

Are There Prophetic Signs in the Bible about the End-Times?

There are a variety of verses in the Bible that point to the end of the age as Christians currently believes it will occur. However, it needs to be made very clear from the start of this study that based on, Matthew 24: 36, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." But if you continue to read in Matthew 24: 37-51 you will find Christ telling his disciples that the key to this issue is to be ready at all times for his return and again in Matthew chapter 25 the issue of watching and being ready are again discussed. This same discussion between Jesus and his disciples is also recorded in Mark chapter 13, however, in Matt. 13:37 Jesus clarifies that his words are for all men, "What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!" And again it is recorded in Luke 21: 5-36. The point is no one knows the day or the hour. However, if you go back the beginning of Matthew chapter 24 it starts with Jesus disciples asking him, "...what will be the signs of your coming and the end of the age?" Matt. 24:3. Jesus then gave them six signs that would indicate his second coming, which are discussed below.

Note: we will use the Matthew recording of this conversation between Jesus and his disciples for our examples but it needs to be understood that Mark and Luke also could be used as examples.

Eight Signs Given by Jesus to Indicate His Second Coming and the End of the Age

FIRST SIGN → False Prophets and False Christ

Jesus in Matt. 24:4-5 tells his disciples the following, "Jesus answered: Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ', and will deceive many."

Again in Matt. 24:11, "...and many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many."

These verses could describe any number of groups ranging from small groups like Jim Jones and David Koresh to large groups like Mormons and even extremely large groups like Islam. There are also groups like New Age Groups and Humanism Groups that treat their view of life/philosophy as a religion.

Note: All of these groups use some sort of governmental structure to implement their agenda or will.

SECOND SIGN → Wars and Rumors of Wars

Jesus in Matt. 24: 6-7 tells his disciples the following, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nations will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."

There have been more people killed in the last century than in any other century in history with the exception of the Days of Noah, as the numbers killed in that day are unknown but we do know for sure there were only eight people left the day after the flood. Some of the primary reasons why so many people have been killed in this century are listed below:

- 1) There are more people alive today therefore more people are available to be killed in war.
- 2) The weapons developed in the last century have the potential of killing large masses of people with a single weapon and these weapons can be launched from long distances from their target.
- 3) The world in general is more affluent today and has more money/resources to spend on war.
- 4) The new threat of terrorism, which can bring individuals together across national boundaries, therefore, makes identification of such a group very hard to identify and locate.
- 5) The discovery of the Internet. This one tool has dramatically increased man's ability to wage war.

- 6) Man's knowledge is increasing at an increasing rate, to the point of even doubling every two years in some areas. However, his sin nature has not improved – ANY, NONE, NOT ONE INCH-since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

Note: as of January 2012 there were 31 wars going on throughout the world and it would seem that more are starting every day. During the 20th century there were 164 wars and approximately 180,000,000 people were killed in these wars. This does not include the after war casualties because of famines, pestilence, or other related causes.

THIRD SIGN → Famines

Jesus in Matthew 24:7 tells his disciples that, "...in various places there will be famines..." and Jesus words, in Mark and Luke to his disciples were the same basic story. However, in Luke 21:11, who was a more detailed writer wrote, "Famines and pestilence". Given these words are preceded by the description of wars and rumors of wars, it would be reasonable to conclude based on the history of war that famine and pestilence are in many cases the results of war. Therefore, given "wars" was Jesus number two sign pointing to his second coming and the end of the age it would seem reasonable to assume that "famine and pestilence" would follow close behind. Listed below are some of the most probable reasons for "famine and pestilence".

- 1) War
- 2) Changes in climate, some do to natural causes and some do to God's intervention in to history to adjust for man's sin. The flood would be a good example. Also, "earthquake" follows famine and pestilence in Jesus' list of signs.
- 3) Food crops being converted to fuel, like corn to ethanol.
- 4) Land previously used to grow food crops now used to grow "drug" crops.

- 5) Inflation to the point where some ones salary will no longer feed their family. See Rev. 6:6, "Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying. 'A quart of wheat for a day's wage, and three quarts of barley for a day's wage, and do not damage the oil and the wine'". The last part of this quote means the rich will not be affected.
- 6) Data points about famines,
- a) 70 million people died from famine in the 20th century
 - b) There were 30 major famines in the 20 century
 - c) 925,000,000 people throughout the world go to bed hungry every day
 - d) 5,000,000 children die every year from a lack of food based on 2010 numbers
 - e) The world population is estimated to be 9,150,000,000 by the year 2050 which is about a 30% increase in population, however, the food supply is not estimated to grow at anywhere near that rate
- 7) There are 13 Famines listed in the Bible; Gen.12:10, Gen.26:1, Gen.41:54, Ruth 1:1, 2 Sam. 21:1, 1 Kings 18:2, 2 Kings 4:38, 2 Kings 7:4, 2 Kings 25:3, Neh. 5:3, Jer. 14:1, Luke 15:14, Acts 11:28.
- 8) A good example of the type of famine and pestilence Jesus was talking about would be, "The Great Famine of Europe", 1315-1317. This is the point in history just prior to the beginning of the Reformation. Could this be God sending people a message? The famine was triggered by a weather shift. From the 5th to the 12th century the population of the earth had been growing at a constant rate, however, late in the 12th century the climate cooled and became very wet causing the growing seasons to be wetter, making planting much more difficult. It also shortened the growing seasons which cut down on the crop yields. Up until this point in history there had always been an adequate amount of grain to eat and the remaining portion would be "seed stock" for the next year. During the years leading up to the major famine years they began to eat more and more of the grain, therefore, not leaving an adequate amount for re-seeding for the next year. In the year 1314AD,

after the people were fed, there was almost no grain left for re-seeding resulting in "The Great Famine" of 1313-1317. By 1317AD, 10-15% of the European population had died from starvation and much of the remaining population had been weakened to the point of sickness. (The effect of sickness/pestilence will be talked about below.)

FOURTH SIGN → Pestilence and Plagues

There are a variety of places recorded in the Bible where God used Pestilence, Plagues or Sickness to either discipline people for their actions or discipline people in an effort to get their attention to stop sinning. A quick review reveals that scripture records the use of Pestilence, Plague or Sickness at least 54 times, plus all of the references in Exodus Chapters 7-11 talking about the plagues in Egypt.

