominent scientists have said the world's only hope now rests in a single world government, with only one military force, yet in the same breath they admit the utter impossibility of mankind being able to form such a one-world super government.

Strikingly, biblical prophecy says just such a super one-world government is to appear. But do these prophecies

imply that our present living generation is the one to live into that time?

Even the original first century apostles expected this end of the world as we know it to occur in their lifetime. Individuals in every century since have believed the world was at “the time of the end”—that “Armageddon” was near.

But how may we know? How may we be SURE? Or can we know?

Jesus said in Luke 21:28: “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” These things he was talking about include many prophesied events now occurring for the first time in history.

One cannot look at one or two superficial signs or events and jump to any sure conclusion. We must comprehend God’s overall PURPOSE and how he is working out that purpose. Many prophecies must be considered. We must not guess or surmise, or jump hastily to conclusions.

The Modern World

The modern world really began only about one hundred and fifty years ago. If we have the chronology of human existence about correct, the first human, Adam, was created nearly 6,000 years ago. The Bible shows that God’s Master Plan for working out his purpose here below is a 7,000-year plan—with some 6,000 years allotted to this world of Satan, followed by 1,000 years of Christ’s reign over all nations of the earth. Somewhere around 1,600 years from Adam’s creation came the earthwide Flood. How civilization developed prior to the Flood we do not fully know. But we may assume the material civilization progressed no farther than in a similar span after the Flood. So far as we know, therefore, the development of human civilization continued on a comparatively even keel until about 150 years ago.

There was little advancement in human knowledge and material progress until after the invention of the printing press about 1450. Printing made possible the spread and diffusion of knowledge. This diffusion expanded but slightly until the middle of the 19th century. Most modern inventions and facilities have appeared since A.D. 1850. The increase in



THE INVENTION of the printing press greatly facilitated the production of reading material, opening the way for the mass dissemination of knowledge and information.

Historical Pictures Services

knowledge and invention of mechanical facilities has multiplied with constantly increasing momentum since 1850. It is almost as if mankind first appeared on earth about 150 years ago and has been learning and progressing more and more rapidly since.

End-Time Prophecies

Now consider some end-time biblical prophecies.

The longest prophecy in the Bible is Daniel 11. The 10th chapter is the prelude and the 12th the completion. In Daniel 11:40, the prophecy comes to the "time of the end" and

continues in chapter 12. The prophet Daniel did not understand what he was being told to write. The angel said the words of the prophecy were closed up and sealed until the time of the end, when knowledge would be increased, and people would be traveling "to and fro."

That time has come.

Knowledge has been increased at a breathtaking rate in the last 150 years. Indeed, it was claimed that the world's fund of knowledge had doubled during the 1960s—although this increase was largely in the areas of medicine, science and technology. Also, people are traveling "to and fro" on the earth. The mode of travel from the beginning of civilization until 150 years ago was indeed very slow. Few people traveled more than 50 or 100 miles away from their homes. Travel for millennia was by foot, horseback, camelback, oxcart, rowboat or sailboat.

Construction on the steamboat was not begun by Robert Fulton until 1806. Then came the railroad. Travel by automobile has all come within my personal lifetime. I well remember that when I was eleven years old automobiles were called horseless carriages. "Horseless carriages" were quite a sight. I remember, at the time, when I was eleven, my father calling out, "Oh, come to the front window quick, there goes a horseless carriage." We all rushed to the front window to see the sight. Sure enough it was a "horseless carriage." It was a carriage being pulled by a mule!

When I was twenty-three years old, as assistant secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of South Bend, Indiana, I was given the assignment of persuading the farmers in a township south of the city to sign up a petition agreement allowing a new cross country highway, called the "Dixie Highway," from the Gulf to Canada to go through their township. It was not a paved highway. It was gravel and dirt. Paved highways had not yet come. Today people are traveling to and fro by automobile, railroad and airplanes. Modern airports are jammed with people "going to and fro."

