

# **Fifty Signs of the End Times**

**By David Scott Nichols MD**

# Curriculum Vitae

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# Introduction

- ▶ Are We Living in the Last Days?
- ▶ Many people predict the time of the apocalypse
- ▶ "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matt 24:36)
- ▶ However, Jesus did tell us... "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door." (Matt. 24:32–33)
- ▶ People like Jeanne Dixon, Nostradamus, and Edgar Cayce offer very vague or typically incorrect "prophecies."
- ▶ Only the Bible offers to prove that it is God's Word. Its prophecies are 100% accurate.
- ▶ Why is it important to study eschatology and the end-time signs?

- ▶ Hal Lindsey
  - ▶ Date Setters will never get it right!
  - ▶ There will be “signs” of His return.
  - ▶ Most of these signs point to the Tribulation.
  - ▶ However, many events will very likely begin to occur... just like birth pains prior to an actual birth.
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# Eschatology

- ▶ Eschatology is the study of end-time events
- ▶ Committed Christians have different viewpoints on this topic.
- ▶ For example, excellent theologians have differing views on the millennium as well as the timing of the Rapture.
- ▶ The viewpoint taken here is that there will be a *premillennial* return of Jesus preceded by a *pretribulation Rapture* of the church. Jesus will return after a seven year *Tribulation*. He will defeat Satan and the Antichrist and usher in the Millennial Kingdom onto the earth.

# Eschatology

- ▶ A brief definition of terms follows:
- ▶ The Seven Year Tribulation
- ▶ The Rapture – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.  
<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:16–17

# Rapture

- ▶ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> 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. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”  
(1 Cor 15: 50–54)

# Events Leading to the Second Coming

- ▶ The Rapture of the Church
  - ▶ Israel's battles
  - ▶ The Antichrist comes on the scene
  - ▶ The seven year Tribulation
  - ▶ The desecration of the Temple
  - ▶ The last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation
  - ▶ Armageddon
  - ▶ The Millennial Kingdom
  - ▶ Final heaven and earth
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# God's Providential Care

- ▶ Remember how God typically acts in nature.
- ▶ He *rarely* performs blatantly supernatural miracles... those miracles that supplant the natural laws of the universe. Typically, God works through His providential “manipulation” of human events and nature.
- ▶ For example, it is very unlikely that God will suddenly “pop” the Tribulation Temple into existence. It is much more likely that He will work things out so that the Temple is all ready to be built when the appropriate time comes... soon after the Rapture.
- ▶ Therefore, we can expect certain things to happen as we approach the Rapture directly relating to those events that are seen just after it occurs – the groundwork should be laid down as “signs” of the end times. It makes little sense that it will happen the other way around.
- ▶ Consider, God would have had to do many blatantly supernatural miracles if the Rapture had taken place in 1850 as there were virtually no signs of the end times that had appeared by that time in history.
- ▶ This is the *only* time in the history of the world that *all* of the biblically prophesied end-time signs have come to fruition. Frankly, essentially no signs had appeared until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

# Signs of the End-Times

- ▶ Jesus' return is imminent... and soon to occur
- ▶ I suggest that our Lord will come within twenty-five years
- ▶ Signs of His return...
- ▶ As relates to Israel
- ▶ As relates to other nations and people
- ▶ The Olivet Discourse
- ▶ For those who trust in Jesus, His Second Coming will usher in an eternity of joyful, heavenly living for and with Christ.
- ▶ **“When these things begin to occur, lift up your heads; for your redemption is nigh.” Luke 21:28**
- ▶ Let's begin with the first set of signs...

# God Will Restore Israel in the End Times

- ▶ The end-time prophecies relating to Israel will be discussed in this first section.
  - ▶ The majority of the latter day signs will relate directly to Israel.
  - ▶ God promised to bring Israel back as a nation into their promised land in the end times... and bless them greatly.
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# Israel will become a nation once again – 1

- ▶ History of Israel, Judah, and Jerusalem
- ▶ What is Palestine?
- ▶ He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. Ezek. 37:2
- ▶ 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. Ezek. 37:4–5
- ▶ "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." Ezek. 37:9

# Dry Bones

- ▶ "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Ezek. 37:11
- ▶ I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Ezek. 37:14
- ▶ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land. Ezek. 34:13
- ▶ "At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD. Zeph 3:20