- a) Exodus 5:3, also chapters 7-11, Lev. 26:25, Num.14:12, Deut. 28:21, 32:24, 2Sam.24:13, 15, 1 Kings 8:37, 1 Chron. 21: 12, 14, 2 Chron. 6: 28, 7:13, 20:9, Job 27:15, Psalms 78:50, 91:3, 6, Jer. 14:12,18:21, 21:6,7,9, 24:10,27:8,13, 28:8, 29:17,18, 32:24, 36, 34:17, 38:2, 42:17, 22, 44:13
- b) Now the rest of the story from the Famines section above (number 8). Because of "The Great Famine of Europe" in 1315-1317 which killed 10-15 % of the population the remaining population was left in a much weakened condition. This weakened condition then opened the door for the Black Death Plague that followed which killed about 30% of the remaining population. Remember pestilence and plague normally follow war.
- c) Many Bible teachers today believe that the Aids epidemic is God's response to the increase in homosexual activity in the world. If you re-read Romans 1:27 "...Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." Based on the above scripture it does sound like a very compelling point of view.
 - ➔ Homosexuality is growing at an increasing rate worldwide with Europe, America and Sub-Saharan Africa growing at the highest rates in the world today. This increase started in the 19th century.
 - 1) Europe homosexuals, 1990= 2.8% of the population, 2000= 9.8%

- 2) America homosexuals, early 1990's est. at less than .1 %, today at 2-3% and growing.
 - 3) Africa homosexuals, the data would indicate that the homosexual lifestyle has been part of their culture for some time. Reliable data does not seem possible; it estimated that 1.2million died in 2010 and 15 million total of the est. 30 million that have died worldwide since the issue with aids became public.
- ➔ The Aids epidemic has increased dramatically in the last half of the 1900's. Data indicates 52 % of people who have aids are homosexual and 64% of people who have had Aids use illicit drugs.
 - ➔ It takes approximately \$300,000 + to care for each person with Aids, this cost is over and above the normal cost for a heterosexual person.
 - ➔ Homosexuals make up only 1-3 % of the population.
 - ➔ About 50% of all women on death row are homosexual.
 - ➔ About 33% of homosexuals admit having sex with minors.
 - ➔ The median age of death of homosexuals is 42 compared to heterosexual men at 75 and heterosexual women at 79.

It would seem clear that the rise in the type of behavior God has indicated is perverted (homosexual and drugs) will draw his judgment (Aids) every time.

FIFTH SIGN ➔ Earthquakes

Again Matthew and Mark both limit their description of what will happen to the single word, "earthquake". Whereas Luke expands his description as follows, "There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven." Luke 21:11 There are a variety of ways to evaluate this sign, listed below is what seems to be one of the best. These numbers were published by the United States

Geological Survey, with 38 year increments and only recording earthquakes over 7.0 on the Richter scale.

- a) 1863-1900 = 12 earthquakes over 7.0
- b) 1901- 1938 = 53 earthquakes over 7.0
- c) 1939- 1976 = 71 earthquakes over 7.0
- d) 1977 – March 2011 = 164 earthquakes over 7.0

Note: between the years of 1997-2007 there were 99 earthquakes over 7.0

Based on these numbers it would seem that 7.0 earthquakes are on the increase.

SIXTH SIGN → Tribulations

The three gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell the same story but use very different words.

Matt. 24:9, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me." However, Matthew goes on to say that many other things will be happening to Christians during this same time period. They are as follows, "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Matt. 24:10-13 This will certainly be a very difficult time for many "Christian" to remain faithful as can be seen from the words of Matt. 24:10-13. However, it seems clear why God would allow his "saints" to be put through this tribulation/persecution period. Mark 13:9 "...On account of me you will stand before governors and kings AS WITNESSES TO THEM." Luke 21:13, "This will result in you being witnesses to them." It seems God will open the door for Christians to witness to unbelievers every time.

Today the United States is one of the few, if not the last country in the world, where Christians still enjoy the freedom to worship as they please. However, currently in the United States the tide of public opinion is turning to that of hatred, ridicule and even discrimination against Christians in our

schools, the work place and the government against. The question is how could this be happening given this country was founded on Christian beliefs. The simple answer is that God made Christianity to be the salt and light of the world and in doing so, convicts sinners of their sin. Just as Jesus said in Matt. 24:9, "... and you will be hated by all nations because of me." However, Jesus always leaves his saints with hope, Matt. 24:13, "But he who stands to the end will be saved."

Conclusion, God is willing to put his saints through intense tribulations and persecutions to try and make a final effort/ plea to the unsaved world, to repent and be saved before it is too late, because at this point the end will "REALLY" be near. During this time period Christians should expect no less given what God did to his own son so that men could be saved. John 3:16, "For 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."

SEVENTH SIGN→ The Gospel Will be Preached Throughout the World

The Gospels of both Matthew and Mark record this very important sign that the end is near; however; Luke for some reason omitted this point. Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." And again in Mark 13:10, "And the gospel must first be preached to all nations." Most people today agree that this sign has been completed for the most part. There are a variety of steps that have been required to complete this sign. Some of the notable are listed below.

- a) The Protestant Reformation in the early 1500's AD. This one step opened men's minds to inquire about the true meaning of God's written word, of which the great commission is a very big part.
- b) The printing press, which made God's written word available to all men.
- c) The discovery of America, which allowed men from all over the world to move there and study God's word and worship freely.
- d) The great mission's movement in America occurring between 1850 and 1950. Missionaries were sent out to every nation and people group throughout the entire world.

- e) The invention of the radio and then television which allowed men to communicate to all parts of the world and never leave their home or office.
- f) Last is the invention of the computer and the internet, which allowed men to translate every language into print very quickly and communicate with every human on this planet on a personal level.

EIGHTH SIGN → It Will be a Time of Un-Natural Relationships

Since the beginning of time God has provided man with a natural desire to love other humans. This best example of this would be the love within the family, mothers and children, husbands and wives, fathers and children, and then the extended family, grandparents, aunts and uncles and so on. Then there are the natural relationships that develop between friends. It would appear that most if not all of these feelings/love will be gone during this time period. For sure it will be gone in the unsaved world and it even sounds like some Christians will give way to this hardening of the heart. Matt.24:13, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold." The Gospel of Mark has a little more detail description of how, "the love of most will grow cold" will be carried out in everyday life. Mark 13: 12-13, "Brother will betray brother to death, and father hid child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death." These descriptions do not sound like a normal day in my family when I was growing up. However, in today's world it would seem we may be a lot closer to this world described in Matthew and Mark. Also, see, Romans 1:18-32

The Apostle Paul offers two very striking attributes or characteristics of the people living during the end time period.