World-Ruling Kingdoms

In the second chapter of Daniel is a prophecy reaching till the Second Coming of Christ. King Nebuchadnezzar had formed

and ruled the first empire of nations in world history. He saw in a dream a most astonishing statue of a man incredibly high. God revealed the meaning to Daniel. The image's head was of fine gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet and toes of iron and clay mixed. The head represented Nebuchadnezzar's Chaldean Empire. The silver represented the succeeding world kingdom, which proved to be the Persian Empire. The brass represented a third world kingdom, which proved to be the Greco-Macedonian or Grecian Empire; the fourth, represented by the legs of iron, proved to be the Roman Empire with capitals in Constantinople and Rome. The feet and toes represented succeeding smaller empires to follow, leading to the toes representing ten kingdoms in Eastern and Western Europe. The prophecy dates the time in which we are living now. We await the appearance of those ten-toe nations. In the days of those toes, now just ahead of us, a stone supernaturally is to come from heaven, smite the ten-toe nations, replace them, and rule the whole earth for ever after (Dan. 2:34, 44). This stone represents Christ's Second Coming to set up the kingdom of God and destroy all this world's governments—setting up the government of God over all nations. That will be the end of this world—the end of this man-made civilization as we know it.

Full understanding must include Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17. These show the Roman Empire, falling in A.D. 476, replaced by three kingdoms that disappeared, the Vandals, the Ostrogoths, and the Heruli. They were the first three horns of Daniel 7 that were "plucked up by the roots." (verse 8). In other words, these three peoples disappeared from history and we have no historic record of what became of them. There were seven more of the ten horns on this beast yet to follow. The first of that seven was the restoration of the Empire in the West. This happened when, at the behest of the Pope at Rome, Justinian, Emperor at Constantinople, reestablished Imperial authority throughout Italy in A.D. 554.

JET-PROPELLED PASSENGER PLANES, some flying at supersonic speeds, have made most parts of the globe easily accessible to travelers.

Plain Truth Photo

Historians record this as the restoration of the Roman Empire. There followed a series of valleys and peaks in Europe. It reached its next peak in A.D. 800 under Charlemagne, the Frankish head. It reached another mountain peak about the 10th century with Otto the Great of Germany at the helm. At this time it was known as the Holy Roman Empire. The Holy Roman Empire reached another peak with the Habsburg dynasty in Austria. This was followed by another peak under Napoleon, who fled into exile in 1814.

In 1929 Mussolini arranged a Concordat with the Papacy. Then, about 1935 Mussolini, having united Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Italian Somaliland to Italy, proclaimed it to be the reestablishment of the Roman Empire. I announced this ninth restoration myself on radio at the time.

We are now looking for the tenth and last resurrection of the Roman Empire—the seventh head of this Beast of the 17th chapter of Revelation (Rev. 17:12), which is also pictured by the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2:40-44. Since these toes were on the two feet that represented Eastern and Western Europe, there is strong likeli-



Just What Does the Bible “the End of the World”?

Perhaps you've read the passages in the Bible about the "end of the world." Or, you've heard others speak or talk of Bible prophecies about the "end of the world."

What does this phrase mean? The original disciples wondered the same thing. After listening to Jesus preach in the Temple in Jerusalem, the disciples Peter, James, John and Andrew came privately to Christ and asked him "... what shall be ... the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3).

In the rest of the chapter, Christ explains the events leading up to the end. But what specifically was meant by "the end of the world"?

Did Jesus mean the literal obliteration of the physical earth? Will the earth explode in billions of fragments and become specks of cosmic

dust? Or does this statement mean that the planet will be cremated by a nuclear holocaust? Many have wondered.

The good news is that *none* of the above conjectures is true! The Bible reveals that this earth will survive and prosper!

In the *Authorized Version*, when referring to "the end of the world," the Greek word for "world" is *aión*.

