

PROPHETCY

In That Day

2Peter 2:19 We also have the prophetic message as

something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the

day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21

Writing History in Advance

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but

There Is No Other God But God

prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were

carried along by the Holy Spirit.

G . B r e n t R i g g s

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Some of My Other books

(all my books are at www.brentriggs.com/stuff):



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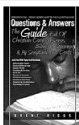
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An incredibly useful topical guide to Bible Verses; Brent Riggs Bible messages, quotes and more; over 200 pages.

In That Day

*Matthew 24:21–22 (ESV) 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if **those days** had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

“Those days”, “in that day”, “the day of...”

This is the most talked about “day” in all of Scripture and yet most people, including Christians, have little knowledge of what the Bible says about. Twenty percent or more of Scripture is dedicated to it and yet surveys show only 2% of Christian sermons are taught from it. Wow.

- The Day of the Lord Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezek. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obad. 15; Zeph. 1:7, 14; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:10
- The indignation Isa. 26:20; 34:2
- The day of God’s vengeance Isa. 34:8; 63:1–6
- The time of Jacob’s trouble Jer. 30:7
- The overspreading of abominations Dan. 9:27

- The time of trouble such as never was Dan. 12:1
- The seventieth week Dan. 9:24–27
- The time of the end Dan. 12:9
- The great day of his wrath Rev. 6:17
- The hour of his judgment Rev. 14:7
- The end of this world Matt. 13:40, 49

We find this “day” described to us in the parts of the Bible called “prophecy”.

Prophecy is what authenticates Scripture and confirms that the God of the Bible truly is the Creator God, the only God and the God that can be trusted.

No other religion, ideology or explanation of man or religion bolstered by “proof of authenticity” except the God of the Holy Bible. Almost a third of the Bible “writes history in advance”. No other so-called holy book even makes an attempt to be prophetic and in all of humanity, other than some vague “Nostradamus” type statements, you can find no verifiable sources of genuine, specific and voluminous foretelling of world history.

Isaiah 42:9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure'."

John 13:19 "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He."

God filled the Bible with prophecy for the purpose of declaring openly who He is to His glory and yet the world ignores it for one reason: the Bible calls us to moral accountability to God and the forsaking of our sin.

It is unbelievable what unbelievers have to believe in order not to believe.

In other words, you have to IGNORE A LOT of things happening all around us that perfectly match what the Bible says will happen, otherwise you must admit that

prophecy in Scripture really does prove the Bible's authenticity and it's divine Author. And yet, the reason is clear why the world rejects the Bible:

John 3:19 (ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

People love their sin more than they love the truth so they are willing to ignore PROOF that the Bible is the divinely inspired, supernaturally preserved Word of the Living God written by over 40 Holy-Spirit-led men covering 1,500+ years while living in different parts of the world and most of whom never met each other. The product of that divine collaboration being a book of harmonious doctrine and unassailed truth that has withstood the

relentless hyper-attacks of skeptics for 2,000 years and still remains unscathed.

About 20% of that same book talks about what is going to happen in the future. As you read through all the passages of prophecy that will follow, notice over and over the phrases such as “in that day,” “in that time,” “in the end,” and “in the day of the Lord.” We often read past these seeming generic phrases without realizing each time they are referring to a very specific time and event: the last events of world history before Jesus returns or during His millennial reign on Earth. The Bible speaks of this “day” more than any other event.

We know why unbelievers ignore the prophecy about “that day.” But why are Christians so ignorant of prophecy?

The first reason in our affluent culture is the Lord’s return is not something we long for because we already have it pretty good now:

Revelation 3:14-07 The Lukewarm Church
14 “And to the angel of the church of the

Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

We have it so good now [prosperous, in need of little or nothing], we don't want to talk about leaving it behind and there are no critical circumstances or suffering making us long for heaven.

- We want to experience things first, like getting married, watching our kids grow up, and getting everything out of this life.
- Christians who suffer in poverty, persecution, and neglect want Jesus to come back every moment of every day.
- We don't want the world to dislike us or reject us because we are going around announcing "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!"

Or worse, we dilute Christianity down to self-help therapy, devoid of topics like “sin” and “Hell,” perfectly comfortable with other beliefs.

This is the great apostasy the Bible declares of the last days:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first

Another reason why most Christians know so little about prophecy is because a large segment of historical and modern Christianity has either assigned all prophecy to the past or has spiritualized prophecy (prophecy is just a spiritual picture of something else typically the cosmic battle between good and evil). That is puzzling.

- For those who assign all prophetic Scripture to past events, the big problem is it just doesn't fit. At all. The Bible, and particularly apocalyptic descriptions of events, are greatly exaggerated at best, and simply are wrong at worse.
- For those who spiritualize future prophecy in the Bible, why were

hundreds of specific prophetic declarations fulfilled literally down to the last detail... but all future prophecy is now just spiritual analogies of “good vs. evil” and “God wins”?

Both approaches are inconsistent, and clearly do harm to the simple and obvious reading of Scripture.

So I might amend my “*It is unbelievable...*” statement (highlighted a few pages back) for most Christians today to read: it’s unbelievable what believers have to ignore and explain away in order not to believe that future prophecy in Scripture will be literally fulfilled just like past prophecy was.

The Bible foretells many signs that would culminate in the last days. Jesus indicated these signs would arise together as His return drew near (Matthew 24:33-34).

What’s the Point?

Think about it... what’s the point of the entire Bible story if we leave out the end (prophecy)? Yes, I understand that regardless of “the end” we all end up in Heaven. Our belief about how things end should never divide us or cause division

among true believers, but simply declaring “Jesus will return, judgment day, heaven, then end” does not fit Scripture and does leaves all sorts of things unresolved that God says will happen on this earth before Eternity begins.

The purpose of all those things yet to occur fulfill what God declares: nothing He has said would happen and no promise that He made will go unfulfilled. Why? To prove that He is God, that He is in control, that this is HIS universe, not ours.

By varying estimates, 20-30% of the Bible speaks about what will happen “in that day,” the “day of the Lord,” or the “end times.” It seems inconsistent for the Bible to speak so much about “that day” only to have it be symbolic or worse, claim that all the earth-shattering, population-decimating, world-destroying descriptions have already been fulfilled in past events. Talk about exaggerating for effect!

Finally, to ignore dozens and dozens and dozens of passages that describe the earthly reign of Christ on this current earth for 1,000 years on the throne of David, in complete fulfillment of every promise and prophecy about the Messiah, just leaves us

ignoring or spiritualizing the most written about phase of human history in the entire Bible.

If we stop the story of God's plan for this era of human history at "personal salvation" rather than seeing it all the way through to "Jesus is Glorified!" by His reign on earth, then we change the focus of the Bible story.

- We leave out the result, the purpose: to prepare a Bride for the Son and to fulfill the promises God made to His Chosen People of Israel.
- For many, it is simply fire insurance against ending up in Hell - making the Bible story and God's plan ABOUT ME instead of about JESUS.

Isaiah 46:10 (ESV) 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

My goal of familiarizing you with dozens and dozens of prophecies in this little book is to convince you that:

1. Prophecy is important.
2. Prophecy validates Scripture.

3. Prophecy proves God is the only one and true God.
4. Prophecy builds our confidence in our faith; and
5. The Bible seems to be screaming that Jesus will return VERY soon!

It all starts with taking the time to actually be familiar with prophetic Scripture, which is probably the primary issue: it takes time, effort, and interest. This keeps most Christians from caring but then they lose out on the excitement, confidence, and joy that comes from watching history unfold exactly as God said it would... increasing our assurance that our redemption is near and God is in control no matter what happens!

With that said, I'm going to quickly show you dozens of prophecies from the Bible that have yet to be fulfilled (or in some cases are in the process of being fulfilled), keeping in mind the 100% certainty they WILL BE fulfilled because of the hundreds that already have.

This is not by any stretch an exhaustive study on prophecy, in fact, it is little more than enough to create a spark that will hopefully start a fire of interest in you.

They are listed in no specific order. My purpose here is not to teach a chronology or lessons about eschatology (the “end times”) but to simply enlighten the reader about how much “history in advance” God has given us.

Short of seeing someone come to saving faith by sharing the Gospel with them, there is hardly a greater joy than to watch what is happening every day and literally see prophecy converging to the final events of humanity.

The pace of prophetic circumstances becoming more and more in focus and obvious has quickened to a breathtaking pace. It would seem the return of Jesus is very near!

Buckle up... here we go (***all text in bold is my added emphasis to highlight the point I'm making with each verse***).

False Teaching

The Bible tells us that false teachers will bring in heresies, have many followers, and cause others to reject God's Word. Who can argue that false teaching is rampant? A primary scheme of Satan is to create so much confusion and so many voices that the true Word of God is either ignored or lumped in with everything else.

How many times have you heard someone say “I don’t know what to believe, everyone says they are right”?

*2 Peter 2:1–2 (ESV) 1 But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them **the way of truth will be blasphemed.***

Greedy False Teachers

Much of the Gospel today is peddled as self-help and the way to become prosperous.

This brand of Christianity offers everything the unsaved person already wants: prosperity, health, favor and success.

Not only is this shameful in and of itself, it insults the sacrifice of persecuted Christians all over the world who look heavenward moment by moment, hoping for relief.

*2 Peter 2:3 (ESV) 3 And **in their greed they will exploit you** with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*

Worldwide Gospel

Before this phase of human history culminates, the Gospel will be declared to the entire world. Most of the world already has access to it if they want but reject it.

During that last years before the Millennial reign of Jesus, the Apostle John in the book of Revelation reveals that the Gospel will indeed be preached worldwide by several means: technology, an army of 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the Two Witnesses (mostly likely Moses and Elijah) and by angels flying overhead.

*Matthew 24:14 (ESV) 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be **proclaimed throughout the whole world** as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

*Mark 13:10 (ESV) 10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed **to all nations**.*

*Revelation 14:6 (ESV) 6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, **with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.***

Global Communications & Shipping

The Bible clearly speaks of events that will require global communications. For decades, we could see this ability becoming more and more real. Today, the entire world can watch or learn about something happening in real time. Much of the world can watch it happen online. While not every single person on the planet is connected, there is no doubt we have global communications now.

Another interesting clue is the sending of gifts between leaders and people in nations

all over the world. Prophecy teachers never really discussed this part of the verse but with the arrival of companies like Amazon, UPS, and Fedex, we see this very thing happening for the first time right before our eyes. I can buy something online and have it shipped to most of the world.

*Revelation 11:9–10 (ESV) 9 For three and a half days some from **the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies** and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and **exchange presents**, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.*

Extinction-level Weapons

When Jesus said these words, men still fought with spears, swords, and bows. Even with the invention of gun powder and military equipment, even the last “world war” could have never ended up with human extinction.

Today, with nuclear weapons, we truly live with the possibility of extinction-level warfare, something God knew would happen eventually and that He will have to stop personally.

*Matthew 24:21–22 (ESV) 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, **and never will be.** 22 **And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.** But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

The Actual Use of Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons could not even be conceived thousands of years ago, and yet prophetic Scripture seems to clearly point to their future use. What other weapon can cause your skin and eyes to instantly disintegrate?

For those Christians who assign these prophecies to the past, what event in history fulfills Zechariah 14:12? When was Israel attacked by the world and the result

was their flesh falling off their bones even while they were still standing?

*Zechariah 14:12 (ESV) 12 And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples **that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.***

Global Desire for Peace

The world continues to seek peace. As of this writing in 2020, multiple peace treaties are on the world stage between Israel and the Arabs (once again fulfilling prophecy that this little nation which didn't exist for 2,000 years would once again be the focus of world attention). Politicians will continue to seek peace and will increasingly attain a façade of it by increasing global control and global consensus.

The fact that we see this happening right before our eyes should draw our attention to what comes next: sudden destruction (the Great Tribulation).

*1 Thessalonians 5:3 (ESV) 3 While people are saying, “**There is peace and security,**” then **sudden destruction** will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

Antichrist Comes to Power

A world ruler will arise that will appear to finally bring a peace solution to the entire world and despite centuries of public declarations wishing for the destruction of Israel, the Jews will be fooled into following this world leader only to have him turn against them a short time later after they let their guard down.

*Daniel 8:23–25 (ESV) 23 And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, **shall arise**. 24 **His power shall be great**—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 **By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great.***

Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

Israeli/Antichrist Peace Treaty

We have seen this effort for decades so this event will finally be someone successfully (at least perceived) accomplishing Middle East peace. This will bolster the credibility of this future world leader who finally gets something done that all others have failed to do.

*Daniel 9:27 (ESV) 27 And he shall **make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.** And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*

Damascus Destroyed

Damascus has been in the center of terrorism and Middle East conflict and will continue to be. At some point it is going to

be destroyed. The likely scenario is retaliation by Israel in response to a terrorist attack or threat of war. There is hardly a day goes by that some Islamic leader is not promising to “wipe Israel from the map” so this is hardly farfetched.

*Isaiah 17:1 (ESV) 1 An oracle concerning **Damascus**. Behold, **Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap of ruins.***

*Jeremiah 49:23–27 (ESV) 23 **Concerning Damascus:** “Hamath and Arpad are confounded, for they have heard bad news; they melt in fear, they are troubled like the sea that cannot be quiet. 24 Damascus has become feeble, she turned to flee, and panic seized her; anguish and sorrows have taken hold of her, as of a woman in labor. 25 How is the famous city not forsaken, the city of my joy? 26 Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed in that day, declares the LORD of hosts. 27 **And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.”***

*Amos 1:3–5 (ESV) 3 Thus says the LORD: **“For three transgressions of Damascus,***

*and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron. 4 So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad. 5 I will **break the gate-bar of Damascus**, and **cut off the inhabitants** from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir," says the LORD.*

Chaotic Global Weather

Jesus tells us a sign of His near return is global weather events that will increase in intensity and frequency. Skeptics of the Bible frequently declare with charts and stats that weather events are not more frequent, and not more severe, even while the governments of the world and the media announce daily that every weather event is more extreme, happening more often, and is a sign that humans are destroying that planet. They certainly want it both ways.