1) Godlessness in the Last Days

This characteristic is similar to the one listed in number 7 above but takes it to a new level.

2 Tim. 3:1-5, 7, “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying the power. Have nothing to do with them.” “...always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”

Paul in Romans chapter 1, starting in verse 18 explains how God will react to a godless society. “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is

forever praised .Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lust. Even their women exchanged natural relationships for unnatural ones. In the same way men abandoned natural relationships with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." Romans 1:18-32

This passage in Romans seems to be able to capture a mental picture, for most people, what the world will be like during the period just prior to the Second Coming of Christ. Once you think about what these words in Romans really say it becomes very clear why Jesus when discussing the times and events leading up to his second coming says this, "If those days had not been cut short no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short." Matt. 24: 22

Just a reminder: Matt. 24:22 seem to be talking about conditions that are occurring within the seven year Tribulation period. Our point of reference would be Matt. 24: 15, which is the midpoint of the Tribulations as referenced in Daniel 9:27. However, remember this condition of man's heart/sin is a process which is growing over time until Christ comes to put an end to open sin.

Therefore, many of these same conditions would exist during the time period leading up to the seven year Tribulations.

2) Apostasy (Falling Away from the Faith)

The Apostle Paul is very clear in his statement in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."

In these three verses Paul list four specific characteristics of men during this period of time.

1) "...some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons"

→ Many churches today teach an ecumenical doctrine, a universal church, unity among churches regardless of their beliefs.

→ Many churches embrace the New Age interfaith agenda.

→ Many churches/ministers have embraced a politically/socially correct doctrine.

→ Many churches teach that the Bible is not the inspired word of God and are just nice stories written a long time ago and cannot be a relevant part of their life and society today.

→ Many churches teach and believe that the blood of Christ is only one of many ways to get to heaven.

2) "...such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."

→ Many churches permit and even embrace homosexuality among its Ministers/leaders.

→ Many churches condone and even embrace divorce as long as the individuals are "happy".

→ Many churches teach tolerance and compromise in place of God's word/truth.

→ Many churches teach a social doctrine focused on making people feel good, not repentance and salvation.

3) "They forbid people to marry"

- Many churches accept if not encourage people living together outside of marriage.
 - Many churches accept alternative lifestyles, unacceptable to God's teachings.
 - Many churches do not treat marriage as a holy union created before and by God.
- 4) "...and abstain from certain foods, which God has created to be received with Thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."
- Many churches through the leadership within their domination have allowed the New Age and environmental movements lure their members into replacing God's truths with that of worshiping mother earth.
 - Many churches and their members teach that eating meat is a sin even though Gods word says it is okay for men to eat.

Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-5,7 predicts that there will be a great falling away from the faith during the days leading up to the Second Coming of Christ and based on the above analysis of the church it would appear we could be nearing that point in history. However, based on Global Christian Research it would appear that the Christian church is growing at a rate at least equal to or greater than the world population.

→ In 1010 the world population was 1.8 billion and Christianity was 600 million or another way of stating it would be 33% of the world was Christian.

→ In 2010 the world population was 6.9 billion and Christianity was 2.18 billion or 31.6% of the world is Christian.

Therefore, based on these numbers it would appear that Christianity and the church is about keeping pace with the population growth in the world. Based on these two data points, 1) what churches are really teaching and 2) the world growth rate, it would seem that the church is falling into the position or state that Christ talked about in Rev. 3:14-22 talks about, the lukewarm church—The Church of Laodicea.

Bible Prophecies that must be fulfilled for the end of the age to Occur

The Bible contains many prophecies which would need to be fulfilled for the Second Coming of Christ to happen. Most of these will be actual events so when they happen you will be able to say, that was the fulfillment of a specific prophecy. However, there will be other prophecies fulfilled that may not be as easy to see as specific events. An example of that would be “an increase in knowledge” or “a falling away of the faithful”. These types of events may go undetected by most people, for a long time, if they do not keep their “awareness senses” open to the world around them.

Listed below are some of the more dramatic or colorful events which will take place or be able to take place for the “Second Coming of Christ” to occur.

1) The Lost nation of Israel Will return to Their Homeland of Israel and Accept Jesus as their Messiah

This will be a two-step process:

Step 1→ Requires the Jewish people to return to their homeland and become the nation of Israel.

Step 2→ Requires the Jewish nation of Israel to accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

a) Prophecy→ Ezekiel 36:8-12, “But you O mountain of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and ruins rebuilt. I will increase the number of men and animals upon you, and they will be fruitful. And become numerous. I will settle people on you

as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I will cause people, my people Israel, to walk upon you. They will possess you and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children.”

Prophecy→ Amos 9:14-15, “I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them, says the Lord your God.”

Note: there are numerous other places in the Bible that specifically state that God will restore Israel to their home land as originally decreed by God to Abraham. See Jer.23:6, 30:3; Deut.4:27-31; Isa.11:11-12; Amos 9:11; Ezek. 36:24, 33-35; Isa. 43: 5-6 and Zechariah Chapter 14 is a very good description of this event, plus there are many more.

- b) Fulfillment→ On May 14, 1948 the nation of Israel once again came in to existence. However, the physical return of the Jews to their homeland, Israel, is only the first part of this prophecy. The second part will be when they acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God. One of the best places to understand this is Jeremiah Chapters 30 and 31, which will be detailed when this is discussed in class. A summary of what this two chapters is as follows; “In the days to come you will understand this. At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they will be my people.” Jer.30:24b-31:1. In class we will discuss other scripture talking about this same issue. Also, read Zechariah chapter 12, focus on 12: 10, “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve for him as one grieves for a first born son.”

Therefore, we need to always keep in mind that Israel returning to their homeland is only the first part of this prophecy and as a matter of fact, it is the less important of the two parts of this prophecy. Just keep in mind

that the physical return must take place before the spiritual return can take place.

Conclusion: part one of the two part prophecy has taken place and based on scripture it would appear that part two will take place in the latter portion of the Tribulations. See Zechariah Chapter 14.

Note: Remember this land was given to the decedents of Abraham forever. Gen.13:15, "All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever."

Note: Today many Christian/religious leaders believe the Jewish people lost their claim to the land defined in the scripture as Israel because of their great sin- their rejection and death of Jesus Christ. These people are in error for the following reasons:

- a) The land defined as Israel is God's land and was given to the seed of Abraham.
- b) Jerusalem which is the center and capital of Israel is "God's Holy City" and God has not changed his position on his claim.
- c) God never revised his decree that Israel belongs to the Jews, "seed of Abraham". What God did was remove the Jews from the land as judgment for their sins. However, he did not remove or resend their right to claim to the land known as Israel.