It does not mean "world" in the sense of a physical globe. It is better translated "age," and is so rendered in the *Revised Standard Version*, *New International Version* and many other Bible translations.

What then does the end of the *age* signify?

First notice that the return of Christ and the end of the *age coincide*: "what will be the sign of your [Christ's]

e Mean—

coming *and* of the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3, NIV).

Few realize that Jesus is returning to set up his world-ruling government. When he returns, he will subdue all existing human governments and replace them with a perfect, divinely controlled system (Dan. 2:44; Isa. 2:2-4). This act will *end* the age of *man*, and begin a new age.

Perhaps you did not know that God allotted humans 6,000 years to work out their own governments, religions and educational institutions and build a civilization *apart* from God's revealed way of life.

As history records, man has failed to control or resolve the complex problems of war, crime, poverty, inflation, famine and disease. As this 6,000-year period draws to a close, man's problems will mount

until he threatens himself with destruction and *extinction*.

When this climactic point arrives, Christ will dramatically intervene (Matt. 24:21-22, Rev. 11:15, I Thess. 4:16), saving mankind from its *own* nuclear folly!

Thus, far from causing the destruction of the physical earth, Jesus will return to *end* this "present evil age [Greek: *aion*]" (Gal. 1:4, RSV), bringing an age of *unprecedented* peace, prosperity and harmony (Isa. 35:1-10).

You need to understand the basic reason why men and women cannot resolve their problems and rationally govern themselves. For critically important information about this subject and also for knowledge about the *real* fate of this physical earth, write for our free booklets *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils* and *What is the Reward of the Saved?* See last page for addresses.

hood that this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will include Iron Curtain nations of Eastern Europe as well as nations in Western Europe. (Write for our two booklets *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last* or *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*) They will form a third gigantic world power probably as great or even greater than the U.S.S.R. or United States of America.

These ten toes of Daniel 2:40-44 will be destroyed by Christ at his Second Coming and will be replaced by the world-ruling government of the kingdom of God, with Christ at its head and all the resurrected saints also ruling under Christ.

Jesus' Principal Prophecy

Now consider the principal prophecy of Jesus Christ himself. It is found in Matthew 24, Luke 21 and Mark 13.

But we quote from Matthew's account. Jesus with his disciples had just come out from the Temple (verse 1). He and his disciples were looking at the buildings of the temple.

"See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." That event happened in A.D. 70 in the lifetime of those disciples.

Then, a little later, as Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives with some of his disciples, they asked him, "When shall these things be?" They referred to the destruction of the temple, which, I repeat, actually did occur in their lifetime in A.D. 70. But then the disciples added another question. "... And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" The disciples expected the end of the world in their own lifetime, so they connected this question with the destruction of the temple. Jesus knew, of course, the end of the world would not occur for more than another 1,950 years. So he answered only their first question first, for the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70.

Jesus then said, "Take heed that no man deceive you." He was speaking to his own disciples about being deceived in their lifetimes. He continued, "For many shall come in my name, saying I [Jesus] am Christ; and shall deceive many." How could they be deceived by the teaching that Jesus was the Christ?

Many did come in his name claiming to represent him, saying that Jesus was the Christ and they deceived the many even in that very first century. Let me explain a very important fact here. Soon after Christ's ascension to heaven and the founding of the Church in A.D. 31, a violent controversy arose, according to church history, as to whether the gospel to be proclaimed was the gospel OF Christ, or a gospel ABOUT Christ. The latter won out. False prophets did arise in the first century, saying Jesus was the Christ, but omitting altogether Jesus' gospel which was the message of the coming world ruling kingdom of God to rule all nations after Christ's Second Coming.

Different Gospel Preached

In Galatians 1:6-7, we see they were already preaching a different gospel than Jesus' gospel of the kingdom of God.

The apostle Paul also spoke of these false prophets preaching a different gospel in II Corinthians, the 11th chapter. To the Church in the very first century, he wrote: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (verses 3-4).