Whether these increasingly severe and more frequent weather events are

quantitative or qualitative is irrelevant. Perception is reality. With global telecommunications, every weather event is now instant worldwide news and each one is sensationalized to convince the masses of the fact that weather is out of control and getting worse (and global control is needed to stop us from destroying the planet - fulfilling even more Bible prophecy). So the Bible is correct in what we “see” happening.

Is “climate change” (now just a generic term to describe all weather that fits the narrative) caused by man?

- No (or at least it does not matter), God causes it to fulfill His prophetic declarations.
- Yes, man is just using weather to FURTHER GLOBAL CONTROL which in turn is fulfilling even more prophecy.

Be it weather or now viruses, the fear produced by each “world- endangering crisis,” causes us to give up our freedom, faith, and logic so we can be protected by the same people declaring the crisis.

- The “world” is using this for political goals. God is using the schemes of man to fulfill prophecy.
- We “must” conform to the new “rules” because “climate change is destroying the world.”
- We “must” do what we are told because COVID is going to kill us all.

Those who disagree or resist are “deniers” and increasingly criminalized.

Deadly diseases (which the Bible calls pestilences) will continue to become common occurrences and change the way we live. Anyone paying attention the last 30 years knew this was coming and it was just a matter of time.

“Public health crises” are very clearly becoming a means of global control.

- Emerging diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, Hanta virus, Dengue, West Nile, SARS, bird flu, COVID, etc., underscore this fact.
- Ironically, just a few decades ago, some scientists were forecasting that advances in medicine might soon eradicate deadly diseases.

- Close watch of the situation made it very clear we were on the verge of unleashing massive death via viruses.

*Luke 21:26 (ESV) 26 **people fainting with fear** and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

Fainting with fear literally means “hearts failing” (*apsucho*): AP – out of; SUCHO – psyche, spirit... “out of inner person or spirit”, a deep fear engulfing the entire person.

*Luke 21:25–26 (ESV) 25 “And there will be **signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,** 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

*Matthew 24:8 (ESV) 8 All these are but the **beginning of the birth pains.***

*Romans 8:22 (ESV) 22 For we know that the **whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth** until now.*

Global Government

For decades, prophecy teachers and conspiracy buffs have talked of the coming “one world government.” I believe they missed the mark but only because things have now become more focused every day and we can see how global government will be accomplished.

We don’t need “one government” to govern the world globally. We simply need all the governments of the world acting in unison and eventually bowing to the authority of a single world leader.

With the constant drumbeat of “climate change” and now “pandemic,” we see for the first time in human history all the nations of the world responding together and acting in unison. This is preparing the masses for the eventual world leader who will appear to have all the answers and all the solutions to “save us,” and the governments of the world will globally accept his authority.

*Daniel 2:40–44 (ESV) ⁴⁰ And there shall be **a fourth kingdom**, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And*

like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. ⁴¹ And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ **And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,**

Daniel 7:23 (ESV) ²³ "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, **which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.**

Revelation 13:7-8 (ESV) 7 Also it was allowed **to make war on the saints** and to

conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Babylon Rebuilt

The Bible seems to say that a literal city of Babylon (formerly called Babel, Genesis 10:10) would reemerge in the land of Shinar known today as Iraq. Saddam Hussein spent over 20 years rebuilding the city of Babylon. While that progress seems to be halted temporarily, Babylon has always been the center of and the origin of false religion. There is no doubt that the efforts to rebuild it will resume in the near future.

Babylon is a literal place where pagan worship was born and it also symbolically represents all the false gods of man.

*Genesis 10:10 (ESV)¹⁰ The beginning of his kingdom was **Babel**, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

*Zechariah 5:11 (ESV) 11 He said to me, “**To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it.** And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base.”*

*Revelation 18:2–3 (ESV) 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is **Babylon** the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. 3 **For all nations** have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants **of the earth** have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”*

Creation & Noah’s Flood Denied

To discredit the Bible, the world attacks Genesis. If “science” disproves the Genesis 1 account of Creation, and geology denies the evidence of Noah’s Flood (a laughable claim when the evidence is overwhelming and literally passes before our eyes every day), then the rest of the Bible can easily be

dismissed as unreliable, inaccurate, and full of fairy tales.

It is no coincidence or surprise that denying Noah's Flood would be humanity-wide at the end of times. Satan must do all he can to convince people that God does not exist and His Bible is not trustworthy.

*2 Peter 3:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ For they **deliberately overlook this fact**, that the heavens existed long ago, and the **earth was formed out of water** and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was **deluged with water and perished**.*

Earth Worship & Food

At first glance, this passage might remind us most of the Roman Catholic Church. It's puzzling to me how these types of obvious verses are completely ignored (such as "call no man 'father' Matthew 23:9) but there is an additional consideration that has come into focus today.

The earth-first, animals rights "worship the creation instead of the Creator" (Romans

1:25) movement declares the eating of any animal “murder,” a violation of its “rights,” or that this “hurts the climate.”

Since “science proves” Biblical creation is not true and evolution is, we are just one species eating another. While that appears to be perfectly acceptable with all other species, supposedly it’s a moral outrage for humans to do it (yes, I know, once again completely inconsistent and incoherent ideology).

As well, we see the tearing down of institutional, Biblical marriage because it is part of the “patriarchy” or “toxic masculinity,” or the oppressive and intolerant subjugation of women practiced in the Judeo-Christian tradition. We see this verse coming true in multiple ways.

*1 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV) ³ who **forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods** that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,*

Rumors of Wars

It is a paradox that the world cries out for peace while continuing its history of bloodshed and conflict. If there is one word that describes man starting from Cain and Abel, it's "bloodshed."

In 2020, as always, tensions between major ideologies and world powers produce the constant drumbeat of potential war. We live on the razor edge of someone starting a worldwide massive war even as the masses go about their lives completely oblivious to this fact.

In 2020 a partial list of wars include Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Libya, Kashmir, Venezuela, Ukraine, and Syria, as well as high tensions in places like Hong Kong, Israel, and the surrounding Islamic countries.

*Mark 13:7-8 (ESV) 7 And when you hear of **wars and rumors of wars**, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be*

famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Ethnic Conflict

“Nation” and “kingdom” below speak more directly to conflicts between ideologies, religions, and cultures: Muslims against Jews, liberals against conservatives, blacks against whites, tribe against tribe, and culture against culture.

We have seen an exponential rise in partisanship (people retreating to their own “people” - divided against each other) in the last 15 years, particularly with the rise of revolution, socialism, and statist liberalism.

While many people will criticize the following statement, former President Obama declared he would “fundamentally transform” the United States. One way he did that was to relentlessly pour gas on the flames of racial tension and create vast groups of Americans who now despise each other politically... a situation which he, with the help of a complicit media, conveniently blamed on the President that followed him.

Nonetheless, this development is exactly in line with what Jesus said would occur regardless of who one chooses to blame. In fact, who's to blame is largely irrelevant. This situation is exactly what God foreordained to fulfill His plan.

*Mark 13:7–8 (ESV) ⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For **nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.*

*Luke 21:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “**Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**.”*

Increasing Violence

Murder, rape, riots, looting, abortion, and thuggery in real everyday life mirrors what is even worse in media, entertainment, and video games. Society is becoming increasingly more savage and devoid of conscience.

You can open any major news site today and read a long list of shocking crimes, perversions, and abuses that would have been national headline news 50 years ago but today elicit more than a passing “hmmm” from the reader.

*Luke 17:26 (ESV) ²⁶ **Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.***

*Genesis 6:11–13 (ESV) 11 Now **the earth was corrupt in God’s sight**, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, **for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.** ¹³ And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

Reasons to Fear

One can argue that fear is not always based on fact but it is nevertheless real because the media stokes fear constantly. Some fears are simply perceptions of reality, not reality itself.

Every weather event is now sensationalized. The constant declarations by the media and politicians of the world's destruction within a few years seems to make it a certainty for most people. "If it bleeds, it leads" is the news guidelines for terrorist attacks, political upheaval, viruses, the decline of civility and respect, rampant crime, and uncertainty. We are bombarding even the children with doomsday messages about climate change, politics, racism and health crises. Fear is encouraged and cultivated.

No doubt (because God's Word is always true) this perceptual danger will be accompanied with a palpable increase in real danger and fearful signs as described by Luke.

*Luke 21:11 (ESV) 11 There will be **great earthquakes**, and in various places **famines and pestilences**. And there will be **terrors and great signs from heaven**.*

Global

The common denominator of many signs and circumstances that precede the Return

of the King can be summarized as “global.” We don’t even need the Bible to see that the world is pushing all things hard in this direction.

Read and consider the following disturbing secular news excerpts that have nothing to do with the Bible or prophecy but see how they fit exactly with what the Bible says is the future (emphasis mine):

No Privacy & No Property: The World In 2030 According To The WEF

By: Antony P. Mueller

Individual liberty is at risk again. What may lie ahead was projected in November 2016 when the WEF published “8 Predictions for the World in 2030.” According to the WEF’s scenario, the world will become quite a different place from now because how people work and live will undergo a profound change. The scenario for the world in 2030 is more than just a forecast. **It is a plan whose implementation has accelerated drastically since with the announcement of a pandemic and the consequent lockdowns.**

According to the projections of the WEF’s “Global Future Councils,” **private property and privacy**

will be abolished during the next decade. The coming expropriation would go further than even the communist demand to abolish the property of production goods but leave space for private possessions. The WEF projection says that consumer goods, too, would be no longer private property.

If the WEF projection should come true, people would have to rent and borrow their necessities from the state, which would be the sole proprietor of all goods. **The supply of goods would be rationed in line with a social credit points system. Shopping in the traditional sense would disappear along with the private purchases of goods. Every personal move would be tracked electronically,** and all production would be subject to the requirements of clean energy and a sustainable environment.

In order to attain “sustainable agriculture,” the food supply will be mainly vegetarian. In the new totalitarian service economy, **the government will provide basic accommodation, food, and transport,** while the rest must be lent from the state. The use of natural resources will be brought down to its minimum. In cooperation with the few key countries, **a global agency** would set

the price of CO2 emissions at an extremely high level to disincentivize its use.

In a promotional video, the World Economic Forum summarizes the eight predictions in the following statements:

- **People will own nothing.** Goods are either free of charge or must be lent from the state.
- The United States will no longer be the leading superpower, but a handful of countries will dominate.
- Meat consumption will be minimized.
- **Massive displacement of people will take place** with billions of refugees.
- To limit the emission of carbon dioxide, a global price will be set at an exorbitant level.
- People can prepare to go to Mars and start a journey to find alien life.
- **Western values will be tested to the breaking point.**

Beyond Privacy and Property

In a publication for the World Economic Forum, the Danish ecoactivist Ida Auken, who had served as her country's minister of the environment from 2011 to 2014 and still is a member of the Danish Parliament (the Folketing), has elaborated a

scenario of a world without privacy or property. In “Welcome to 2030,” she envisions a world where **“I own nothing, have no privacy, and life has never been better.”** By 2030, so says her scenario, shopping and owning have become obsolete, because everything that once was a product is now a service.

In this idyllic new world of hers, people have free access to transportation, accommodation, food, “and all the things we need in our daily lives.” As these things will become free of charge, “it ended up not making sense for us to own much.” There would be no private ownership in houses nor would anyone pay rent, “because someone else is using our free space whenever we do not need it.” A person’s living room, for example, will be used for business meetings when one is absent.

Concerns like “lifestyle diseases, climate change, the refugee crisis, environmental degradation, completely congested cities, water pollution, air pollution, social unrest and unemployment” are things of the past.

The author predicts that people will be happy to enjoy such a good life that is so much better “than the path we were on, where it became so clear that we could not continue with the same model of growth.”

Fabricating Social Consent

How can people be brought to accept such a system? **The bait to entice the masses is the assurances of comprehensive healthcare and a guaranteed basic income.** The promoters of the Great Reset promise a world without diseases. Due to biotechnologically produced organs and individualized genetics-based medical treatments, a drastically increased life expectancy and even immortality are said to be possible. Artificial intelligence will eradicate death and eliminate disease and mortality. The race is on among biotechnological companies to find the key to eternal life.

Along with the promise of **turning any ordinary person into a godlike superman**, the promise of a “universal basic income” is highly attractive, particularly to those who will no longer find a job in the new digital economy. Obtaining a basic income without having to go through the treadmill and disgrace of applying for social assistance is used as a bait to get the support of the poor.

To make it economically viable, the guarantee of a basic income would require **the leveling of wage differences. The technical procedures of the money transfer from the state will be used**

to promote the cashless society. With the digitization of all monetary transactions, each individual purchase will be registered. As a consequence, the governmental authorities would have unrestricted access to supervise in detail how individual persons spend their money. A universal basic income in a cashless society would provide the conditions to impose a social credit system and deliver the mechanism to sanction undesirable behavior **and identify the superfluous and unwanted.**

Who Will Be the Rulers?

The World Economic Forum **is silent about the question of who will rule in this new world.**

Conclusion

The World Economic Forum and its related institutions **in combination with a handful of governments and a few high-tech companies** want to lead the world into a new era without property or privacy. Values like individualism, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are at stake, to be repudiated in favor of collectivism and the imposition of a “common good” that is defined by the self-proclaimed elite of technocrats. **What is sold to the public as the promise of equality and ecological sustainability is in fact a brutal**

assault on human dignity and liberty. Instead of using the new technologies as an instrument of betterment, **the Great Reset seeks to use the technological possibilities as a tool of enslavement**. In this new world order, **the state is the single owner of everything**. It is left to our imagination to figure out who will program the algorithms that manage the distribution of the goods and services.

[For Christians who know the Bible, nothing is left to the imagination. The AntiChrist who rules the nations will make the rules.]

<https://www.thelibertybeacon.com/no-privacy-no-property-the-world-in-2030-according-to-the-wef/>

Global Travel

Modes of travel have not changed much in the 6,000 years until this century. Mass global travel could not have even been imagined 200 years ago and barely imagined 100 years ago. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, few individuals traveled beyond their own communities. Think about our history:

- 3,000 years ago: wind power and boats, walking, horses

- 2,000 years ago: wind power and boats, walking, horses
- 500 years ago: wind power and boats, walking, horses
- 200 years ago: wind power and boats, walking, horses
- 100 years ago: steam, combustion, rail
- 2019+: over a billion people will traverse the world through air
- Today: we travel by car, bus, plane, train, subway, etc.