2) Once Again Jerusalem will be the Capital of a Jewish Israel Until Christ returns

- a) Prophecy→ Zech. 8:2-3, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I am jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her. This is what the Lord says: I will return to Zion and will dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called The City of Truth, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called The Holy Mountain." Zech. 8:7-8, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God." Also

verse 15, "...so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah."

- b) Fulfillment→ In June, 1967, during the Six Day War, Israel captured the entire city of Jerusalem and it was reunited under Jewish rule.

Conclusion: it is a fact that as of June 1967 Jerusalem was reunited under Jewish rule. However, the story about Jerusalem in the end times is not yet complete. There are a variety of other prophecies about this city during the end time's events. Luke in his gospel tells us that, "Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled." This city has been a problem for most if not all of the nations of the world since it became the City of the Lord. The Romans completely destroyed it in 70AD; Islam has tried to make it one of their holy cities to cover up its Jewish roots; the Crusades were fought over it and now the Arab/Palestinian people are trying to force the Jewish people out of Jerusalem and now America and its leaders are trying to push the government of Israel into giving up some parts of the city of Jerusalem and portions of the land which now are part of the state of Israel. As a matter of fact this same situation is still in play during the Tribulations. Rev. 11: 1-2, "I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, Go measure the temple of God and the alter, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the Holy City for 42 months." However, Christians should not concern themselves about these events as God tells us about these events which will culminate in the final battle for the earth and the souls of men. Zech. 12:2-3, "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding people reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injury themselves."

There are two very important issues which Christians in general and especially American Christians need to be aware of as it relates to the issue of Jerusalem:

→The issue of who controls the city of Jerusalem and the issue that Israel in general has a right to exist will never be put to rest until Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation and takes physical control.

→Currently the American government and its leader are pushing the leaders of Israel to give up parts of the current land within the State of Israel. If America persists with this type of pressure on Israel God will bring judgment on America. God's Holy word as written in the Bible states, "The Lord had said to Abram, Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all people on earth will be blessed through you." Gen. 12:1-3; this is a very specific statement about what will happen to those who help or hurt God's people, Israel. Then, the Bible in Joel 3: 1-3 specifically states that God will judge those who "divide up his land", Joel 3; 1-3, "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and will bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided my land."

SUMMARY

Israel and Jerusalem have been and will continue to be a lightning rod for world events. However, the Bible is very specific about what will happen to both Israel and Jerusalem from the time of Christ until the end of the physical world as we know it today.

Step 1 → Israel will be dispersed among the nations and Jerusalem will be destroyed in 70AD by Rome. Matt. 24:1-2

Step 2 → The prophecy that Israel and Jerusalem would once again be under Jewish control has now become a historical fact. Israel and

Jerusalem became a nation on May 14, 1948 and Jerusalem was reunited under Israeli rule in June 1967. Ezek. 36:8-12 & Amos 9:14-15

Step 3 → Future prophecy, the Tribulations will begin and Israel will sign a seven year treaty with the Antichrist. In the middle of the seven years the Antichrist will break the treaty and set himself up in the rebuilt temple as God. From this mid-point until the return of Christ (at the end of the seven year Tribulation) Israel, Jerusalem and all Jewish people will be running for their lives. Daniel 7:15-28 & 9:24-27

Step 4 → Christ will return and reclaim his land, Israel and his Holy city Jerusalem, which will become the center of the world for the next 1000 years. Rev. 20; 1-6 also see Zechariah chapter 14

Step 5 → Next God will destroy the old Heaven and earth and create a new Heaven and earth with the center point being a New Jerusalem Rev. 21.

3) Russian Jews Will Return to Israel in Larger Numbers

a) Prophecy → Jer. 23: 7-8, "So then, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when people will no longer say, As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt, but they will say, As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them. Then they will live in their own land."

b) Fulfillment → Russian Jews began the process of immigrating to Palestine in the early 1900's, however, the numbers were very small and the hardships were great.

The next wave was between 1948 and 1989. The numbers were somewhat larger but still small, about 10,000 to 40,000, in comparison to the numbers remaining in Russia, which was over 1 million.

As of 2011 there were 900,000 Russian Jews in Israel, which is about 15% of the population. This number continues to grow but at a decreasing rate. Today there are some Russian Jews moving out of Israel to Germany and the United States because life is very hard for a Russian Jew in Israel today. The primary reason for this is that second and third

generation Jews in Israel today seem to be very affluent and Russian Jews are for the most part very poor.

There are still approximately 1,000,000 Jews left in Russia today.

Conclusion: the process of Jews returning from the “land of the North” has begun but is still not complete. The time required to complete this process is known only by God.

4) Ethiopian Jews will Return to Israel

a) Prophecy → Zephaniah 3: 10-11, “From beyond the rivers of Cush (upper Nile region) my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings. On that day you will not be put to shame for all the wrong you have done to me, because I will remove from this city those who rejoice in their pride. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill.”

b) Fulfillment → in 1984 Operation Moses airlifted 15,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. These Ethiopian Jews had already fled to refugee camps in Sudan to escape starvation.

In 1991, Operation Solomon flew 20,000 Jews to Israel directly from Ethiopia.

In 1999 a second airlift flew an additional 3,000 Quara Jews from northeastern Ethiopia to Israel.

In 2010 a special airlift by a Christian Jewish organization airlifted 3,000 Ethiopian Jews from Ethiopia directly to Israel.

Conclusion: In this area of the world Christians and Jews are not well received or well treated. Many Jews have escaped this area but, as of today, there are still some left. The number is unknown; time to completion, only God knows.

5) Israel Will Return to the One Pure Language, Hebrew

a) Prophecy → Zephaniah 3:9, “Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder.” NIV

Zeph. 3:9, “For then will I return to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.” KJV

b) Fulfillment → the Palestine Mandate articles, issued by the Council of the League of Nations in 1922, and the 1922 Palestine Order in Council were the first in modern times to acknowledge Hebrew as the official language of a political entity- Palestine.

Prior to the restoration of Israel in 1948, Hebrew was a dead language. Now Hebrew is spoken throughout Israel.

Conclusion: the prophecy has been fulfilled.