# Israel is a nation once again!

- ▶ The British Mandate – June 1922
- ▶ May 15, 1948, Israel became a nation once again
- ▶ Millions have returned in the last sixty years
- ▶ The sign of the “fig tree”
- ▶ J.C. Ryle wrote in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century how it was amazing that only the Jew was able to retain their national identity
- ▶ the “Miracle of the Mediterranean.”
- ▶ Next will be the *spirit*... but, not yet

# Judah and Israel reunite – 2

- ▶ United Kingdom years
- ▶ Divided Kingdom
- ▶ Israel and Judah
- ▶ Both scattered all through the world
- ▶ 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand." ' Ezek 37:19
- ▶ Isaiah 11:11–13 is a very similar prophecy
- ▶ Now, Israel and Judah are once again united

# Jerusalem becomes the capital of Israel again – 3

- ▶ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Luke 21:24

- ▶ In that day... Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.

Zech. 12:6

- ▶ Jerusalem became a part of Israel in 1967 – the 6-Day War – many supernatural interventions

# The ancient language of Hebrew is restored – 4

- ▶ After the defeat of Israel and Judah, the Hebrew language died out... except for the Levitical tribe
- ▶ God had plans for His chosen people
- ▶ "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.  
Zeph 3:9
- ▶ Eliezer Ben-Yehuda – late 19<sup>th</sup> century – his life's work and a very difficult job

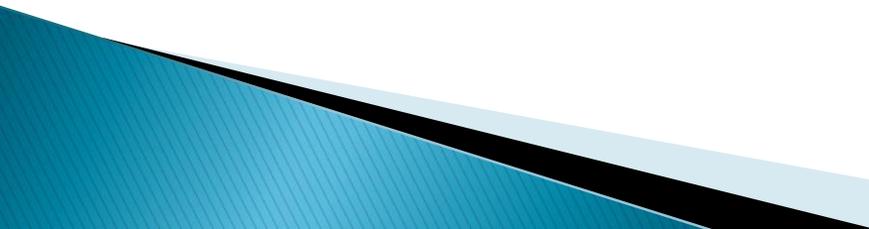
# Eliezer Ben-Yehuda

- ▶ In 1870, at the age of twelve, Ben-Yehuda said that he had a vision where he saw light flash across the sky and a voice spoke three times saying, “The land and the language.”
- ▶ He took this as a sign from God that he was to restore Hebrew as the common language in the land of the Jews... Israel.
- ▶ A second visit from God
- ▶ He died in 1922, one month after Hebrew officially became the language of the Jews!

# The Ethiopian Jews will return prior to the return of Christ – 5

- ▶ From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, shall bring My offering. Zeph 3:10
- ▶ “Operation Solomon” – Between 1989 to 1991, approximately 15,000 Ethiopian “Falasha” Jews were air-lifted home to Israel in a wonderful example of the coordinated efforts of several Jewish organizations and the Israeli government to rescue their fellow Jewish brothers and sisters from a possible holocaust.
- ▶ “Operation Moses” (1984) and “Operation Joshua” (1985)

# Israel, the World, and the Messiah

- ▶ After God brings Jews from all around the globe back to their homeland in the latter days, the Gentile nations of the world will take notice.
  - ▶ In fact, the vast majority of the world will be very much against their return. Their age-old enemies, the Arabs, will always cause trouble for Israel.
  - ▶ The most important city in the world, Jerusalem, will be the center of attention.
  - ▶ When the Jews first return to their land and reclaim their nation and capital, they will not have turned back to God in faith.
  - ▶ The Eastern Gate
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## Jerusalem will be fought over by many nations – 6

- ▶ "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Zech 12:2–3

- ▶ **Jerusalem is the center of international turmoil**

- ▶ Jerusalem was not always so fought over
- ▶ June 7, 1967 – taken by the Jews
- ▶ Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Dayan – made a bonehead move
- ▶ Currently fought over by many nations
- ▶ Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu is adamant that Israel will keep Jerusalem
- ▶ God is going to protect Israel and Jerusalem
- ▶ In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; ...the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. <sup>9</sup> It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. Zech 12:8–9

# Jerusalem will be an un-walled city in the last days – 7

- ▶ 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls Zech 2:4
- ▶ 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls. Ezek 38:11
- ▶ In the days when this prophecy was written, all cities of any note were protected by fortified walls. This was true of Jerusalem.
- ▶ Certainly not true today!