The masses are running to and fro just as Daniel prophesied 2,500 years ago!

*Daniel 12:4 (ESV) ⁴ But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. **Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.**"*

Increase in Knowledge

We are witnessing an explosion of available knowledge. With the advent of the Internet along with the ubiquitous cell phone, it is estimated that the cumulative knowledge available to any single person is doubling every five years. This exponential increase

is beyond what anyone could have imagined!

Several years before high tech and the Internet became known to the public, I was already using and testing Internet-connected phones with email and web browsing. It was expensive, simple, and limited by today's standards, but even then I said many times, "one day this device will have everything about us on it, connected to everything about everyone, and will be like carrying around your own computer in your pocket." I also knew it would become our "leash" for those in control. Even that observation falls far short of what it has become.

Another interesting possibility for the meaning of "knowledge shall increase" is the rediscovery and interest of the knowledge of the "end times," i.e., prophecy. It could be that God meant "knowledge" in both general terms, and an increasing in prophetic knowledge and/or interest.

Think of all the interest in the "end of human history" whether Biblical (rediscovery of PreMillennial doctrine); or pagan versions of the last day by the Aztecs, Mayans, etc.; or fantasy end of time

scenarios (aliens, climate change, apocalypse, evolution).

I believe through movies and games (superheroes, aliens, Star Trek, Star Wars, etc.) we are being primed to believe in “alien life” (watch for “alien life deniers” to start being a new label) and that people will be deceived into believing aliens will come and save us from ourselves. The “knowledge” we are being bombarded with today is clearly cultivating this mindset.

As of December 2020, there are news reports now appearing that soon the government is going to “tell us the truth” about their UFO/Alien secrets. Barack Obama recently “joked” that he knows secrets about aliens/UFO’s that he is not allowed to talk about.

Once the government weighs in with “facts,” the belief that alien life has already visited us, or is about to, will take hold of a world who already wants to believe it. This primes the pump for the Antichrist to appear and save us from ourselves announcing “I’m from an advanced civilization; you are destroying yourselves and I’m here to save you.”

Farfetched? Conspiracy kook stuff? Survey the people you know and ask how many believe in “life out there.”

*Daniel 12:4 (ESV) ⁴ But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the **time of the end**. Many shall run to and fro, **and knowledge shall increase.**”*

Deadly Disease & Pestilence

Deadly diseases (which the Bible calls pestilences) will continue to become common occurrences and change the way we live. Anyone paying attention the last 30 years knew this was coming and it was just a matter of time.

“Public health crises” are very clearly becoming a means of global control. Emerging diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, Hanta virus, Dengue, West Nile, SARS, bird flu, COVID, etc., underscore this fact.

Ironically, just a few decades ago, some scientists were forecasting that advances in medicine might soon eradicate deadly diseases. But close watch of the situation made it very clear we were on the verge of unleashing massive death via viruses.

Before we discovered the tiny world of viruses and bacteria, we use to think these pestilences would come in the form of locusts, mosquitos, rats, and ticks.

Those are surely part of it but no doubt the vast destruction from “pestilence” will come from the unstoppable rampage of invisible disease.

*Revelation 6:8 (ESV) ⁸ And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine **and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.***

A Mark of Loyalty

One of the most common questions about the end times is “What is the mark of the beast? 666?” The answer: it doesn’t matter. Why? If you are saved, you won’t be around for it. If you are not, you won’t be able to avoid the deception.

For decades people have identified various things as “the mark” such as social security numbers, citizen ID cards, or more recently,

RFID chips. The mark will not sneak up on anyone. It will be obvious because it will be a pledge of loyalty to the world leader.

When John wrote the words of Christ in Revelation, he lived in Roman times. Once a year, a Roman citizen had to officially pledge loyalty to the Emperor by burning incense and publicly declaring “Caesar is Lord.” Of course, Christians could not do this and were quickly identified and killed.

The mark of the beast will be some deliberate pledge of loyalty to the coming world leader the Bible calls “AntiChrist.” It might be a tattoo, embedded computer chip, ID card, or some technology placed on the forehead... it doesn’t matter.

Whoever submits to it will do so because they know they are publicly pledging allegiance to the world leader.

*Revelation 13:16 (ESV) 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, **to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,***

Global Economy

In the past few decades as discussion of the “end times” gained interest, we were often told that there would end up being one currency, one bank, one type of money across the globe, just like we were told there would be a “one world government.” The reality that we are seeing right before our eyes is not “one” of anything but “global” everything.

We don’t need a “one world government” when all the governments of the world can act together as one (as they did recently with COVID). We don’t need “one currency” when all the world’s currencies are becoming digital and controlled by computers.

The controls are already in place for global finance and governance. It is ready and waiting for a world ruler that everyone acknowledges. Revelation 13 tells us a global economic system will exist. This was unthinkable in the Apostle John's day. This was unthinkable even a hundred years ago.

The Bible predicted 2,000 years ago that there would be global government, global finance, global communication, and a finally a global ruler. It is happening right before our eyes.

*Revelation 13:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ **so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.***

Famines

There are famines occurring all over the world today. What most people don't realize is that many famines are self-inflicted by corrupt government, ethnic conflict, and ideologies that keep people uneducated and poor.

We often think of famines only as those times when rain doesn't fall and the sun scorches. Just as often, they are a result of the sinful, corrupt actions of man. As

humanity drifts further from God, these famines and hunger will only increase.

Luke 21:11 (ESV) ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

Revelation 6:5–8 (ESV) 5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!” ⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!” ⁸ And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

Signs from “the Heavens”

I touched on this earlier. As of December 2020, there are news reports now appearing that soon the government is going to “tell us the truth” about their UFO/Alien secrets. Barack Obama recently “joked” that he knows secrets about aliens/UFO’s that he is not allowed to talk about.

Once the government weighs in with “facts” then the belief that alien life has already visited us, or is about to, will take hold of a world who already wants to believe it. Farfetched? Conspiracy stuff? Survey the people you know and ask how many believe in “life out there.”

“Signs from the heavens” could be both astrological in nature (comets, asteroids, planetary alignments, solar flares, etc.) but also the growing desire to be “contacted” by alien life - something movies have been prepping us for since the 60’s. This mentality is ripe for demonic deception and very well could be the explanation (“I’m part of an advanced civilization from another world”) given by a suddenly appearing world leader (AntiChrist) as to

why millions of people and children just disappeared (the Rapture).

A few decades ago this would have sounded like sensationalist nonsense from the snake-handling fringe preacher... today we see this scenario readying itself right out in the open for all to see.

*Luke 21:11 (ESV) ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors **and great signs from heaven.***

*Luke 21:26 (ESV) ²⁶ **people fainting** with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the **powers of the heavens** will be shaken.*

Israel

The fact that Israel is once again a nation, once again center of attention, once again a power to be reckoned with in all facets of world culture is nothing short of an obvious God-ordained result. Even before the restoration of the Jewish nation in 1948, consider the words of Mark Twain about the Jews:

"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are also very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished.

The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities, of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert but aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jews; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? "

Psalms 132:13 **For the LORD has chosen Zion**; he has desired it for his dwelling place: 14 **"This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell**, for I have desired it. 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, **but on him his crown will shine."**

Israel Reborn in ONE Day

One of the primary reasons I began to believe in the Millennial interpretation of the Bible is because of what I saw concerning Israel: the unavoidable and undeniably miraculous nature of their rebirth as a nation which specifically, and against (humanly speaking) impossible

odds, happened by proclamation on a single day, May 14, 1948.

This is maybe the single most remarkable and identifiable fulfilled prophecy in the Bible. Anyone who thinks God has permanently cast off Israel for rejecting Jesus on His first visit to earth, should think long and hard about HOW Israel can possibly exist today. It defies all historical precedent along with the Bible clearly predicting it would happen.

*Isaiah 66:8 (ESV)⁸ **Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children.***

A Dispersed Jewish Nation Regathers in their Homeland

Since early this century, millions (population almost 10 million as of Dec 2020) have returned to Israel after 2,000 years of exile and the land being desolate.

Israel had been banished to surrounding nations multiple times and returned to their homeland. Forty years after Jesus ascended, the Romans decimated Jerusalem and followed by dispersing Jews all over the earth where they remained exiled for 2,000 years. The verses below **MUST BE FUTURE** events because never has Israel regathered from “all nations.” Until now.

This is unprecedented in human history. Never has a people group been dispersed for thousands of years to every corner of the globe, and then regathered back to their homeland. Yet, God said it and He has done it before our very eyes!

Isaiah 11:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹ *In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time **to recover the remnant that remains of his people**, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 **He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.***

Ezekiel 37:21–22 (ESV) ²¹ *then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take*

*the people of Israel **from the nations among which they have gone**, and will gather them from all around, and **bring them to their own land**. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.*

*Ezekiel 38:8 (ESV) 8 After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. **Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them.***

Jews Return from All Directions

Unlike the previous exiles of Israel, the Roman exile sent them to all four corners of the earth. When they returned, it would be from all directions, not just one as in the past.

Millions of Jews have emigrated from Russia in the north. Over 100,000 Ethiopian Jews

have emigrated from the south. Many have come out of western and Asian nations.

*Isaiah 43:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the **east**, and from the **west** I will gather you. ⁶ I will say to the **north**, Give up, and to the **south**, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,*

*Jeremiah 31:7–10 (ESV) ⁷ For thus says the LORD: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ ⁸ Behold, I will bring them **from the north country** and gather them **from the farthest parts of the earth**, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will*

gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

Israeli Wasteland

During the 2000-year dispersion, Israel would become a wasteland, a nearly uninhabited, desolate wasteland.

Mark Twain visited Israel in 1897 and said this:

“ ... desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds—a silent mournful expanse. A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action. We never saw a human being on the whole route. There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of the worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.”

*Deuteronomy 29:23–28 (ESV) ²³ **the whole land burned out** with brimstone and salt, **nothing sown and nothing growing**, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath— 24 all the nations will say, ‘Why has*

*the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ 25 Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. 27 Therefore the **anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, 28 and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.**’*

Israel Blooms

Israel, a desolate desert for the last 2000 years, will continue to blossom in the last days and export produce to the world. We are watching this happen before our eyes as Israel is the breadbasket of the Middle East.

Here are major ways Israel feeds the world:

Drip irrigation:

- Slow-release tubing, Israeli drip-irrigation, and micro-irrigation are used worldwide.

Getting more grain to market:

- Israeli-designed GrainPro Cocoons provide a simple and cheap way for farmers to keep their grain market-fresh.
- The huge bags keep both water and air out. They're used in about 100 countries including in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle and Far East.

Saving mangoes from fruit-fly devastation:

- Mangoes provide a livelihood for thousands of farmers in developing countries. A high percentage of the crops are ruined by various species of fruit flies.
- Israel has developed no-spray, environmentally friendly lures to kill the tiny flies.

Precision agriculture:

- Israel's large and growing precision ag-tech sector comprises more than 450

companies offering advanced data-collection and analysis technologies for more efficient and productive farming.

Saving strawberries (and much more):

- Israeli companies breed and export several species of beneficial insects and mites for biological pest control, and bumblebees for natural pollination, to more than 50 nations from India to Chile.

Helping more farmers export crops:

- Farms can't export unless they comply with complex and frequently changing government regulations in target countries.
- The unique cloud-based farm management system gives farmers constantly updated regulatory guidelines on a single dashboard.

Squeezing every drop of water from the air:

- Tal-Ya Water Technologies makes a reusable plastic tray to collect dew from the air, reducing the water needed by crops or trees by up to 50 percent.

Dairy farming:

- In the past 10 years, Asian countries including Vietnam and China have been investing heavily in setting up dairy farming enterprises, and they rely on Israeli experience, expertise, and equipment to do so.

Fishing:

- With more than half the fish consumed around the world grown on farms where fish are crowded into tanks and given massive amounts of antibiotics, hormones, and pesticides, there's an urgent need for sustainable and healthful solutions for commercial fisheries. Israel has several such solutions on the market.

Hardier seeds for more and better crops:

- Seed breeding has been an Israeli specialty since the beginning of the state. Israeli scientists have made many types of seeds more nutritious, high-yield, and flavorful, and resistant to drought and disease; and have developed new fruit and vegetable varieties.

Next-gen packaging extends shelf life:

- Pre-market food spoilage is a huge source of food waste throughout the world.
- Several Israeli companies are using cutting-edge materials to make sure more food gets to hungry consumers.

Alternative protein:

- Filling an urgent need for cheaper, more healthful, sustainable, and less polluting sources of protein, Israeli companies are piloting products made from insects, legumes, and plant-based or cultured meat.

Israel has gone from desolation to the “land flowing with milk and honey” exactly as God foretold!

- They currently export over 800 million dollars’ worth of fresh produce each year, including over 200 million in flowers and ornamental plants!

*Isaiah 27:6 (ESV) ⁶ In days to come **Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.***

*Isaiah 35:1–2 (ESV) 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; **the desert shall rejoice and blossom** like the crocus; 2 it shall **blossom abundantly** and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.*

*Ezekiel 36:34–36 (ESV) 34 **And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by.** ³⁵ And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate **has become like the garden of Eden**, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ ³⁶ Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD; I have rebuilt the ruined places **and replanted that which was desolate.** I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.*

Israel the Economic Powerhouse

Amazingly, this recently regathered, often attacked, tiny nation exported over 114 billion dollars’ worth of goods in 2019! This was inconceivable a century ago! In

contrast, their neighbor Jordan exported less than 5 billion in 2019.

When the forces of Gog and Magog decide to attack Israel as prophesied in Scripture, most likely Israel's wealth and growing resources will be the lure:

*Ezekiel 38:12–13 (ESV) ¹² **to seize spoil and carry off plunder**, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, **who have acquired livestock and goods**, who dwell at the center of the earth.*

*¹³ Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all its leaders will say to you, 'Have you **come to seize spoil**? Have you assembled your hosts to **carry off plunder**, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to seize great spoil?'*

Israeli Vineyards

Desolate for two millennia, the Bible prophesied Israel would once again plant vineyards. Today, sweet wine flows from the Golan Heights and many other vineyards on the mountains of Israel.