6) The Temple in Jerusalem will be Rebuilt

To understand the issue of rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem we need to first understand the history of the Temple and the temple mount in general.

a) The first temple was built by King Solomon in 957BC and destroyed in 586BC by the Babylonians.

b) The rebuilding process of the second temple started in 538BC and was completed in 515BC and was completely destroyed in 70AD by the Roman army. Christ predicted this during his discussion with his disciples in Matt.24:15 and Mark 13:4.

c) Based on scripture the third temple will be rebuilt during the 7 year period known as the Tribulations. In Daniel 9:27, Daniel indicated that the Antichrist will put an end to the traditional Jewish sacrifices going on in the temple and claim that he is God and should be worshiped. “He

will confirm a covenant with many for one seven, but in the middle of that seven he will put an end to the sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation and abominations on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on man.”

Note: The last part of the last sentence, “Until the end that is decreed is poured out on man.” These few words are a small part of verse 27 but clearly indicate that the Tribulations have a fixed time period and that God, the one writing these words is in total control.

- d) Currently one of Islam’s most holy sites/temples, The Dome of the Rock, built in 687AD, is believed to be built on top of or at least very close to the original site of Solomon’s Temple. It is considered by most Muslims to be their third most holy site. Therefore, to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem may require destroying the Dome of the Rock temple or at the very least building the Jewish Temple very close to the Islamic temple site. At the current time this would surely cause a war between Israel and many of the surrounding Muslim nations.
- e) Based on scripture the temple was the center piece of daily life for a “Traditional Jew” up until 70AD when Rome completely destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. Keep in mind that one of the primary purposes of the 7 year Tribulations will be to complete God’s prophecy of Daniels 70th week, Dan. 9:27. Also, scripture tells us that Jerusalem is God’s Holy City and the Jewish Temple is God’s house on earth as defined in traditional Judaism.

→Jerusalem, 2 Chron. 6:6 “But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.”

Jer. 3:17, “At that time they will call Jerusalem ‘The Thrown of the Lord’ and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord.”

→Temple, 2 Thess. 2:4 “He opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” Also, 2 Chron. 7:16, “I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.” These words

should give pause to anyone trying to claim the temple or temple mount for their own purposes.

- f) The rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem must be completed prior to the mid-point of the Tribulations or 42 months from the beginning of the Tribulations. Some verses have already been quoted above stating that the Temple will be rebuilt during the Tribulations. However, there are many other verses in the Bible that describe or reference the fact that the Temple is rebuilt, several are as follows;

→Amos 9:11, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen..."

→Rev.11: 1-2, "I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They have trampled on the holy city of 42 months."

Note: Today some people believe that the original Jewish Temple mount is 150 feet from the Islamic Dome of the Rock Temple. Therefore, the Court of the gentile would be in the current position of the Islamic, Dome of the Rock. Given these word facts, now re-read Rev. 11:1-2, which states "exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles." The real question is do these 'theories' really mean anything or are they just that, theories- only time will tell.

→Dan. 11:31, "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation."

→Dan. 12:11-12, "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1290 days."

Also read Ezekiel chapters 40-48 and Isaiah chapter 2.

Prophecy→ any or all of the scripture verses listed above.

Fulfillment→ based on the current work being done on making the rebuilding of the Temple a reality it would seem that the Jews responsible for making this happen are doing their best to make this a reality as soon as possible and now it is up to God to open the door. Some of the major milestones on completing the temple are as follows:

- a) Architectural drawings are complete.
- b) Cash donations or pledges to date to complete the building process, \$100 million.
- c) All of the workers necessary to complete the detail building process have been located or trained.
- d) All of the detailed designs for the priest robes have been completed and produced.
- e) All of the temple tables, bowels and other articles have been designed and either built or in the process of being built.
- f) The Red Heifer (cow) which has been lost since the fall of Jerusalem has now been found. The details surrounding this miracle will be discussed in the next section.

Conclusion:

It is believed that once the go ahead is given, the temple could be completed in 4-6 months, start to finish. Therefore, if the rebuilding process was started during the first part of the Tribulation it could easily be completed by the mid-point of the tribulations so that the Antichrist could proclaim himself to be God. Dan. 9: 27

7) Reappearance of the Red Heifer after 2000 Years

- a) Prophecy→ Numbers 19: 1-10, "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: This is a requirement of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke. Give it to Eleazar the priest: it is to be

taken outside of the camp and slaughtered in his presence. Then Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting. While he watches, the heifer is to be burned- its hide, flesh, blood and offal. The priest is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer. After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean until evening. The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean until evening. A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They shall be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin. The man who gathers up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he too will be unclean till evening. This will be a lasting ordinance both for the Israelites and for the aliens living among you."

The red heifer is also mentioned in Hebrews stating that Christ's blood was much more than the offering of a red heifer. Heb. 9: 13-14, "The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God."

- b) Fulfillment→ When Jerusalem fell to the Romans in 70 AD the red heifer cow disappeared and has not been seen until now. The first red heifer cow was born in 1997 on a farm in northern Israel. Its mother was black and white and its father was brown. The chances of this happening are so remote that they would be hard to calculate given it has not happened in the last 1900 to 2000 years. This event has been confirmed by rabbi Shmaria Shore and many other Ultra- Orthodox Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. A second red heifer was born in the year 2000. To date there have been reports of 7 to 9 more red heifer cows being born. The

fact that 1900 to 2000 years have gone by and there was no report of a red heifer cow until Israel returned to their homeland has caused many people to believe that the appearance of a red heifer cow is truly a sign from God.

CONCLUSION

It appears that the prophecy requiring a red heifer to be used in the cleansing ceremony has been fulfilled and is ready to be implemented when the temple is built.

8) The Roman Empire will Re-emerge as a world Power

- a) Prophecy → Most if not all of Christianity believe that the Roman Empire will re-emerge during the time of the Antichrist/Tribulations. The time period when this will occur is known as Daniels 70th week. One of the best places in scripture to see this prophecy unfold is in the book of Daniel starting in Chapter 2:31-35 where Daniel first interprets king Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a larger statue. "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue- an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth."
- The dream was of six major world kingdoms;
- One) → Head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar/Babylonian Empire
- Two) → Chest and arms of silver was Persia/ Medes
- Three) → Belly and thighs of bronze was Greeks/Alexander the Great

Four) → Legs of iron and feet of clay was the Roman Empire

Five) → The little horn that came out of three horns is more completely detailed in Dan. 7: 7-8, "... It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully." Also, Dan. 9: 26-27, "After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' but in the middle of that seven he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." These two scripture quotes in Daniel describe the events of the Tribulations and the time of the Antichrist, the little horn.