Of those false prophets claiming to speak in Jesus' name, Paul added: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his [Satan's] ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (verses 13-15).

These were actually the ministers of Satan the devil, but came in Jesus' name, saying that Jesus was the Christ. However, they misrepresented Jesus, so that in fact they were preaching about "another Jesus"—a different Jesus (verse 4).

Just What Was Jesus' Gospel?

Jesus came as a messenger from God bearing a message about the coming kingdom of God to take over and rule all nations.

That was Jesus' gospel. Notice the gospel which Jesus proclaimed.

In Mark 1:1, it begins to relate the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It mentions how John the Baptist prepared the way, and how Jesus was baptized by John. Then in verse 14, "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God"—what gospel did Jesus preach?—"the gospel of the kingdom of God." That is the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the gospel proclaimed by the apostle Paul to gentiles (Acts 20:25, 28:23, 31).

Mark this well. *That* gospel was not proclaimed to the world for 1,900 years. In the very first century, they turned to a different gospel—a gospel about Christ, but not the gospel OF Christ. Read that again. To this very day, nearly all churches and evangelists preach their own gospel ABOUT Christ, but not the gospel OF Christ about the coming kingdom of God to rule the world.

For 1,900 years traditional Christianity has failed to preach about Jesus as coming KING and world ruler in the coming kingdom of God to replace Satan on the throne of the whole earth. A FALSE GOSPEL has been universally proclaimed.

Now with all this in mind, return to Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24. He was warning his own disciples about false prophets coming in his name saying he, Jesus was the Christ, and deceiving the MANY—not the few, but the MANY. That started in the very first century soon after the Church was founded and has continued to this very day. It is true almost universally in a professed Christianity to this minute.

True Gospel Withheld 1,900 Years

But in January 1934, Jesus Christ began proclaiming through me for the first time in 1,900 years the true gospel of the kingdom of God. It spread coast to coast across the United States and Canada. Nineteen years later, January 1953, that gospel went out on the world's most powerful radio station, Radio Luxembourg, to all Europe and Britain, and almost immediately after that on other radio stations in Taiwan, Radio Ceylon, Radio Monte Carlo, stations in South America and elsewhere. Soon it was going to Australia, New Zealand and many other parts of the world.



PHOTO SHOWS Herbert W. Armstrong making an early World Tomorrow radio broadcast. From the smallest beginnings, God's work has grown to international scope, carrying the true gospel to all the world as a final end-time witness.

Plain Truth Photo

And now, at last, we can say that gospel has gone into every nation on earth.

Now proceed with Jesus' prophecy: Matthew 24:5, Jesus had said many would come in his name pretending to be his ministers, yet deceiving the many. That did happen in the apostles' lifetime in the first century and has continued even to our day. The same gospel Jesus and the apostles preached began going out in 1934 in the *Plain Truth* magazine, which now has reached into every nation on earth. It has a circulation of eight million households every issue. Notice, now, what Jesus said in verse six, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." In other words the end of the world was not yet in their lifetime. In verse seven, "For," continuing, "nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers



places." Verse 8, "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

All these things have continued from the first century. Verse 9, "Then they shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you. . . ." These things did happen to those very disciples. Most or all of the apostles were martyred except the apostle John.

The Sign of the "End of the World"

Then in verse 14 Jesus comes to answer his disciples' second question: ". . . and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (verse 3). In verse 14 he answered that question, Jesus himself knowing it would not happen until some nineteen hundred years later. Here is Jesus' own answer to when the end of the world would come.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." That gospel was not preached to the world from about the middle of the first century until near the middle of the twentieth century.

Jesus was speaking, not of the end of the earth's existence, but of the end of this world—this age—this present civilization in a world ruled by Satan, who still sits on the throne of the whole earth. However, remember Satan sits on that throne only because God allows it. But God shows us in Bible prophecies, not the date or the year, but the approximate time when he will send Jesus Christ to end this world.