Israel harvests approximate 60,000 tons of wine grapes and produces over 40 million bottles of wine. There are about seventy commercial wineries, and the ten largest wineries have over 90 percent of the production. Exports, which are increasing year on year, are over 40 million dollars.

By the way, the same verses declare that once this replanting of the vineyards occurs, Israel will NEVER AGAIN be removed from their land. When has this happened in the past? It is a future situation.

*Joel 3:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ “And **in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine**, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim.*

*Amos 9:13–15 (ESV) 13 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; **the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.** ¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they*

*shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; **they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.*** ¹⁵ *I will plant them on their land, and **they shall never again be uprooted out of the land** that I have given them," says the LORD your God.*

Israeli Forests

Israel is one of the only nations in the world that entered the 21st century with more trees than it had 100 years ago. Since its inception, Israel has been devoted to sustainable forest management and afforestation by planting trees mostly in areas with arid and semi-arid climates.

Today, there are over 200 million trees in Israel - forests of pine, tamarisk, carob, and eucalyptus. Wildflowers and medicinal plants grow in profusion. Fruit trees bloom from January to April. In the south, acacia trees and the prickly sabra cactus suck moisture from the desert.

This has happened in our day after Israel lay barren for nearly 2,000 years.

Isaiah 41:18–20 (ESV) ¹⁸ *I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst*

of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. ¹⁹ I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together, ²⁰ that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Hebrew

In the end times, the pure Jewish language will be restored (and has). At the end of the 19th century, the Zionist movement brought about the revival of Hebrew as a spoken language.

In 1948, Hebrew became an official tongue of the state of Israel. Originally there was only one language and this pure speech will be restored in the Millennial Kingdom. Most likely Hebrew is the language of eternal heaven. Interestingly, Hebrew has no swear words.

*Zephaniah 3:9 (ESV) ⁹ “For at that time **I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech**, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.*

*Isaiah 19:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ **In that day** there will be five cities in the land of Egypt **that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord of hosts**. One of these will be called the City of Destruction.*

Jerusalem Rebuilt

The Bible declared that Jerusalem would be rebuilt on its own ruins. Since 1948, Jerusalem has been rebuilt on the old ruins exactly as foretold.

*Jeremiah 30:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ “Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; **the city shall be rebuilt on its mound, and the palace shall stand where it used to be.***

*Zechariah 12:6 (ESV) ⁶ “**On that day** I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch*

*among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, **while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.***

Jerusalem Under Attack

Jerusalem has been attacked, sacked, and conquered numerous times. The Bible says throughout history it will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Since 70 A.D., Jerusalem had been trampled by Gentiles repeatedly until the Jews regained control of the city during the 1967 Six-Day War.

There remains in the future one last attempt to trample it which will lead to the nation of Israel being rescued by Jesus of Nazareth whom they will finally recognize nationally as the Messiah.

*Luke 21:24 (ESV) ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and **Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.***

Anti-Semitism

Hatred of the Jews is both a curse brought on by themselves for their rejection of the Messiah, but also a demonic hatred that has the purpose of destroying the Jewish people. In his demented thinking, Satan believes if he can destroy the Jewish people, he can make God a liar and elevate himself to God's throne.

Satan knows that God has not rejected the Jews and that one day Jesus will rescue them, give them their promised land in full, and reign from David's throne for 1,000 years. Satan is not Amillennial. He's knows full well what God has promised and prophesied. That's why he wants to destroy the Jews: to foil God.

Anti-Semitism is alive and well. Go to college campuses, newsrooms, government institutions, and liberal population centers and find hatred of Israel and love for her enemies from people who can't explain why they hate Israel. Even JEWS vote and protest against Israel.

In 2019, ADL tabulated 2,107 anti-Semitic incidents throughout the United States.

Today, anti-Semitism is a global epidemic. For example, from over 700 General Assembly resolutions passed since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, nearly 450 condemn Israel. One tiny nation who not only has not bothered anyone else, they feed and care for much of the region.

None have been passed against any Arab country or any Arab terrorist organizations! In other words, out of 190 nations in the UN, over 60% of all General Assembly resolutions rebuke just one member, Israel!

*Deuteronomy 28:37 (ESV) ³⁷ And **you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples** where the Lord will lead you away.*

*Jeremiah 29:18 (ESV) 18 I will pursue them with sword, famine, and pestilence, and **will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, a terror, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations** where I have driven them,*

*Jeremiah 44:8 (ESV) 8 Why do you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands, making offerings to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have come to live, **so that you may be cut off and become a curse and a taunt among all the nations of the earth?***

The World Against Israel

The Bible predicts that all surrounding nations would be united against Israel. This has never happened in history, yet today, Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations sworn to her destruction.

Muhammad said: "The Hour (last day) will not be established until you fight with the Jews, and the stone behind which a Jew will be hiding will say 'O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, so kill him.'" (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol. 4, b. 52, Hadith # 177).

*Psalms 83:4–8 (ESV) **4 They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!" 5 For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant— 6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia***

with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Asshur also has joined them; they are the strong arm of the children of Lot. Selah

A Cup of Trembling

Jerusalem is a small city with no natural resources, no port, no significant manufacturing or industrial capability, yet its very existence causes the surrounding nations to shudder.

In 2019, the President of the United States finally recognized Jerusalem as the (obvious) capital of Israel, a promise unkept by his four predecessors. This recognition was of course met with the predictable condemnation from the rest of the world and half the U.S. citizenry.

*Zechariah 12:2 (ESV)² “Behold, I am **about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples.** The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah.*

Jerusalem the Burden

Almost daily, the world news reports on the conflict over Jerusalem and Israel. The United Nations, the Vatican, and many

world leaders want to make it an international city.

Laughably but sadly, the United Nations declared that there is NO historical connection between the Jews and Jerusalem. UN Resolution 476 flagrantly reiterates that Israel's claim to Jerusalem is null and void.

God says that the city is His and He has given it to the Jews forever.

*Zechariah 12:3 (ESV) ³ On that day **I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples.** All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. **And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.***

*Genesis 15:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ On that day the LORD **made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land,** from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,*

*Leviticus 25:23 (ESV) ²³ “The land **shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine.** For you are strangers and sojourners with me.*

*2 Chronicles 6:6 (ESV) ⁶ but **I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there,***

and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.'

Nations Against Israel Judged and Israel Protected

God has declared that He will protect Israel and destroy all nations that come against it. He states unequivocally that He will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse it.

Is it any surprise that the decline of Israel's last great partner, the United States, is parallel to its declining support of the Jews?

While the President of the U.S. from 2016-2020 temporarily reversed this trend, as of this writing in December 2020, it appears his election in 2016 that took global elitists by surprise, has not been taken for granted this time around. It appears that the most anti-Israel, liberal, and globalist-loyal administration in history is about to take office in the most powerful nation in history. This does not bode well for either Israel or the U.S. or personal freedom.

*Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV) 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 **I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”*

*Zechariah 12:6–9 (ESV) ⁶ “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. **And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.** 7 “And the Lord will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. 8 **On that day the Lord will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem,** so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the Lord, going before them. 9 **And on that day I will***

seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Israel Partitioned

Amazingly, the Bible predicted Israel would be partitioned by all nations. In 1947, UN Resolution 181 planned the partitioning of Israel after Israel rejected an offer of their own country on the African continent.

Currently, the West Bank and Gaza have been separated into Jewish and Palestinian settlements. For decades, the dividing of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria have been negotiated in order to create a so-called Palestinian state.

*Joel 3:2 (ESV)² I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations **and have divided up my land,***

Daniel 11:39 (ESV)³⁹ He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall

*load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many **and shall divide the land for a price.***

Eastern Gate Blocked

The Eastern Gate of Jerusalem is also called the Golden Gate or the Beautiful Gate. It is currently the oldest gate in the Old City, having been constructed in the 6th or 7th century AD.

It is the gate that gives the most direct access to the temple mount—if a person could pass through the arches of the Eastern Gate, he would be very close to where the Jewish temple used to stand. When Jesus entered Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives in Matthew 21, He used a gate in the same location as the current Eastern or Golden Gate.

The Eastern Gate was sealed shut in AD 1540–41 by order of Suleiman the Magnificent, a sultan of the Ottoman Empire. It's believed that the reason for the closing of the Eastern Gate was to prevent the Jewish Messiah from gaining entrance to Jerusalem. Jewish tradition states that the

Messiah will pass through the Eastern Gate when He comes to rule. The Eastern Gate has remained sealed for nearly the past 500 years.

*Ezekiel 44:1–3 (ESV) ¹ Then he brought me back to the **outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east. And it was shut.** ² And the LORD said to me, “**This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered by it. Therefore it shall remain shut.** ³ **Only the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the LORD. He shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way.**”*

Israel One Nation

The nation of Israel, which had been divided into two kingdoms since the time of Solomon (950B.C.) - Israel in the north and Judah in the south - was prophesied to become one united nation in the last days.

Since 1948, that is exactly what we see.

Ezekiel 37:15–22 (ESV) ¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ “Son of man, take a stick

and write on it, 'For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.'¹⁷ **And join them one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.**¹⁸ And when your people say to you, 'Will you not tell us what you mean by these?'¹⁹ say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, **and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand.**²⁰ When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes,²¹ then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, **I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land.**²² **And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.**

No Jewish King Until Jesus

Scripture declares the returning Jews would have no king until Jesus returns. Israel has been without a king for over 2,500 years. Not only is Israel no longer a theocracy, but today the Jewish state is governed by a democracy comprised of multiple political parties.

*Hosea 3:4–5 (ESV) ⁴ For the children of Israel shall dwell many days **without king or prince**, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return **and seek the LORD their God, and David their king**, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.*

Temple Rebuilt

In 1948, Israel again became a nation, and today the preparations to rebuild the temple are public and ongoing.

From the Temple Institute website:

- The Temple Institute is dedicated to all aspects of the Divine commandment for Israel to build a house for God's

presence, the Holy Temple, on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.

- We fool ourselves if we think that the state of Judaism today, without the Temple, is normal.
- At this one place on earth, unlike any other, the one place that the Creator Himself chose to rest His presence, the rectification of man's connection with God takes place.
- The reality of the Jewish experience means that the Temple will be rebuilt.
- Let us rather recall that Jewish history has a trajectory, which began when the patriarch Abraham smashed his father's idols.
- That trajectory has spanned the millennia, and it is obvious that we are rapidly approaching climactic times, in which the Holy Temple will once again become the focal point for mankind's spiritual focus.
- The Shekinah is brought about only through the Temple. In terms of our mission as a people, we cannot in any way reach our spiritual status without the Temple.

- According to Numbers 19, the ashes of the Red Heifer mixed with water are a necessary element for purifying Jews to enable them to do service in the Temple. *(Recent news stories say they have that Red Heifer now.)*

They are making all the necessary preparations:

- They are doing reenactments of Temple ceremonies.
- They have made the priestly clothing.
- They have crafted all of the furniture and items of the Temple.
- They have drawn up the plans following the instructions in Ezekiel

Of course, most Jews still don't believe in Jesus of Nazareth, but here is what is stated on a Jewish website:

It is exciting to see these developments unfold in the Land of Israel regarding the building of a Third Temple as we eagerly watch for the second coming of our Messiah!

Daniel 9:27 (ESV) ²⁷ And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and

*for half of the week **he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering** [which means the sacrifices and offering were once again being performed]. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*

*Daniel 12:11 (ESV) ¹¹ And from the time that **the regular burnt offering is taken away** and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*

Mark 13:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. [Daniel makes it clear this event occurs in the Holy of Holies which of course cannot exist if the Temple is not rebuilt]

*2 Thessalonians 2:4 (ESV) ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, **so that he takes his seat in the temple of God**, proclaiming himself to be God.*

*Revelation 11:1–2 (ESV) ¹ Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, **“Rise and measure the temple of God and***

the altar and those who worship there, ² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

The Red Heifer

A red heifer without blemish must be born and sacrificed to purify the temple in Israel. The Temple Institute is actively seeking to acquire a kosher red heifer.

Recent news stories say they may have that Red Heifer. Two new heifers were born in early in 2020 they are considered viable for sacrifice, at least for the time being.

(Recent news stories say they have that Red Heifer now.)

*Numbers 19:2–9 (ESV) ² “This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you **a red heifer without defect**, in which there is no blemish, and on which a yoke has never come. ³ And you shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be taken outside the camp and slaughtered before him. ⁴ And Eleazar the*

*priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times. ⁵ And the heifer shall be burned in his sight. Its skin, its flesh, and its blood, with its dung, shall be burned. ⁶ And the priest shall take cedarwood and hyssop and scarlet yarn, and throw them into the fire burning the heifer. ⁷ Then the priest shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. But the priest shall be unclean until evening. ⁸ The one who burns the heifer shall wash his clothes in water and bathe his body in water and shall be unclean until evening. ⁹ And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place. And they shall be kept for the water for impurity for the congregation of the people of Israel; **it is a sin offering.***

Jews Still Reject Jesus

Many Christians believe the Church has replaced Israel because of the Jewish rejection of Jesus 2,000 years ago.

The nation of Israel has a long history of idolatry, being temporary exiled and punished by God. It makes perfect sense that their rejection of Jesus the Messiah would result in the greatest of those exiles.

Given this pattern, and the overwhelming amount of Scripture that declares God has unfinished business with Israel (the final fulfillment of all the promises to Abraham, Israel finally accepting Jesus as their Messiah, and Him ruling on David's throne), there is nothing Scripturally to compel us to simply declare that "the Church has replaced Israel." It never does in Scripture and we shouldn't force this view into the text.

The fact that Israel is still a secular nation is sometimes presented as evidence that "God is done with them" but this is also clearly prophesied in Scripture. The chronology is crystal clear:

- Jews reject Jesus the Messiah and crucify Him.
- Jews are dispersed and persecuted for 2,000 years.
- Jews are regathered into their land.

- Jews with still-hardened hearts remain secular until the world comes against them to destroy them.
- Then Jesus rescues them, at which time they bow the knee nationally to Him (individual Jews continue to accept the Gospel and become part of the Church, the Bride of Christ).

Everything in prophetic Scripture fits this chronology perfectly. Nothing in Scripture “fits” with declaring unilaterally “the Church has replaced Israel” going against the plain reading of multitudes of passages.