Six) → Dan. 2:34, "... rock was cut out, not by human hands..." is the second coming of Christ and the sixth and final kingdom. It will begin at the end of the Tribulations, then through the millennium, and then throughout eternity.

b) Fulfillment → to clearly understand what is meant by the redevelopment or re-emergence of the Roman Empire you will first need to understand the facts surrounding the fall of the Roman Empire. Also, keep in mind that this prophecy is talking about the fifth empire in Daniel's dream, the little horn. Some of the key historical highlights of the Roman Empire are as follows:

- 1) The city of Rome was founded/established about 753BC.
- 2) Rome existed as a Republic from 510BC until 23BC.
- 3) Rome destroyed Carthage in 146BC. Carthage was Rome's number one adversary during the time period leading up to 146BC.
- 4) Rome's ability to conquer and control large portions of the known world during this time period was based on four primary techniques;

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- 4) Rome's ability to conquer and control large portions of the known world during this time period was based on four primary techniques;

- ➔ first it's military capability (the short sword and well trained legionnaires),
 - ➔ second, a very well trained and skilled military leadership,
 - ➔ third, its ability to quickly absorb conquered governments in to its organizational structure,
 - ➔ fourth, its vision that all of its conquered territories needed to be connected by well-maintained road system to Rome.
- 5) Even with the above infrastructure eventually the Roman Empire became so large and the land mass so extensive that communicating with the outer regions became somewhat difficult, if not impossible. To remedy this problem Emperor Diocletian came up with the idea that the Empire should be split in two, a western Empire, which would include all of Europe and Northern Africa and an Eastern Empire which would include Turkey, most of the Middle East and some portions of Western Asia. The capital of the western empire was Milan, then Ravenna, and the capital of the eastern empire was Constantinople. This process started in 285AD and was completed in 379AD. During this 94 year period sometimes one Emperor ruled both the Eastern and Western Empires and sometimes it was ruled by two Emperors.
- 6) The Western Empire finally fell to the migrant barbarians lead by Germanic mercenaries in 476AD. However, the once great Roman culture had been in a steady decline for about 100-150 years before the final fall.
- 7) The Eastern Empire fell in 1453AD to what became the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire was primarily composed of Muslims.

Note: The Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches were officially one Catholic Church until 1054AD. In what we know as the "Great Schism" or the "East-West Schism" the Pope and the Patriarch mutually excommunicated each other, separating the two communions. In practicality, however, the two churches had been separated in all but

name for many centuries as practical and theological rifts had developed over time.

Daniel's dream describes the Roman Empire in Dan. 2:33, with "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay" and again in Dan. 7:7, "-terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims..." Now the real question is which or what Roman Empire will re-emerge as the one described in Dan. 7:8, "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before me. This horn had eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully..." The little horn mentioned in Dan. 7:8 is the Antichrist which will become the leader of the revived Roman Empire, however, the question continues to be what does the revived Roman Empire look like? Is it just the Western leg of the Roman Empire or just the Eastern portion of the Roman Empire or does it require that both the Eastern and Western Empires need to be reunited for the prophecy to be fulfilled?

Currently the issues surrounding this question are:

- One, if it is just the western portion of the Roman Empire it would include Europe and North Africa, which is a religious mixture of Catholics, Atheists and Muslims and if it is the Eastern portions it is almost 100% Muslim,
- Two, much of the western portion of the Roman Empire is currently under the control of the European Union and most, if not all, of the eastern portion of the Roman Empire is currently in the control of the religion of Islam.
- Three, in the recent past much of the Middle East lacked the resources or the leadership to pull together the vast land mass required allowing the Eastern Roman Empire to re-emerge. However, given the discovery of large amounts of oil in many of the Middle Eastern counties and the takeover of many of the governments by radical Islamic fundamentalist the re-emergence of the Eastern Roman Empire may now be possible. However, it would be ruled by Islam,

therefore, this event may be a better fit for the prophecy described in Ezekiel chapter 38 & 39 known as the “Prophecy against Gog”. There are a variety of other facts that would have to be reviewed to make even an educated guess as to the numerous numbers of possible options to answer this question. We will leave the answer to this question open for this study but will develop some of the possible options in our study of Revelation.

CONCLUSION

For now we will assume that it will happen as Daniel’s prophecy has indicated in the above scripture.

9) When a Coalition of Arab Countries led by Russia Attack Israel

In Chapter 38 & 39 of Ezekiel God gives Ezekiel a prophecy that is “against Gog” and several other nations are also named. Some of these nations are easy to identify, like Persia as much has been recorded about this once great empire. Others are defined by region, like Cush, which the scripture defines as the upper Nile region and still others by direction, like the “far north”. Many, if not most Bible scholars, believe that this group of nations described in Ezekiel is modern day Russia and most of the Muslim nations surrounding Israel today. A detailed study tracing these countries from the time of Ezekiel until today will be done in our study of Revelation, but for now we will assume that they are Russia and the radical Islamic countries surrounding Israel today.

- a) PROPHECY→ Ezek. 38: 1-6, “The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophecy against him and say: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you around, put a hook in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them banishing their swords. Persia, Cush and Put will be with them all with shields and helmets, also

Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.”

➔ To summarize the prophecy is that this great army composed of many Islamic nations and led by Russia will be summoned by God to attack Israel. Ezek. 38: 8, “After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety.”

➔ The flaw in their thinking is that this great army described in Ezekiel believes they are going to fight the little country of Israel when in reality they are going to have to fight God himself. Ezek. 38: 18, “This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign Lord.” The death and destruction of these armies will be so complete that it will take seven plus months to complete the burial process.

➔ However supernatural or even unbelievable this prophecy may seem the most important part is yet to come. Two of the most unbelievable events in modern history will take place,

1) Ezek.38: 23, “and I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

2) Ezek. 38: 22, “From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God.”

b) Fulfillment ➔ Currently there are many signs that this prophecy is unfolding right in front of our very eyes. It would appear that the people living today are witnessing God’s ability to move the pieces in place and make human history bend to his will. Listed below are some of the more interesting facts that could lead to the fulfillment of this prophecy:

- 1) Russia is currently 30% Muslim and this number is growing rapidly.
- 2) Russia is the primary source of weapons of most Islamic countries.
- 3) Russia is currently the primary source of technology supporting Iran’s nuclear program.