Basic Law of Coming World Government

At that time, Jesus Christ will come in all the supreme power and glory of God to sit on earth's throne and rule over all nations. He will then set up the kingdom of God, which will be the government of God (not of Satan) in the hands of the born family of God under Christ, ruling all nations with the government of God.

All governments are based on foundational laws. The foundational law of the government of God over the whole

THE GOOD NEWS is that today's ugly, polluted, crime-ridden cities will soon be replaced by ones that are well-planned, uncrowded, peaceful and beautiful—joys to live and work in.

Illustration by R. McKee

world will be the law of God. That law may be expressed in the one word "LOVE." Jesus magnified that law to mean love toward God and love toward neighbor. This, in turn, was magnified by the Ten Commandments—the first four giving four broad principles defining love toward God, the last six commandments defining in broad principles love toward neighbors.

This very work of God, from which you have received this booklet, is one of the evidences that the end of this world of Satan and civilization as we know it is very near its end.

The Great Tribulation

In these days, after the proclaiming of the gospel of the kingdom of God, "... shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (verses 21 and 22).

Many other scriptures show that conditions will become more frightful than ever before or ever shall be again on earth. Such conditions are rapidly escalating at this moment. Person is against person, even within a large proportion of families. Group is against group. Nation is against nation. Violence is escalating as never before in history. Terrorism is throwing fear and consternation into people all over the world.

Apostle Paul's Warning

Truly we have come to the time warned of by the apostle Paul, in II Timothy 3, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godli-

HIROSHIMA after the bomb. From the comparatively primitive nuclear device that devastated this city mankind has developed the capability of destroying all forms of life many times over.

Wide World Photo



ness, but denying the power thereof: . . . ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (verses 1-5, 7).

This is a prophecy, as it plainly states, for the last days. When I was a little boy, ninety years ago, those conditions were not true or escalating as they have been within the last twenty or thirty years.

Now notice again, Jesus Christ said in Matthew 24:22, that except these terrifying days should be cut short, no flesh would be saved alive. Not a human being would survive.

A prophecy in Ezekiel 6:6 states, "In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate. . . ." That prophecy is speaking of this same time. The weapons have never existed in all history that could have laid all cities waste until the hydrogen bomb of some thirty years ago. How significant that this became possible only during the time while this gospel of the kingdom was going from nation to nation into all the world for a witness to all nations.

Great Tribulation Cut Short

But, here comes the world's one and only great and supreme hope. Jesus said in Matthew 24:22 that "... for the elects' sake [his one true Church] those days shall be shortened." In other words, God will not move to cut short the continuation of this present civilization as we know it, until humanity has come to the very brink of its last gasp. If God delayed longer, human science, technology, engineering and government would be the Frankenstein monster that would blast every living person out of existence.

God is not going to intervene or send Jesus Christ to set up a better civilization and the wonderful, happy, peace-loving world tomorrow, until humanity and its leaders have had to admit their utter failure in providing peaceful, happy and useful lives on this earth. Even today, most people in the Western world do not want to hear much about God. They want God to "keep himself out of their lives."

The very first man God created, Adam, rejected the tree of life which meant reliance on God and the gift of eternal

life from God. Instead he chose to rely on himself and his own mind to guide his life and solve all his problems. To this very day, the nations and the leaders of this world still try to rely on themselves and human attempts at solution of their escalating problems. The world still refuses to rely on God.

It is only when the world and its leaders have come to the place where they have to realize their utter helplessness before their own problems and that their only hope from here on is reliance on and obedience to God, that God will intervene and bring about the end of this world by sending Jesus Christ.

When Jesus does come in all the dazzling splendor and the power and the glory of the great Creator God, as the King of kings and the Lord of lords, humanity is going to be forced to realize that only reliance on God can save humans alive and bring in peace with happiness, joy, and invigorating productivity.