*Luke 19:41–42 (ESV) ⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! **But now they are hidden from your eyes.***

*Luke 13:34–35 (ESV) ³⁴ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ **Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will***

not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”

*Romans 11:25–26 (ESV) 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: **a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “**The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob**”;*

Ancient Refuge

God said ancient Petra (Sela the rock city) in Jordan would exist and become the refuge for the fleeing Jews during the Great Tribulation. In 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty making Petra a potential refuge for fleeing Jews.

*Isaiah 16:1–4 (ESV) ¹ Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, **from Sela**, by way of the desert, to the mount of the daughter of Zion. ² Like fleeing birds, like a scattered nest, so are the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon. ³ “Give counsel; grant justice; make your shade like night at the height of noon;*

shelter the outcasts; do not reveal the fugitive; ⁴ *let the outcasts of Moab sojourn among you; **be a shelter to them from the destroyer.** When the oppressor is no more, and destruction has ceased, and he who tramples underfoot has vanished from the land,*

Matthew 24:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ *then let those who are in Judea **flee to the mountains.***

Revelation 12:6 (ESV) ⁶ *and the woman **fled into the wilderness,** where she has **a place prepared by God,** in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.*

Revelation 12:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ *But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent **into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.***

Russia Attacks

The Bible says Russia (Magog) would rise as a military power and lead an attack on Israel (Ezekiel 38). Today, most of the southern states of the former Soviet Union

are both military powerhouses and Muslim. The Russians are allied with many regional Muslim nations against Israel.

*Ezekiel 38:1-2 (ESV) 1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “Son of man, set your **face toward Gog, of the land of Magog**, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.*

*Ezekiel 38:7-9 (ESV) 7 “Be ready and keep ready, you and all your hosts that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. 8 **After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste.** Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them. 9 **You will advance, coming on like a storm.** You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you.*

Israel Without Walls

The Bible says prior to the Ezekiel 38 “Magog” invasion, Israel would dwell

without walls. Israel now dwells "without walls" or bars or gates though some partial walls are being built to block neighboring terrorist attacks. However, the cities themselves are not walled like they were historically.

Israel is always on alert for terrorism but exists in relative peace. With regards to modern warfare, walls are useless against full-scale military invasion.

*Ezekiel 38:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. **Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them.** ⁹ You will advance, coming on like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you. ¹⁰ "Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day, thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil scheme ¹¹ and say, 'I will go up against the land of **unwalled villages**. I will fall upon the quiet **people who dwell***

securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having no bars or gates,'

Ancient Countries Align Against Israel

Iran (Persia), Sudan (Cush), and Libya (Put) will also join in this attack on Israel (Ezekiel 38). According to the Koran and Hadith, Muslims are commanded to fight and slay non-believers in Jihad (holy war) unless they convert to Islam (Surahs 9:5 and 47:4; vol. 1, b. 2, Hadith # 24 and 35).

Hardly a day goes by that one of these countries is not declaring the destruction of Israel is overdue.

Interestingly, Egypt and Jordan will not participate in this attack. These two nations have signed recent peace treaties with Israel (Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994).

As of this writing in December 2020, several more Arab nations have signed peace treaties with Israel normalizing relations.

However, the 2020 elections appear to be on the way to restoring Anti-Semitic global governance, these treaties most likely will

only be used to lull Israel to sleep - fulfilling even more prophecy (“when they say peace and safety, sudden destruction will come” 1Thessalonians 5:3).

*Ezekiel 38:4–6 (ESV) 4 And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. 5 **Persia, Cush, and Put** are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 **Gomer** and all his hordes; **Beth-togarmah** from the uttermost parts of **the north** with all his hordes—many peoples are with you.*

Birds Consuming the Flesh of the Dead

It is a little-known fact that Israel is the bird migration capital of the world. Experts estimate that during the migration season some 500 million birds pass through Israel.

For some species, almost the entire global population moves through the region. Many of these migratory birds are raptors, carrion

(dead flesh) eating birds of prey. In fact, 34 species of raptors migrate over Israel.

Fitting perfectly with this fact about Israel, the Bible says birds will eat the dead flesh of the enemy armies that fall in battle against Israel.

*Ezekiel 39:4 (ESV) ⁴ You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. **I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.***

*Ezekiel 39:17 (ESV) 17 “As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God: Speak to the **birds of every sort** and to all beasts of the field: ‘**Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood.***

*Revelation 19:17–21 (ESV) 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice **he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead**, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 **to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of***

mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, ***and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.***

Euphrates River Dried Up

Though I believe this will happen supernaturally so it is obvious God causes it, it is already possible by human means because the massive Ataturk Dam in Turkey, completed in 1990, can hold back the Euphrates to a trickle. Of course, John the Apostle could never have imagined such a structure when he wrote this:

*Revelation 16:12 (ESV) ¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on **the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up**, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.*

Armies of the East

When this passage in Revelation was written, it would have seemed almost comical or at least greatly exaggerated to describe a 200-million-man army.

“Millions” was an inconceivable number at that time, having nothing physically or conceptually to compare it to. While we throw around “billions” and “trillions” today, the fact is, most people cannot actually grasp even a “million” of something and how big that number really is.

In the last days, the Scripture says Asia (the kings from the east) would be capable of deploying a 200-million-man army. This may have been as much as half the world population at that time.

Today we are approaching 9 billion on the earth and according to the CIA, China alone has 281 million men fit for military service.

Revelation 9:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ **The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.**

Revelation 16:12 (ESV) ¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the **kings from the east.**

Lying Signs & Wonders

Wow, where do you start? Pagan religions and even those professing “Christianity” are full of false miracles and fake signs and wonders today. We have entire movements and TV networks dedicated to it. It’s big business.

It causes confusion, discouragement, and creates a faith based on experience, not truth. It brings mockery and insult to the name of Jesus.

This is only going to increase. Satan knows he cannot get rid of genuine Christianity but hopes to see it lost in a sea of confusion and lies.

*Matthew 7:22–23 (ESV)²² **On that day** many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, **and do many mighty works in your name?**’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

*Matthew 24:24 (ESV) 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and **perform great signs and wonders**, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV) 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan **with all power and false signs and wonders**,*

Lovers of Self

The Bible clearly states the direction that humanity would head as we near the end, and as my grandpappy says, “it ain’t perty.”

Men would be lovers of themselves and unholy.

The current generation, like no other, regards SELF above all. Self-love, self-esteem, self-reliance, and self-gratification are encouraged by the media, schools, psychologists, etc. Self-help therapy has invaded Christianity and, in truth, most sermons are nothing more than “Biblical Self-Help Personal Therapy” lessons that make us feel good and rewarded about going to Church to learn about “our best day now”.

In contrast, Jesus taught self-denial, self-sacrifice, mortification of sin, taking up your cross and giving up your life for Him (but that doesn’t build large successful churches!). Sadly, the message of Jesus would not be welcome in most “growing” affluent western Churches.

2 Timothy 3:1–2 (ESV) ¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² **For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,**

Rebellious Youth

Riots, looting, socialism, revolution, resistance... when you watch the news footage, who do you see primarily? Youth.

As of this writing in December 2020, it is not uncommon to see mobs of 18-30 year olds abusing, shouting profanities and giving “the finger” not only to adults, but the elderly and children as well. Truly despicable.

Many of them are privileged youth with too much time and money on their hands trying to find a way to virtue signal their overflowing self-proclaimed goodness. The other half are youth that have grown up without two parents, structure, discipline, respect, or most importantly, God’s Word. They respect no authority, recognize nothing higher than themselves.

To make it even more dangerous, they are utterly uninformed even about their own “causes” and lack virtually any measure of correct understanding about anything that matters: faith, politics, economics or morality.

This will only get worse as we reject God and near the end.

*2 Timothy 3:2–3 (ESV) ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, **disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,***

*Mark 13:12 (ESV) ¹² And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, **and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.***

Increasing Hedonism

Humanity will become increasingly materialistic and lovers of pleasure. We are pleasure MAD today. No generation in history has had so many means to entertain and arouse the senses. Every imaginable hedonistic pleasure is available and has become big business.

Internet, movies, games, adventures, thrills, excitement, parties, pleasures... the world is completely controlled by the satisfaction of the flesh today in all its forms. Modern

technology and affluence have made that possible for most of the world.

*2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) ¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, **lovers of money**, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, **without self-control**, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

Christian Persecution

A segment of Christianity teaches what is known as “dominion theology,” that the Church would slowly “win the world for Christ” ushering in His 2nd coming. Looking at the world today, you would think they would abandon that unscriptural idea out of embarrassment.

Jesus said Christians would be hated for His Name's sake. Increasingly, in so-called

“free” nations, we are beginning to see open season on Christians (while it has always been happening around the globe, even while the world ignores it). The banning of the Bible, prayer, the Ten Commandments, nativity scenes, Christmas songs, etc., reflects this trend. Consider that more Christians were martyred during the past century than during all previous history.

We now see Christians being criminalized not just for avoiding wickedness they don't agree with, but because they will not actively promote it. Businesses and careers are being ruined by the “cancel culture” because Christians will not subordinate their faith to the culture's ideas of “tolerance” (which amounts to “don't disagree with anything sinful I want to do... in fact, you have to support and promote it”).

*Luke 21:17 (ESV) 17 **You will be hated** by all for my name's sake.*

*Revelation 6:9–11 (ESV) 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those **who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.***

*10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, **who were to be killed as they themselves had been.***

*Revelation 20:4 (ESV) 4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also **I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.***

Alternative Lifestyles Encouraged

Paul lays out clearly in the book of Romans the decline of a society who rejects God. It starts with an increased immorality and rebelliousness followed by a full-blown sexual revolution. That is followed by an

acceptance of what was previously considered perversion; and, finally, the complete moral, mental, and spiritual collapse of that nation.

Is there any doubt that we are seeing this happen today in western culture (following large portions of the world that have already run the course)?

*Luke 17:28–30 (ESV) 28 Likewise, **just as it was in the days of Lot**—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— 30 **so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.***

*Ezekiel 16:49 (ESV) 49 Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had **pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.***

*Jude 7 (ESV) 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in **sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an***

example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

*Romans 1:18–32 (ESV) 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the***

Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. **28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.** 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.**

Prosperity

We have it so good now (prosperous, in need of little or nothing), we don't want to talk about leaving it behind. There are no critical circumstances or suffering making us long for heaven.

We want to experience things first, get married, watch our kids grow up, and get everything out of this life. Christians who suffer in poverty, persecution, and neglect want Jesus to come back every moment of every day.

We don't want the world to dislike us or reject us because we going around announcing "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand!" Growing worldliness, decreasing relevance, and powerlessness in the Church, coupled with increasing evil in our world cultivates scoffers who declare "Where is your Jesus?"

Jesus constantly warns us about how "riches" will draw us away from Him. The Bible says this will become pandemic in the last days. By the way, many will say at this point "I'm not rich!"

The Bible definition of “rich” (which fits historical precedent) is a person who has more than enough for today and tomorrow. Most people throughout history lived “hand to mouth.” They worked a single day to buy essentials and survive that day. Then you would do it all over again the next day.

Even most “poor” today have enough food, clothes, water, and shelter that they aren’t truly worried about surviving tomorrow... they just gripe that they don’t have MORE (I’m speaking of Western culture which is where my experience lies).

*2 Peter 3:3–4 (ESV) 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”*

*James 5:1–3 (ESV) 1 Come now, **you rich**, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and*

*will eat your flesh like fire. **You have laid up treasure in the last days.***

Revelation 3:14-17 The Lukewarm Church

*14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your works, that **you are neither cold nor hot.** I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, ‘**I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—***

Demonic Deception

Most people think of demonic deception as what they see in movies where evil creatures possess people and turn them into monsters. This is a very childish understanding of demonic activity.

Satan comes as an angel of light and is disguised as something good. Like rat poison is a 99.9% harmless food, demonic deception is most often something that appears benign, even beneficial, but contains a deadly poison.

We are being deceived across the board today as we live in an ocean of lies. The world is full of religious lies, political lies, cultural lies, government lies, and academic lies. Satan is the father of lies and it is through lies that we are most often deceived.

As mentioned before, there is another great deception occurring with regards to alien life from other planets. An entire generation has been conditioned to believe that we are on the verge of being contacted by an advanced civilization. This makes humankind primed and ripened for demonic deception as it will now be easy for a person or persons to present themselves as alien visitors complete with apparent superhuman powers, which actually are derived from demonic power.

It is no coincidence that at the same time this generation is being bombarded with messages that we are destroying our world and destroying our planet, we are also having our heads filled with nonstop occult, superhero, and space movies. It is the perfect combination of conditioning to prepare a generation for the demonic deception that an advanced alien civilization will visit us in order to save us from ourselves. It is the perfect scenario for the arrival of the antichrist who is the counterfeit Savior of the world.

*1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV) ¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to **deceitful spirits and teachings of demons**,*

Luke 17:26 (ESV) ²⁶ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

The Great Deception

It is obvious to those with their spiritual eyes unveiled and their Bibles open, there is a great deception occurring across the

board in modern Christianity. The Gospel has largely become a means by which to promote prosperity and self-help therapy.

Churches have not become a place of holiness and equipping the saints, but a social gathering where we can have "experiences." Ear-tickling 20-minute messages that follow 30 to 40 minutes of concert style music are the norm. These messages certainly are successful in growing big churches, which are sadly filled with professing believers who are largely biblically illiterate and, for the most part, cannot defend their faith even in the most basic of terms.

To cover that lack of doctrinal truth, we use words like "tolerance" and "love" to include just about anyone with any religious idea that is dressed up in Biblical terms. This is the great falling away from the truth the apostle Paul and Jesus warned us about.

*2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB) Let no one in any way deceive you, **for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first**, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,*

Religious Harmony

It is not uncommon today to see "interfaith" gatherings where all religions come together in a show of unity, including Protestant Christianity.

On the same stage, at the same event, we will hear prayers and calls for unity from Christians, Mormons, Roman Catholics, Buddhists, Hindus, and even Muslims. The Bible foretells that in the last days before Jesus comes back the world's religions will be united and only those professing faith in Christ alone will be excluded.