- 4) Iran is the core of the original Persia.
- 5) Turkey has been a close friend to America for many years and thus a strong supporter of Israel. However, given the constant rejection of the EU to accept Turkey as a member of the EU has caused this relationship to drift apart. Because if this issue Turkey today is moving rapidly in the direction of radical Islam. If this process continues another name listed in Ezekiel's prophecy will fall in to place.
- 6) Last, it would seem for this prophecy to be fulfilled America would have to abandon Israel as an ally and given America's current situation, high debt, Iran with a nuclear weapon with which to blackmail America, and America today seems to be becoming more and more anti-Christian and anti-Israel.

There are many other issues that will be discussed when we study Revelations in more detail.

10) The Existence of a 200,000,000 Man Army

- a) Prophecy → Rev. 9: 13-16, "The sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel, who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number."
- b) Fulfillment → this prophecy was not possible until 1960 when China first announced its army had reached the 200,000,000 mark. Currently the republic of China reports that their army is composed of 2,285,000 men on active duty, 800,000 in reserves and 1,500,000 in paramilitary for a total of 4,585,000 men available for deployment. I have attached a chart at the end of this study that lists most of the

standing armies of the world by country. You should note from this chart that most of the larger standing armies of the world are from non-democratic countries. You should also note that other than America, South Korea and Israel there are no other countries with governments/ populations that are somewhat pro-Christian/Jewish.

Conclusion:

It would seem that this prophecy will be completed in at least two steps;

- ➔ Step 1 will be the fulfillment of the physical aspect that an army of that size actually exists. Today there are several armies that could fulfill this prophecy.
- ➔ Step 2 will require that the 7 year tribulation period has started and that the world is at the point where, "The sixth angel blew his trumpet", therefore, beginning this battle.

Summary:

Step one is complete and step two is on hold until God decides to begin the End Times Process.

11) Increase in Knowledge and Travel

- a) Prophecy➔ Dan. 12: 4, "But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."
- b) Fulfillment➔ At the current time the answer to Daniel's prophecy about knowledge increasing during the time period just before the Tribulation period, is that the knowledge gained over the last 100 years would be equal to all of the knowledge gained since man was created. The other issue which would be relevant to fulfilling Daniel's prophecy is, over the past 100 years knowledge is doubling at a pace twice as fast each time. Billy Graham was quoted as saying that ninety percent of all the engineers and

scientists who have ever lived are alive today. Based on best estimates the range of knowledge doubling is every 2 years for some computer and medical technology, too many years for a technology that has almost no financial benefit. Another issue that is driving gains in knowledge is the amount of funding that is available to support such knowledge and currently the world in general is running out of money to invest in the development of – knowledge.

The second part of this prophecy is that, “many will go back and forth”. There is no question that man’s ability to travel long or short distances quicker has dramatically improved over the last 100 years and that more people are now able to travel across long distances that ever before. The development of the combustion engine was the key to our ability to travel quicker, more frequently and at less cost.

CONCLUSION

Over the last 100 years both knowledge and travel have increased at a rate that has never been seen before in the history of man. The question is, does this increase in knowledge and travel fulfill Daniel’s prophecy? The prophecy given by Daniel was in the last chapter of the Book of Daniel and was limited to one sentence; it was a very matter of fact sentence with no explanation as to what would be the results or outcome of this prophecy. However, what we do know is that with the increase in knowledge, travel and other events described in the End Times and Tribulation scenario are now possible. Listed below are some of the more prominent prophetic events which can now occur because this prophecy by Daniel has now been at least partially fulfilled.

→ Given the increase in knowledge the world is now in a position to:

- 1) develop weapons of mass destruction
- 2) implement the mark of the Beast system

- 3) implement a one world monetary system
- 4) track every man woman and child on the face of the earth
- 5) implement a one world religious system
- 6) the Antichrist will be able to control all communications with every man, woman and child throughout the world at one time
- 7) control the actual buying and selling of everything

→The increase in travel throughout the world has created a change in the daily actions of men, woman and children as follows:

- 1) First and foremost it has created a work environment where both men and women now are required to be away from the home a greater percentage of the time
- 2) Increased mobility has created a situation where many families are now spread all over the world and the pre-1900's family where multiple generations live in one area and lend support in times of trouble is diminishing at an increasing rate
- 3) A greater percentage of both younger and older children are left unattended by at least one parent or both parents
- 4) The stress level in people's lives has a direct correlation to the increase in travel time in their lives
- 5) Increased travel has a direct correlation to the destruction of the family
- 6) Today's travel will allow weapons of mass destruction to be delivered to their targets

SUMMARY

It was a very small prophecy with a very big impact on man.

12) Instant Global Communication System

- a) Prophecy→ Rev. 11: 3, 7-10, "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1260 days, clothed in sackcloth." & "Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from

the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the streets of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who lived on the earth.”

- b) Fulfillment→ this prophecy makes it clear that the whole world will be “gazing” on the dead bodies of these two witnesses of God for three and a half days.

Conclusion

There does not seem to be any question that this prophecy has been fulfilled. There are two major discoveries which has allowed this prophecy to be fulfilled,

- 1) The invention of the television, which was invented in the late 1800's and commercialized around 1947-1950.
- 2) The invention of the internet, which started in 1982 and became commercial in 1995.

These two inventions connected the world forever and the event that galvanized this was the CNN coverage of the Iraq war with the bombs going off and the Scud missiles being fired at Israel. These were scenes the entire world saw at exactly the same time. John's prophecy in Revelations has been fulfilled.

13) One World Government

- a) Prophecy→ The Antichrist will be given power to rule the entire earth for a period of 42 months. Rev. 13:5, “The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his

authority for forty-two months.” Also, Rev. 13:7, “...And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.” The men of the earth will think that his power comes from Satan. Rev.13:2-4, “...The dragon gave the beast his power and his thrown and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” When in reality it will be God allowing these things to happen to fulfill his plan for planet earth. Rev. 19:19-21, “Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive in to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”

Given the above we now know who has the real power in the universe.

- b) Fulfillment→ There has not been a country or empire that would be considered to have ruled the known world since the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire in 1453AD. However, there have been a variety of countries that have tried to gain this position, and the most notable are as follows:

- 1) From the time of Muhammad until the 16th century the religion of Islam used military conquest to gain large portions of land extending as far east as India and as far west as Spain and southern France as well as Southern Russia. However, from about the mid 1600's until 1913 Islam was continuously being pushed

back until the current day boundaries of Europe, the Middle East and Russia were re-established.