Also Foretold by Daniel

Now once again back to the 12th chapter of Daniel. Just after he spoke of the time of the end (Daniel 11:40), Daniel speaks also of the same great tribulation—a time of trouble greater than ever before or ever to come. “And at that time shall Michael [a great archangel standing against Satan] stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life . . .” (Dan. 12:1, 2).

This is speaking of the Second Coming of Christ when the dead in Christ shall rise first. “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we [the saved of God’s true Church] which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thess. 4:16, 17).



THE MOUNT OF OLIVES as it looks today. It is at this very location that Jesus Christ will soon return to earth to set up a peaceful and just world government.

Plain Truth Photo

Meeting Christ in the Air—Where Then?

And where do we go from there? In that same day Jesus' feet will descend on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem on the east (Zech. 14:4). (Write for our free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will be Like*, which explains in detail the world to come.)

We read in Revelation 20:1-2 that at the time of Christ's coming, Satan shall be removed from the throne of world rulership. Jesus Christ will then sit on that throne over the whole earth. In Revelation 3:21, Jesus said to those in his own true Church, that if we overcome Satan and the evils of this world, he will grant that we will sit with him on that throne.

Jesus also said in Revelation 2:26-27 that if we, his own people, overcome we will be given power over the nations, and we shall rule them, under Christ. In Revelation 5:10, he says that we who are true believers in his own Church shall be priests and kings, and we shall reign on the earth.

“Thou Shalt NOT!”



The Ten Commandments represent God's eternal law of love. These great positive and negative principles are in force today. In fact, the breaking of them is the direct cause of all the unhappiness in today's world. To find out how each of the Ten Commandments applies to your personal life, write for your free copy of the booklet titled *The Ten Commandments.*

MAILING ADDRESSES WORLDWIDE

- United States:** Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, California 91123
- United Kingdom, rest of Europe and Middle East:** The Plain Truth, P.O. Box 111, Borehamwood, Herts, England WD6 1LU
- Canada:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
- Canada (French language):** Le Monde à Venir, B.P. 121, Succ. A, Montreal, P. Q. H3C 1C5
- Mexico:** Institución Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, 06502 Mexico D.F.
- South America:** Institución Ambassador, Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E., Colombia
- Caribbean:** Worldwide Church of God, G.P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-6063
- France:** Le Monde à Venir, B.P. 64, 75662 Paris Cédex 14
- Switzerland:** Le Monde à Venir, Case Postale 10, 91 rue de la Servette, CH-1211 Genève 7, Suisse
- Italy:** La Pura Verità, Casella Postale 10349 1-00144 Roma E.U.R.
- Germany:** Ambassador College, Postfach 1129, D-5300 Bonn 1, West Germany
- Holland and Belgium:** Ambassador College, Postbus 444, 3430 AK Nieuwegein, Nederland
- Belgium:** Le Monde à Venir, B.P. 31, 6000 Charleroi 1, Belgique
- Denmark:** The Plain Truth, Box 211, DK-8100 Aarhus C
- Norway:** The Plain Truth, Postboks 2513 Solli, N-0203 Oslo 2
- Sweden:** The Plain Truth, Box 5380, S-102 46, Stockholm
- Australia:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220
- India:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 6727, Bombay 400 052, India
- Sri Lanka:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 1824, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Malaysia:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 430, Jalan Sultan, 46750 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
- Singapore:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 111, Farrer Road Post Office, Singapore 9128
- New Zealand and the Pacific Isles:** Ambassador College, P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand
- The Philippines:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 1111, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines 3117
- Israel:** Ambassador College, P.O. Box 19111, Jerusalem
- South Africa:** Ambassador College, P.O. Box 5644, Cape Town 8000
- Zimbabwe:** Ambassador College, Box UA30, Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe
- Nigeria:** Worldwide Church of God, PMB 21006, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria
- Ghana:** Worldwide Church of God, P.O. Box 9617, Kotoka International Airport, Accra
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- Mauritius and Seychelles:** Ambassador College, P.O. Box 888, Port Louis, Mauritius

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