*Revelation 13:8 (ESV)⁸ and **all who dwell on earth will worship it**, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

*Revelation 13:12 (ESV)¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and **makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast**, whose mortal wound was healed.*

False Miracles & Superpowers

The culture today is being groomed to accept the presence of supernatural power, signs and wonders, and human acts that seem to prove their divinity.

Decades of cultural conditioning from fantasy movies, superhero franchises, and stories of advanced civilizations in the universe have brought us to a point where most people are ready to accept without question anyone who can demonstrate deceptive and lying signs and wonders. Again, we see prophecy coming into focus right before our eyes.

Matthew 24:23–27 (ESV) ²³ Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ **For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.** ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as

far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Increased Drug Use, Witchcraft, Sorcery, and Occultism

In the Bible, the Greek word for sorcery, witchcraft, and magic is *pharmakeia*. We get our word pharmacy from it with the obvious connection being the use of drugs, which has always been associated with pagan religion and occultism.

Mind-altering drugs open people to demon influence and possession, which are why God has always forbidden those who worship him from having anything to do with witchcraft, sorcery, or drugs.

As of this writing in December 2020, we see our entire western culture becoming more and more a drug culture as alcohol and marijuana are officially legalized. Vast multitudes of our population are medicated by medical professionals in white coats writing legal prescriptions for mind-altering psychotropic drugs.

We often think of "drug use" as the use of illicit and illegal drugs like heroin or LSD. The reality is we are a drug-saturated culture dressed up in the respectability of legalized medicine. Once again, the Bible is true when it said the end times would be marked by epidemic drug use and interest in the occult.

*Revelation 9:21 (ESV) 21 nor did they repent of their murders **or their sorceries or their sexual immorality** or their thefts.*

*Revelation 18:23 (ESV) 23 and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, **and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.***

*Revelation 21:8 (ESV) 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, **sorcerers**, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

Isaiah 47:9–15 (ESV) 9 These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall

come upon you in full measure, **in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments.** ¹⁰ You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." ¹¹ But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing. ¹² **Stand fast in your enchantments and your many sorceries,** with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed; perhaps you may inspire terror. ¹³ You are wearied with your many counsels; let them stand forth and save you, those who divide the heavens, who gaze at the stars, who at the new moons make known what shall come upon you. ¹⁴ Behold, they are like stubble; the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before! ¹⁵ Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have done business with you from your youth; they wander

about, each in his own direction; there is no one to save you.

*Micah 5:10–15 (ESV) ¹⁰ And **in that day**, declares the LORD, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots; ¹¹ and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds; ¹² and I will cut off **sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes;** ¹³ and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands; ¹⁴ and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities. ¹⁵ And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.*

Global Preparation for War

At first glance, you may think the world is not preparing for global war and yet you have to consider the nature and quantity of armament and tools of warfare that exist today.

We have enough nuclear weaponry to destroy human life many times over and it

is no longer controlled by a couple of superpowers in a standoff. Many nations now have nuclear weapons and lack the perspective or self-control not to use them. There is no doubt that only the restraining power of God keeps them from doing so until the time He is ready to use them to fulfill His prophetic Will.

The only surprise at this point is that a nuclear attack or exchange HAS NOT happened yet. Obviously, God is restraining this until the time is right for it to fulfill His plan for humanity.

Beyond nuclear weapons, even the modern weapons of warfare now are terrifying. We have single gunships, aircraft, and Navy vessels that can wreak havoc on humans that was unimaginable a century ago. If you are unfamiliar with modern armament, it would cause your knees to shake to get a glimpse of the kind of firepower we have today.

If that's not enough, now add to it biological weapons. All over the world, governments and terrorist organizations are stockpiling viruses and pathological compounds that

can wipe out entire populations. The world is truly prepared for global destruction just as the Bible said it would be when it was getting close to the end of time.

*Joel 3:9–14 (ESV) ⁹ Proclaim this among the nations: **Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up.** ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “I am a warrior.” ¹¹ Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O Lord. ¹² Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.*

*Matthew 24:22 (ESV) ²² **And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.** But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

*Revelation 16:14 (ESV) 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, **to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.***

Signs in the Sun

Consider excerpts from this article from Newsweek in 2017 (not exactly a Christian publication). Perhaps the sun has always had this kind of activity but it is only now because of our electronics, power grid, and Internet that signs from the sun are noticed and can do great damage.

Massive Sunspots and Solar Flares: The Sun Has Gone Wrong and Scientists Don't Know Why

If you still have your solar viewing glasses from the eclipse, now is a good time to slap them on and look up at the sun. You'll see two big dark areas visible on our star. These massive sunspots are regions of intense and complicated magnetic fields that can produce solar flares—bursts of high-energy radiation. You can just make

them out with solar viewing glasses, but they're better viewed through a solar telescope.

These two huge sunspots are currently causing quite a bit of consternation and interest. The solar storms they've sent toward Earth may affect communications and other technologies like GPS and radio signals. They're causing amazing displays of the northern and southern lights. And space weather scientists like us are excited because we wouldn't normally expect this much activity from the sun at the moment.

So what's going on with the sun? And should we be concerned about this somewhat out-of-character solar behavior?

On September 4, the sun started sputtering. A moderately large flare (classified as an M5.5) erupted at approximately 18:30 Coordinated Universal time (UTC). It produced a coronal mass ejection aimed at Earth.

The sun continued to flare on September 5. A solar energetic particle event from the previous day's activity arrived at the Earth, where it likely affected radio communications as well as the health of satellite systems.

On September 6, the sun produced two massive X-Class flares. This is the category for the strongest of all solar flares. NASA announced one was the most powerful since at least 2008. It produced another coronal mass ejection.

The second and strongest of the two X-class solar flares on September 6 produced a coronal mass ejection directed at Earth.

Over the next day, the same sunspots continued to spit out more solar flares. It took about an hour for the solar energetic particles they emitted to arrive at Earth. These protons are incredibly fast-moving. They can affect communication systems, typically in the polar regions, where they

are more likely to enter into the Earth's atmosphere. As with all increases of radiation in space, they can also affect satellite systems and the health of astronauts.

All this solar activity has already caused a couple of radiation storms in Earth's high latitude regions that blacked out radio communication at certain frequencies. The impacts extended toward the equator and have affected high-frequency communications, including ham radios, which are used in emergency and disaster relief management. Radio fade-out maps from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology show that high-frequency radio communication disruptions have likely occurred in the same areas being pummeled by Hurricane Irma.

There has likely been a loss of global navigation system satellite communications in those same areas, but it will take time for the data to be analyzed and for us to gain a full understanding of how this space weather

activity has affected those on the ground. The radiation storms may also force flights over the polar regions to reroute to avoid increased radiation exposures for people on board, and potential loss of communication and navigation systems for aircraft on these paths.

While scientists and aurora-hunting enthusiasts closely watch the storm's ongoing effects, others will be bracing for problems and disruptions to the many technological services that will be affected.

We don't need to worry about this coronal mass ejection being "the big one"—a solar storm direct hit that could cause widespread power blackouts and trigger as much as \$2 trillion worth of damage, according to a National Academy of Sciences study. But this storm, on the back of this month's abnormally active space weather, may wind up on the larger end of the scale, and will be the subject of lots of analysis and research.

<https://www.newsweek.com/solar-minimum-sun-activity-solar-flare-baffling-scientists-661695>

*Luke 21:25 (ESV) 25 “And there will be **signs in sun and moon and stars**, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,*

False Christs

There are false religions and false cult leaders all over the world who claim to be the reincarnate Jesus Christ. It is not limited to false Christian cults but is found in new age, pagan religion, and Eastern religion, as well as assorted standalone groups whose leader claims to be god, the messiah, or Jesus.

This deception will only grow as we near the end of time while Satan continues his efforts to deceive and confuse people by creating many alternatives to Jesus rather than trying to discredit the real Jesus.

*Matthew 24:5 (ESV) ⁵ For many will come in my name, **saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.***

His Name will Be Great

At the grand finale of human history, God said that His name would be great among the nations. Jesus in Hebrew: *Jehoshuah* – which means “Jehovah saves.”

Two thousand years after Jesus ascended, over two billion people profess to be Christians. Multitudes more regard Jesus as the greatest prophet and teacher ever. As foretold, no other name compares to the fame ascribed to Jesus Christ.

In the Great Tribulation, even while most do not repent, they still acknowledge that it is the Creator God who is pouring out His wrath.

In the Millennial Kingdom for one thousand years, God will personally reign on earth in the form of Jesus the Son. Even then, many will reject God but there will be no doubt on the earth who God is and that He reigns.

*Malachi 1:11 (ESV)¹¹ For from the rising of the sun to its setting **my name will be great among the nations**, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a*

pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

*Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV) 9 Therefore God has **highly exalted him** and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

The Word Preserved

The Bible is not only the best-selling book of all time with not even a close second-place contender, it has withstood the relentless and often dishonest attacks of skeptics for thousands of years and remains unscathed in its veracity and proof of authenticity.

Evil men have tried often to destroy the written scriptures and at times have come close, but God has providentially preserved His Word. As Jesus said, not a single letter has passed away.

Luke 21:33 (ESV) ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Apathy

Apathy is a disinterest, lack of passion, or lack of genuine concern.

Noah preached the coming judgment for 120 years and no one cared. No one considered it and probably grew bored after initially making fun of Noah. No one had any concern or interest in what God had to say or what He was about to do.

*2Peter 3:3–4 (ESV): knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, **all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.**”*

Isn't this the message of today?

Christians have been preaching “repent” and the “coming judgment” for 2,000 years and the only result is the world cares less and less (and sadly, much of the Church seems to care less too).

We have truly returned to the days of Noah. No one thought what Noah was saying would ever happen.

After 100+ years of hearing the same thing, each day was confirmation that things would “go on like they always have.”

No one believes the “Noah’s of our day” either. They are the fringe, the Christians who have taken their faith too far and need to dial it back some.

*Luke 21:34–36 (ESV) ³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest **your hearts be weighed down** with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:2–6 (ESV) ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ **While people are saying, “There is peace and security,”** then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you*

*are all children of light, children of the day.
We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶
**So then let us not sleep, as others do, but
let us keep awake and be sober.***

The Rapture

It's a given and to be expected that the unbelieving world thinks those who claim a Rapture will occur (the instantaneous and invisible snatching away of the church from the earth with millions instantly vanished) are a bunch of apocalyptic fringe lunatic religious nuts. What is a bit surprising and sobering is that a very large segment of Christianity does not believe the Biblical Rapture and often joins the world in mocking those who do.

So just for the sake of consideration, read the following verses from the point of view of those who sincerely believe they speak of the Rapture of the Church. If it is true, someday in the near future, millions of Christians and most likely children and babies will disappear from the earth in an instant.

The world will want an answer for this occurrence and through their grief and confusion will be primed for deception. As things stand today, it would seem the most obvious answer that will be presented will come from a world leader who emerges quickly and seems to have supernatural knowledge and powers, maybe even claiming to be from an advanced civilization, who explains that he had to remove those people from the earth because they were destroying the planet and were intolerant of other people's religious ideas or maybe to stop another pandemic we didn't know was coming.

This may sound like far-out religious conspiracy nut-case talk, but we see this scenario being prepped right before our eyes. In the meantime, Satan and the religious traditions of man will continue to trivialize and turn into a caricature the idea of the Rapture of the church by Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:15–17 (ESV) 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those

who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ **will rise first**. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (ESV) 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.**

A Great Harvest

During the Tribulation, innumerable multitudes from every nation will wake up and turn to the true Jesus of the Bible and be saved. Sadly, even though it will be apparent to all that God is judging the world and pouring out His wrath, most will still reject Him. Regardless, this time of the Great Tribulation will produce the greatest

harvest of souls ever seen, once again showing God's mercy even to those who previously rejected Him.

*2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.***

*Revelation 7:9–17 (ESV) ⁹ After this I looked, and behold, **a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes,** with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these,*

clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, **"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."** ¹⁵

"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Daniel 12:10 (ESV) **10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.**

Zechariah 2:11 (ESV) ¹¹ **And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will**

dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

Middle East Revival

The Bible tells us that many from Egypt to Assyria (Iraq and the Middle East) would call upon the name of the Lord and be saved in the last days.

*Isaiah 19:16–25 (ESV) ¹⁶ **In that day** the **Egyptians** will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the LORD of hosts shakes over them. ¹⁷ And the land of Judah will become a terror to the **Egyptians**. Everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the purpose that the LORD of hosts has purposed against them. ¹⁸ **In that day** there will be five cities in the land of **Egypt** that speak the language of Canaan and **swear allegiance to the LORD of hosts**. One of these will be called the City of Destruction. ¹⁹ **In that day** there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of **Egypt**, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. ²⁰ It will be a sign and a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a*

savior and defender, and deliver them. ²¹ And the LORD will make himself known to the **Egyptians**, and the **Egyptians will know the LORD in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering**, and they will make vows to the LORD and perform them. ²² And the LORD will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the LORD, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them. ²³ **In that day** there will be a highway from **Egypt** to **Assyria**, and **Assyria** will come into **Egypt**, and **Egypt** into **Assyria**, and the **Egyptians** will worship with the **Assyrians**. ²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third with **Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth**, ²⁵ whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

Rejection of Truth

In the last days before Jesus returns, the masses will reject the sound doctrine of the Word of God and follow the doctrines of men that appeal to their own lusts.

Others would confess faith in Christ, but not obey His Word and find themselves being rejected by Christ even while proclaiming all the evidence of their religious works.

*Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV) 21 “**Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.**’*

*2 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV) ³ **For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.***

*Acts 20:29–30 (ESV) 29 **I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men***

speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Increased Idolatry

Idolatry will be pervasive in the time preceding our Lord's return. An idol is anything that competes for the attention due only to our Creator.

Statues, images, charms, false gods, angels, apparitions, as well as possessions, position, pleasure, a person, self, and any created thing can all become idols.

One aspect of idolatry that is growing and infests Churches today is creating "god" in your own image. People say "I won't worship a god who _____ (sends people to Hell, is jealous, doesn't accept all religions, etc.). To create "God" in your own image is the purest form of idolatry.

*Revelation 9:20 (ESV)²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands **nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,***

Revelation 13:12–15 (ESV) ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, **telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.** ¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that **the image of the beast** might even speak and might cause those who would not **worship the image of the beast** to be slain.