- 2) The English, French and Spanish all tried their best to colonize the world between the mid-1500 to about 1900, this time period was known as the Age of Discovery. Then during the 1900's much of the land gained by these three countries was lost, this period was known as the decolonization period. These three countries did make a great deal of progress but none could claim world domination. Their colonization was primarily focused in areas of North & South America, Africa, and the Far East.
- 3) In the First World War Germany began what they intended to be the conquest of the world. The war started in July 28, 1914 and ended in Nov. 11, 1918 with about 9.0 million people dead. The League of Nations was formed as a result of this conflict which is man's first attempt at a world government.
- 4) In the Second World War Germany again tried to gain world domination and the eradication of the Jewish people but again failed. The war began on Sept. 1, 1939 and ended in Europe on May 8, 1945 with the surrender of Germany and on Aug. 15, 1945 with the surrender of Japan. The estimated death toll in this war is somewhere between 50-70 million depending on the way you measure, war fatalities or war related fatalities.
- 5) Today we find ourselves in a world where the United Nations, which began after WW2, is slowly gaining power through their internal organizational agencies. The following are a list of their six primary agencies:
 - The General Assembly (the main deliberative assembly)
 - The Security Council (for deciding certain resolutions for peace and security)
 - The Economic and Social Council (for assisting in promoting international economic and social cooperation and development)
 - The Secretariat (for providing studies, information, and facilities needed by the UN)

- The International Court of Justice (the primary judicial organ)
- The United Nations Trusteeship Council (which is currently inactive)

There are three other prominent United Nations Systems agencies which include the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Program (WFP), and the World Children's Fund (UNICEF).

There are the several other organizations that are closely associated with the United Nations and also directly dedicated to a One World Governmental System. They are as follows:

- The World trade Organization
- The World Bank
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- The Parliament for World Religion, Summit of Religious & Spiritual Leaders

All of these organizations have as their main goal the creation of a one world government and they do not believe in the God in which Christians believe. Also, Christians need to keep in mind that the United Nations is composed of 193 member nations all of which are involved in setting the directions and the laws by which all 193 member nations will be governed, normally through treaty. The importance of this to a Christian is that almost all of the nations are not Christian and as a matter of fact they are anti-Christian and see Christianity as divisive and evil to the world community.

CONCLUSION

There is certainly a strong desire by many men all over the world to create a one world government and it would appear that they are well on their way to putting the physical pieces in place to make this happen in the near future. However, today there still remains one last piece of this puzzle that needs to come together

for their evil plans to culminate and that is the destruction of America. There are two primary reasons that America must fall if their goal is to be successful:

- 1) There cannot be any countries with super power status within a global government.
- 2) There cannot be any countries with a Christian based government or population.

Note: All of the above nations have failed because, "Gods time table is not yet complete", however when it is complete the one world government will arise.

14) A One World Religious System

- a) PROPHECY→ Rev. 13: 8, "All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world." And again in Rev. 13:12, "He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth's inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed."
- b) Fulfillment→ As stated above in number 13 the world is rapidly trying to move in the direction of a one world religion. Much work has already been done to make this a reality. The following is just some of the work that has already been done to make this a reality.

→The United Nations with its 193 member nations all want a one world religion and it has to be based on "acceptance & tolerance" of all people's religions of the world. Currently they have had a variety of meeting to make this a reality such as:

- 1) The Summit of Religious & Spiritual Leaders, which was heavily influenced by Ted Turner and his New Age Movement
- 2) Parliament for World religion focused on tolerance and diversity
- 3) The United Nations claims that they have currently created a New World Religion which underpins or supports their idea of a New World Order and it is called, "United Religion". The religious groups that sent representatives to this conference are as follows:

- Catholics and Episcopalians
- Muslims
- North American Interfaith Network
- Buddhist
- Hindus
- Jews
- Sikhs

- 4) The Vatican has been making a concerted effort to “bring their separated brothers back home to the holy mother church” since 1965. The Catholic Church has made it a priority to bring back into the fold their lost brothers, currently known as Protestants. However we should never lose sight of the fact that this is only step one of a larger goal and that is to make the Pope the leader of the One World Religion spoken of in Revelations Chapter 13. Does this sound a lot like the effort made by Rome in the 3th century to gain control of all religions? Constantine I with the Edit of Milan, in 313Ad, legalized Christianity in an effort to unify his failing empire. Then in 380Ad Emperors Theodosius, Geatian and Valentinian II adopted Catholic-Universal- Christianity as the state religion.
- 5) The New Age Movement in its own right has been responsible for many of the changes in the laws of America over the last 30-50 years depending on how you define their movement. However, today they are heavily ingrained in the decision making process of the United Nations. Several quotes from their mission statement is as follows “Promote the work of the United Nations as it seeks to uplift and improve life on our planet” and “Cooperate and collaborate with the worldwide community that is actively preparing the way for the reappearance of the World-Teacher(Anointed) One, the true Aquarian.”

CONCLUSION

Based on the work that has already been done and more importantly the direction that the world is taking, in terms of its attitude toward Christians and Jews it would appear we are very close to the completion of the process of creating a ONE WORLD RELIGION. However, only God knows the final time table.

15) Does the Technology Exist for the Mark of the Beast

- a) Prophecy→ Rev. 13:16-17, “He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive the mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.”
- b) Fulfillment→ The short answer is YES there is currently technology available that will allow individuals to be identified and their every move tracked. Currently radio frequency identification devices (RFID) are in use in a variety of industries and more are being added every day. These devices have already been implanted in people and can be scanned by a variety of options, hand held readers, mobile readers and satellite readers. There are also a number of other types of devices currently being developed, micro-chips, biochips, Vero chips and barcodes are just a few that could be used to track peoples movement's. However, the Mark of the Beast will not only be used to track peoples locations it will control their lifestyle and buying habits. As a matter of fact it will control their entire life.

There are some people today that do not believe that the mark of the beast will have anything to do with technology, that it will be some type of physical response when people knowingly accept the beast as their god. Given that there will be supernatural events going on during this time period this theory cannot be ruled out. However, it appears that a better theory would be that when someone accepts the beast as their god the change that will occur will be in their heart and soul. Based on

the scripture quoted above and other related scripture in the Bible it seems that the mark is twofold:

- 1) First and foremost would be to require the person to worship Satan/the Beast
- 2) To gain control of every humans life by controlling their ability to earn and spend money.

If Satan through the Beast can control who people worship and their ability to earn a living the entire earth will be under his control. The bad news for Satan and the Beast is that they should have read the last few chapters in Revelations.

There are many other prophecies in the Bible which we will cover in our study of Revelations; however, these seem to be some of the more talked about prophecies today.