Revelation 19:20 (ESV) ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those **who worshiped its image**. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Micah 5:10–15 (ESV) ¹⁰ And **in that day**, declares the Lord, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your

chariots; 11 and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds; 12 and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes; 13 and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands; 14 and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities. 15 And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.

Zechariah 13:1–2 (ESV) 1 “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness. 2 “And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.

Increase in Blasphemy

Blasphemy is speaking profanely about the God who created you. This kind of talk will

grow more and more common as we approach the return of Jesus.

When I was growing up, everyone knew you didn't say "g*d d*****t" - that was "taking the Lord's name in vain." Even people who said "oh my g*d" were immediately corrected with "don't use God's name casually or irreverently."

We have gone from that to the absolutely mind-blowing blasphemy in movies and modern culture using the phrases "oh my f*****g g*d" and "j*sus f*****g chr*st."

I can barely allow myself to even type those phrases blanked out with *****, just to communicate the point. It's hard to imagine that people can say those things but the Bible foretold this would be the case.

*2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, **arrogant, abusive**, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, **unholy**, 3 heartless, unappeasable, **slandorous, without self-control**, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless,*

swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

*Revelation 16:9 (ESV) 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and **they cursed the name of God** who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.*

That is just a taste of Bible prophecy. Even with that short list you can see that exactly what God says will happen “in that day” is happening right before our eyes.

The fact that all past prophecy has been fulfilled to the last detail gives us even more confidence that every single thing God has declared about the future will come to pass.

It is fitting to finish the list of these prophecies with the last portion of the Bible:

*Revelation 22 (ESV) 6 And he said to me, **“These words are trustworthy and true.** And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the*

prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” 7 **“And behold, I am coming soon.** Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

12 **“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.** 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, **“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!** 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Glossary

Abomination of Desolation: When the Antichrist sits down in the rebuilt Jewish Temple and declares himself to be God, the great tribulation of 42 months will then begin (the second half of Tribulation). At the occurrence of this event, the Jews living in Israel are commanded to flee into the wilderness. All tribulation saints will know, from that day on, they must now wait 1260 days before the Lord returns.

Agnostic: Someone not knowing or believing that it is impossible to know, whether God exists.

Amillennialism: The belief that there will be no literal 1000 year reign of Christ. Thus Revelation 20 is taken symbolically, not literally, by adherents of this view. Amillenialists generally believe that Israel has been permanently set aside for all time and that God's current plan of salvation involves only the Church.

Anti Semitism: Is the strong dislike or cruel and unfair treatment of Jewish people.

Antichrist: Often described as the evilest man that will ever live. He will arrive on the world scene and appear to be the world's savior, but everyone on earth will soon learn his real

mission will be one of destruction (1 John 2:18; Rev. 13:1-8).

Apostasy, The: During the end times the Bible predicts a falling away or departure from the faith. Because we have experienced a number of generations where people have rebelled against God, the one that takes place during the tribulation will likely surpass prior apostasies. The Greek word apostasy was originally used to describe a revolt staged by a military commander (2 Thess. 2:3; Matt. 24:11-13).

Armageddon: Armageddon comes from the Hebrew word meaning "the Mount of Megiddo". This ancient fortress is located in northern Israel, across the Plain of Esdraelon from Nazareth. Armageddon will be the gathering place for the final great battle, which bears its name (Rev. 16:16).

Church Age: The church age began on the day of Pentecost and will end at the rapture of the church before the beginning of the tribulation. Many dispensationalists believe the Church is the reason why there is a gap between Daniel's 69th and 70th week (Dan. 9:24-27).

Damascus: The city of Damascus has been around for thousands of years and it never has been destroyed in battle. The Prophet

Isaiah predicted that someday this city would be destroyed.

Isaiah 17:1 "The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap".

Dispensationalism: The view that believes God's dealings with men have proceeded through well defined time periods, in each of which God reveals a particular purpose to be accomplished in that period, to which men respond in faith or unbelief.

Dragon: The dragon is the symbolic name given to represent the devil. Satan is also described as "that old serpent."

Eastern Gate: The Eastern Gate has a very important prophetic role to play. It is the only Gate that is currently blocked. The book of Ezekiel foretold that it would be shut and the only one who will open it will be the "Prince" Jesus.

Eschatology: The study of things that relate to the end times. That which relates to the final events in the history of mankind. A big word to impress your friends with.

False Church: During the first part of the tribulation the Antichrist's rise to power will be aided by a religious system which will include most if not all of the world's major

religions. During the second half of the tribulation the Antichrist will destroy this false church. The book of Revelation describes the false churches as the great whore Rev. 17:1-5.

False Prophet: He will administrate the working of the one world church. The False Prophet's primary mission will be to cause the world to worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:11-14).

Gog and Magog: Most prophetic scholars agree that Gog and Magog were the people that lived in the lands which are now modern Russia. Someday Russia and a horde of Middle East countries will launch a surprise attack against Israel. All but one sixth of the Gog army will be destroyed upon the mountains of Israel (see Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39).

Historicism: Historicism relates the timing of the current church age through the day/year theory. The day/year theory takes numbers such as the 2300 days (Dan 8:14), and 1290 days (Dan. 12:11), and declares them to be years. They also relate the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments to major historical events that have occurred throughout the past 2000 years. For example, the fifth seal (in Rev. chapter 6), may be identified as the martyrdom under Roman Emperor Diocletian (284-304 A.D.). The Pope is commonly looked at as being the Antichrist. Historicism is the view held by the

Mormons, the Seventh day Adventists, and the Jehovah Witnesses.

Jacob's Trouble: Called by Jeremiah as "the time of Jacob's trouble" and by Daniel as "the time of distress such as never before occurred", this event will take place during the 3-1/2 year reign of Antichrist. The time of Jacob's trouble will be a time of great suffering on earth. The suffering will be brought on by the actions of the Antichrist and by the wrath of God being poured out on a sinful world (Jeremiah 30:7).

Judgment, Great White Throne: This judgment is predominately for the unsaved. The dead, small and great, stand before God (Rev. 20:12). It is here where all those who did not accept Jesus Christ and the gift he purchased for them with his death, burial and resurrection will stand before God, who will judge them "according to their works". After the millennium the "dead" will be resurrected to appear at this judgment. It is here where all those that are not found written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15).

Judgment Seat of Christ: The Judgment seat of Christ is often called the BEMA seat (the Greek word translated "judgment seat" in 2 Cor. 5:10). In early times referred to a raised platform where speeches were given, and crowns were awarded to the winners of

athletic contests. The bema of Christ, is not a judgment that determines salvation, but is for Christians only. At this judgment Christ who died to save us will stand to judge us.

The terms of this judgment can be found (in 1 Cor. 3:9-15), indicating that "every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire.

This is where Christians are rewarded for the works they do for Christ while they are in the body (living), after they were saved by Grace. (You must be saved by Christ before "ANY" of your works can be rewarded). Works done and then are made known to man by boasting will not pass the test of fire and will be burned up. You'll receive no awards for them. These good works are those required from a born again Christian which is different than those explained under Works through good living.

Kings of the East: And the 6th angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. I believe the kings of the east will likely be or will largely include the nation of China (see Rev. 16:12).

Lake of Fire: The lake of fire is the final abode for all the lost, the Devil and all of his coworkers.

Everyone that's condemned to this fiery inferno will suffer unrelenting eternal torment (Rev.20:15).

Little Horn: Daniel the prophet described seeing a little horn rising out from among ten other horns. The little horn is clearly another representation of the Antichrist because Daniel's accounting aligns with the apostle John's Revelation 13 description of the Antichrist (Dan 7:7-8); Dan 7:19 and verse 25).

Mark of the Beast: "He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:16-18). The Mark of the Beast will likely be a microchip implant that operates like an ATM or credit card. Remember, everyone who receives the Mark of the Beast will be cast into hell, so don't take the mark!

Millennium: After the tribulation, Jesus Christ will set up an earthly Kingdom where he will rule for one thousand years (Rev. 20:3-4).

Pentecost: The Christian Pentecost celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. In the Jewish religion it is a holy day that comes 50 days after Passover, or (in

the Christian religion), a holy day that is the 7th Sunday after Easter. The Jewish Pentecost celebrates the harvest of the first fruits and the gift of the Torah (the holy book of the Jews), to Moses at Sinai.

Preterism: The belief that nearly all prophetic events have already occurred. The year 70 A.D. is a popular date where Preterists claims that the book of Revelation was fulfilled. Under Preterism you are basically left to just wait for Jesus to return.

Rapture: At an unknown hour and day the Lord Jesus will descent from heaven, while remaining in the air, he will snatch his Bride, the Church, out from among this sinful world. Christ then takes the Church to heaven for the 7 year wedding feast. The earthly reason for the removal of the Church is to make way for the rise of Antichrist and to fulfill Daniel's final 70th week (Matt. 25:13; 1 Thess. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51-54).

Red Heifer: The Bible predicts that the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Ever since the 70 A.D. destruction, one major roadblock barring the reconstruction of the Temple is the fact that the Temple Mount area has been defiled with warfare. In order to cleanse the Tribulation Temple Mount for worship, the Jews will need the ashes of a pure red heifer. Numbers chapter 19 describes how King

Solomon cleansed the first Temple with the ashes of a specially prepared red heifer (Num. 19:2-9).

Replacementism: Replacement theology is the view that Israel, having failed God, has been replaced by the Church around (70 A.D.). The Church is now seen as spiritual Israel and spiritual Jerusalem. This teaching claims that all the promises and blessings, in fact Israel's entire inheritance, now belongs to the Church. However, all is not lost for Israel; it gets to keep all the curses.

Restrainer, The: The presence of the Holy Spirit on earth currently is what restrains the forces of evil. The Holy Spirit resides in the lives of all believers, which is why Christians are called the "salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13).

Rosh Hashanah: The Jewish festival of the civil New Year celebrated on the first and second days of the month Tishri. During this holiday trumpets are blown as a call for repentance. Many Christians look towards Rosh Hashanah as a possible time for the rapture (Num. 10:1-10).

Second Coming: This is the time when Jesus Christ will return, defeat the Antichrist, and set up his 1000 year Kingdom on earth. The second coming is not the Rapture. The Rapture takes place prior to the second coming.

Another important difference between the two is that the Rapture will occur at an unknown time which the second coming will take place 42 months after the Antichrist declares himself to be God (Rev. 13:5; Matt. 25:13).

Shekinah: The visible majesty of the Divine Presence, especially when resting or dwelling between the cherubim on the mercy seat, in the Tabernacle, or in the Temple of Solomon. A term used in the Targums and by the later Jews, and adopted by Christians.

Tribulation: A period of time lasting 7 years, the first 3-1/2 years will be much more peaceful as the Antichrist rises to power. The second 3-1/2 years will bring the greatest suffering in human history as the wrath of God and the Antichrist is poured out on earth (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:21).

Two Witnesses: During the tribulation, two men will prophesy in the streets of Jerusalem. These two witnesses of God will have the power to prevent it from raining on the earth, to call fire down from heaven, to turn bodies of water into blood, and to command a number of other plagues. After they preach for 42 months, the Antichrist will be allowed to kill them. Three and a half days later they will be resurrected and Raptured up to heaven. Some scholars say the two men could either be

Elijah and Enoch; or Moses and Elijah (Rev. 11:3-13; Malachi 4:5-6).

Wrath of God, The: The Wrath of God is poured out on man during the tribulation. The people of earth will come under God's wrath because they refuse to turn from their wicked ways. Those that receive the Antichrist's Mark will not only come under God's Wrath, but will be lost forever (1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 14:9-11).

10 Nation Confederation - Toes; Horns; Kings: Out of the area that once was the Roman Empire, ten leaders will arise. The only purpose these 10 leaders will have, is to give their power to the Antichrist (Dan. 2:41-44; Dan. 7:20; Rev. 17:12; Rev. 17:17).

144,000 Jewish Saints: Before the Antichrist administers his mark, God will send an angel to mark the foreheads of 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes (Jacob's 12 sons). The 144,000 sealed Jews will be commissioned to be witnesses during the tribulation (Rev. 7:2-8).

200 Million Man Army, The: During the latter part of the tribulation an army of 200 million strong, will move into the Middle East, crossing over the dried up Euphrates river. This army, guided by four demonic angels, will kill one third of mankind (Rev. 9:14-16; Rev. 16:12).

70th Week: The final seven years of Gentile domination of the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem; the last week of the 70 weeks of years (490 years), of Daniel's prophecy which will begin after the long interval (Dan 9:27).

21 Facts about the Coming Antichrist

1. He will be an intellectual genius. Dan. 8:23
2. He will be an oratorical genius. Dan. 11:36
3. He will be a political genius. Rev. 17:11–12
4. He will be a commercial genius. Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:16–17
5. He will be a military genius. Rev. 6:2; 13:2
6. He will be a religious genius. 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8
7. He will begin by controlling the Western power block. Rev. 17:12
8. He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel but will break it after three and a half years. Dan. 9:27
9. He will attempt to destroy all of Israel. Rev. 12
10. He will destroy the false religious system so that he may rule unhindered. Rev. 17:16–17
11. He will set himself up as God. Dan. 11:36–37; 2 Thess. 2:4, 11; Rev. 13:5
12. He will briefly rule over all nations. Ps. 2; Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:16
13. He will be utterly crushed by the Lord

Jesus Christ at the Battle of Armageddon.
Rev. 19

14. He will be the first creature thrown into the lake of fire. Rev. 19:20
15. He will be a master of deceit. 2 Thess. 2:10
16. He will profane the temple. Matt. 24:15
17. He will be energized by Satan himself.
Rev. 13:2
18. He will do everything according to his own selfish will. Dan. 11:36
19. He will not regard the God of his fathers.
Dan. 11:37
20. He will not have the desire of women.
Dan. 11:37
21. His god will be the god of power. Dan. 11:38

6 Names for the Coming Antichrist

1. The little horn Dan. 7:8
2. The willful king Dan. 11:36
3. The man of sin 2 Thess. 2:3
4. The son of perdition 2 Thess. 2:3
5. The wicked one 2 Thess. 2:8
6. The beast Rev. 11:7

12 Names for the Coming World Calamity

1. The Day of the Lord Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9;
Ezek. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31;

- 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obad. 15; Zeph. 1:7,
14; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1
Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:10
2. The indignation Isa. 26:20; 34:2
 3. The day of God's vengeance Isa. 34:8; 63:1-6
 4. The time of Jacob's trouble Jer. 30:7
 5. The overspreading of abominations Dan.
9:27
 6. The time of trouble such as never was
Dan. 12:1
 7. The seventieth week Dan. 9:24-27
 8. The time of the end Dan. 12:9
 9. The great day of his wrath Rev. 6:17
 10. The hour of his judgment Rev. 14:7
 11. The end of this world Matt. 13:40, 49
 12. The great Tribulation Matt. 24:21

7 Reasons for the Great Tribulation

1. To harvest the crop that has been
sown throughout the ages by God,
Satan, and mankind Matt. 13
2. To prove the falseness of the devil's claim
Isa. 14:12-15
3. To prepare a great martyred multitude
for heaven Rev. 7:9, 14
4. To prepare a great living multitude for
the Millennium Matt. 25:32-34
5. To punish the Gentiles Rom. 1:18; 2
Thess. 2:11-12; Rev. 19:15
6. To purge Israel Ezek. 20:23, 38; Zech.

13:8-9; Mal. 3:3

7. To prepare the earth itself for the Millennium Rev. 16:20

25 Individuals and Groups Appearing in the Great Tribulation

1. God Rev. 7:9-17; 11:17; 17:3
2. The devil Rev. 12:12
3. Two special witnesses Rev. 11:3
4. The Antichrist 2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9
5. The false prophet Rev. 13:11
6. 144,000 Israelite preachers Rev. 7:4
7. An army of locusts like demons from the bottomless pit Rev. 9:2-3
8. An army of horse and rider demons from the Euphrates River Rev. 9:14-16
9. Three evil spirits Rev. 16:13-14
10. A cruel, power-mad ruler from the north Ezek. 38:1-3
11. An angel with the seal of the living God Rev. 7:2
12. Seven angels with seven trumpets Rev. 8-9, 11
13. An angel with a golden censer Rev. 8:3
14. An angel with a little book and a measuring reed Rev. 10:1-2; 11:1
15. An angel with the everlasting gospel Rev. 14:6
16. An angel with a harvest sickle Rev. 14:14-19

17. Seven angels with seven vials of wrath Rev. 16
18. An angel with a message of doom Rev. 18:1, 21
19. An angel with a strange invitation Rev. 19:17
20. An angel with a key and a great chain Rev. 20:1
21. A persecuted woman (Israel) Rev. 12:1–2
22. A vile and bloody harlot (the false church) Rev. 17:3–5
23. An arrogant queen (the world's political and economic systems) Rev. 18:2, 7
24. A pure, chaste bride (the true Church) Rev. 19:7–8
25. A mighty warrior from heaven Rev. 19:11, 16

The Remaining Events In God's Plan

We are in the Church Age, the Bride of Christ, waiting for the imminent return of the Groom at any moment, a time known only to God the Father.

- Next, the **Rapture**, the snatching up, the catching away of the Bride by the Groom so that “where He is, we may be with him also.”

- Shortly after that, most likely because of the chaos caused by millions of people disappearing, and a deteriorating world political situation, a world ruler will appear with “solutions” and “answers” (possibly even claiming to be from an advanced race from another planet which many people are not prepared to believe).
- This ruler, who the Bible calls “**THE ANTICHRIST**,” will be a false christ, a counterfeit opposed to God but who will make world peace happen, even with Israel.
- **144K Jewish evangelists** will be chosen and set apart to take the Gospel to the whole world.
- 3.5 years later, the World Ruler (AntiChrist) breaks his treaty with Israel, sets himself up to be worshipped as God, and forces all humans to take a mark of allegiance to him or be cast out of society.
- 3.5 years later after Gods wrath has been poured out on the Earth, the World Ruler amasses the world against Israel at the battle of **Armageddon**.

- **Jesus rescues Israel**, and Israel finally repents nationally and accepts Jesus as Messiah.
- There is a judgment of all who remain alive; only those who are saved remain and enter the **Millennial Kingdom**.
- There will be a 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth as the sin curse is rolled back
- At the end of the 1,000 years, **Satan is released**; he and lost humanity try one more war against Jesus and are quickly wiped out,
- The sin-cursed Earth and Heavens are burned up, and the **New Heavens and New Earth** are instantly created. Next is the **Great White Throne Judgment**.
- **Eternity** begins.

Can you define even the most basic definitions of the Christian faith? If not, you should learn these. How can we explain salvation and Christianity to those who ask if we do not even know the basics?

Essential Basic Definitions of Christianity

Repentance - Being truly sorry for sin and turning 180 degrees from it.

Faith - Belief and trust demonstrated by action.

Substitution - Christ dying on the cross in our place instead of us.

Reconciliation - Bringing two opposing parties together via a third party.

Propitiation - Christ satisfying on the cross the holiness of God and His requirement for justice.

Remission - Putting away or carrying away our sins; forgiveness of sin.

Regeneration - Believers receiving a new nature through the second birth.

Redemption - God buying us from the slavery of sin by paying a ransom price.

Imputation - God adding the righteousness of Christ to the believer.

Adoption - Believers are made permanent part of God's family with privileges and inheritance.

Supplication - Prayer—communicating with God.

Justification - God declaring us righteous and our account paid in full.

Sanctification - God setting us apart for growth and service; increasing holiness.

Glorification - The ultimate, eternal, and absolute physical, mental, and spiritual perfection of all believers.

Election - Being chosen by God.

Foreknowledge - God's complete knowledge of everything that ever has or will happen.

Predestination - God's eternal plan whereby all sinners are saved and conformed to the image of Christ.

How You Can Be Saved

*The Gospel ("Good News")
of Jesus Christ*

Every person needs to have a right relationship with the God who created us. Perhaps in your own heart you have tried to explain away spiritual things, convincing yourself it is all superstition or fairy tales, but the questions just will not go away. Do you know why they will not go away? Because God created in every person the need and desire to know the answers... this need is evidence that God exists, and is reaching out to you. **You need to be "saved."**

Perhaps you do not understand that religious phrase. To be "saved" means to be rescued from some impending harm. You cannot really desire to be saved unless you are convinced there is something that you need to be saved from. What do we need to be saved from?

The nutshell is this: **you are a sinner.** The God who created you does not tolerate sin.

Like a righteous human judge doing his duty, pronouncing punishment and penalty on wrongdoing, the Judge of the Universe – God – must pronounce eternal judgment on all those who have violated His perfect Law. That is the bad news. The good news is that God also has provided a way for us to be forgiven for those violations (sin).

- But I'm a good person, you might say.
- Are you really? Is it fair to call you a "sinner"? Most people would answer: "no, I'm a good person." Let's put that to the test.
- Have you ever lied? Ever, even once? How many lies does it take to be a liar? One. You are a liar. So am I.
- Have you ever stolen, cheated on your taxes, been lazy at work? You are a thief. So I am. So is just about everybody.
- Have you ever lusted, even once? Ever take God's name in vain ("g*d*m**t) or used His name casually as an expletive ("oh my god")? Ever hated someone?
- Those sins make you an adulterer (Jesus said lust is equal to adultery in your heart), a blasphemer (using God's holy name without proper reverence), and murderer (Jesus said to hate your

brother is the same as wanting to kill him).

See what I mean. We are not “good.” You (and every other person) are a lying, stealing, blaspheming, murdering, adulterer (and that is just a start. We are not even halfway through the 10 Commandments).

You are a sinner. I am a sinner. We ALL are sinners. We **all** have a very real need for forgiveness by God. That’s what “being saved” means. We need to be saved from God’s righteous pronouncement of “GUILTY!” and His just sentence of “DEATH” for our sin. Just like a good human judge will pronounce “guilty!” and a penalty on someone who has broken the law, God (The Perfect Judge) will do the same. Makes sense, right? God mercifully provided a way for us to be saved. You cannot earn it, you cannot be good enough to merit it. You cannot demand it or obligate God to give it. It is a free gift given by God’s love even though we do not deserve it. Our salvation is unattainable except that God chose in eternity past to provide it. Here are seven truths to help you find true Christian faith for yourself, based upon what God says in His Word – the Bible:

- **God Loves You:** ...God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- **You Are in Trouble:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” — “You [God] are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with You the wicked cannot dwell.
- **Sin Brings Disaster:** The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **God Has Provided the Answer – a Savior:** God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Repent* of Your Sin and Turn To the Savior, Jesus Christ:** Turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus — To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. **To repent means to “turn away from.” It means to be sorry for your sin and truly not want to do it anymore.*
- **Believing in Jesus and Receiving Salvation by Faith*:** This is what the Bible says – God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son, Jesus. He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does

not have the Son of God does not have eternal life — If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Have faith* Jesus will you.

- **Now Is the Time to Receive Him and Respond in Obedience:** Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. — Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Obedience is the evidence of **true** repentance, faith, and belief. We must respond to God’s gift of salvation **ON HIS TERMS** by obeying what He commands.
- Confess that you are a sinner publicly. Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the **ONLY** way to salvation. Be baptized – which symbolizes your old life of sin and defiance being put to death in a grave of water, and a new Godly person being born to a new life of righteousness and good.
- Find a group of Believers with whom you can serve, pray, and worship the God of the Universe. Read your Bible. Love others. Obey God. Obedience is the **EVIDENCE** of **GENUINE** salvation.

***What is Faith?**

You hear the word “faith” a lot in Christian conversation. Often it is used to simply mean “trust”, such as “trust God” (ie. have faith that God will care for you). But what is “faith” when it comes to being saved? Faith is putting your trust in Jesus to save you just like you put your trust in a parachute to save you when you jump out of plain. You believe the parachute exists, you believe in what it does. But you only have FAITH in the parachute when you are actually willing to put it on... and jump. We put on Jesus by faith and jump into eternity trusting He can save us from judgment and eternal punishment.

Other considerations:

- Do you know what “praying” is? It just means to talk to God. If you have finally realized you are a sinner and need to be saved, talk to God and ask Him to forgive you. Tell Him you believe Jesus died to pay for your sins, and you want to stop sinning. Thank God for this.
- Now go and find some other Christians who are serious about their faith in God and who believe the Bible. Ask them to

show you what God would have you do next. The Bible says we authenticate our salvation by our obedience – doing what God says. Other mature Christians can show you what God would have you do now, such as being baptized and meeting with other Christians regularly.

- Your decision of what relationship you want with God is the most important decision you will ever make in your life. If you have questions, or need help finding Christians in your area who can talk to you further, do not hesitate to email me: brent@brentriggs.com.
- Look up these Bible verses where God says many of the things I've written above: John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Psalm 5:4, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Acts 20:21, John 1:12, I John 5:11-12, Hebrews 3:7-8, Romans 10:9; Acts 2.38. I have adopted my salvation explanation from things I've read over time. Any similarity is not meant as plagiarism but rather just a choice to communicate this important truth in the best way possible. I have lost track of what part of this came from where, or what is my own.

I Believe

- I believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant word of God and is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (II Tim 3:16-17)
- I believe that there is one true God (Dt 6:4), eternally existing in three persons...The Father (Jn 4:24), Son (Jn 1:1,14), and Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3,4)
- I believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin (Isa 7:14), that He is God incarnate, (Jn 1:1,14), and that He came to earth for the express purpose of paying the penalty for our sins (Jn 1:29), making for Himself His very own people. (Titus 2:14)
- I believe that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and raised from the grave (I Cor 15:3,4); was exalted to God's right hand (Eph 1:20); and there is no other name under heaven by which man can be saved (Acts 4.12)
- I believe that all men without Christ are sinners, guilty before God, and are under His condemnation. (Rom 3:23; 6:23)
- *I believe that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who respond in genuine obedient faith, are supernaturally born again (John 3:3,7; 1 Pet. 1:3,23; Titus

3.5), sealed by God and given the Holy Spirit as a guarantee (2Cor 1:22), adopted as children of God (Jn 1:12), and eternally saved. (Jn 6:47)

- I believe that all who come to believe in Christ, being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:47-48), are commanded to be baptized (Matt 28:19; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16, Gal 3:27); to observe the Lord's Supper until His return (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26); and are to be a part of a local assembly of Believers (ie, a home or community meeting on the Lord's Day of fellow Christians for worship, service and fellowship). (Heb 10:25; The Book of Ephesians)
- I believe in the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ for His church. (1 Thess 4:16,17)
- I believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting bliss of the saved in heaven, (Phil 3:20) and the everlasting punishment of the lost in hell. (Rev 20:15)
- I believe that the sick may request to be anointed with oil by the Elders of the Church as they pray the "prayer of faith" and the Lord can save the sick and raise them up from both physical and/or spiritual sickness as God chooses

according to His will and pleasure which He may or may not reveal to us. (James 5:14-15)

- I believe that every believer is endowed with spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. (I Cor 12:4,11)
- I believe that all believers are called to live a life of holiness apart from all worldliness and sinful practice. (Rom 12:1,2)

* I believe that salvation is God's merciful gift (we don't deserve it) and possible only by faith** (belief + trust + response) in Jesus Christ alone (and no other) – Ephesians 4: 2-4, 8 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ** FAITH is a combination of belief + trust + response.

Belief that Jesus is the Son of God, that was He born a real man, human in every way except the sinful nature; that He lived sin-free life (unlike us Romans 3:23), that He freely gave His life on the Cross and paid my

penalty for my sin. It is the belief that Jesus died on the Cross but three days later rose from the dead defeating the power of death. It is belief that I am a sinner who is justly and eternally condemned for violating God's holy standards.

Faith is **trusting** that Jesus Christ alone can atone (satisfy God's requirement for justice) for my sins (and is willing to) and save me from an eternity in Hell that I deserve... and faith is **responding** in humble obedience (God is right, I am wrong) by confessing my sins, repenting (turning away from sin), and "putting on" Jesus Christ (like a person would believe and trust and put on a parachute to save himself from burning airplane that was going down).

I believe that an obedient response to God's gift of salvation and the resulting transformed life (from a lover of sin to a lover of righteousness and God) is the evidence and authentication of true salvation in a person's life.

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