# Jerusalem rebuilt in nine specific directions – 8

- ▶ "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that the city (Jerusalem) shall be built for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. <sup>39</sup> The surveyor's line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. <sup>40</sup> And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever." Jer 31:38–40
- ▶ The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah [desert plain]. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. <sup>11</sup> It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure. Zech 14:10–11

# Jerusalem rebuilt in nine specific directions

- ▶ Jeremiah and Zechariah were very specific about how the Holy City of Jerusalem was going to be rebuilt in the last days. In particular, each of these great prophets wrote that once Jerusalem was rebuilt in the end times, it would never again be destroyed.
- ▶ Josh McDowell had much to say on this subject: “The growth of the city has not covered the prescribed route of growth, but has followed, point by point, the line set down by Jeremiah. The prophet told a step-by-step progression of the growth of Jerusalem, and this process has been followed in actual fact with closeness. There are other prophecies dealing with the southward trends of growth which have also been systematically fulfilled.”
- ▶ Peter Stoner, also wrote in his book *Science Speaks: An Evaluation of Certain Christian Evidences* that the odds of rebuilding the city in the manner and order written by Jeremiah was 1 in 80 billion.

# Israel would be partitioned by other nations – 9

- ▶ The prophet Joel wrote about almost exclusively about the last days. He noted that God would bring His people back to their “promised land.” He also said that the Gentile “nations” would divide up that land.
- ▶ "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. Joel 3:1–2

- ▶ Currently, the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Gaza, and Jerusalem (e.g., the Temple Mount is under Islamic Waqf control) have been divided up between the Jewish and Palestinian people.
  - ▶ The United Nations wants Israel to give up even more land.
  - ▶ There has never been any “land for peace” offer that has brought any lasting peace for Israel.
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# Israel will deny the Messiah until the Tribulation – 10

- ▶ Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, *'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'* Luke 13:35
- ▶ that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.  
<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: *"The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Isaiah 59:20)*  
Romans 11:25–26
- ▶ The nation of Israel will still not recognize Jesus as Messiah until the Church Age is over. This will not occur until after the Rapture.

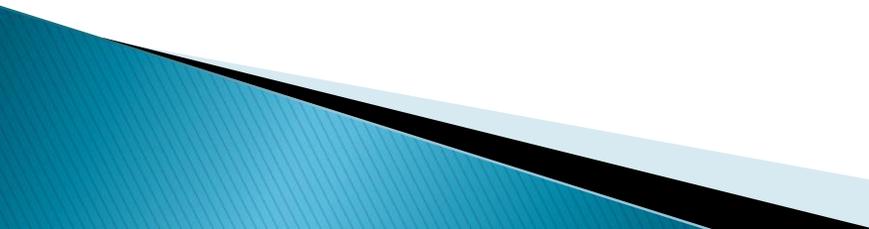
The returning Jews will have no king until Jesus reigns over His Millennial Kingdom – 11

- ▶ For the children of Israel shall abide many days **without king or prince**, without sacrifice or sacred pillar. They shall fear the LORD and **His goodness in the latter days**. Hosea 3:4–5
- ▶ Not since Zedekiah was murdered by the Babylonians has either Judah or Israel been ruled by a king or prince.
- ▶ Democratic rule will not change until Jesus returns and sets up His Millennial Kingdom on earth.

# The Eastern Gate will remain closed until the coming of Messiah – 12

- ▶ The LORD said to me, "This gate is to remain shut. Ezek 44:2
- ▶ The prince himself is the only one who may sit inside the gateway to eat in the presence of the LORD. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gateway and go out the same way." Ezek 44:3
- ▶ When Jesus entered into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, He, almost assuredly, walked through the Eastern Gate. In A.D. 70, the Roman army totally destroyed the Temple and much of the city.

# The Eastern Gate cont.

- ▶ (A.D. 1530), the Ottoman Turks sealed the gate shut to prevent the future prophesied entrance of the Messiah.
  - ▶ A cemetery was placed in front of it.
  - ▶ It is the only one of the eleven gates to the city that has been sealed.
  - ▶ The Muslim leader, Suleiman, was used by God to seal this gate... this will lead to Jesus walking through it one day... the first to do so.
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- ▶ On December 9, 1917, the Arab leader of Jerusalem, the Grand Mufti, ordered his workmen to open the Eastern Gate. British General Allenby came to the rescue...
  - ▶ In 1967, King Hussein of Jordan decided to build a hotel for Arab pilgrims immediately adjacent to one section of the Western Wall. The Six-Day war stopped this attempt.
  - ▶ One day, the Lord will once again enter through this gate.
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# Eastern Gate



# Eastern Gate



# God Will Bless Israel in the Last Days

- ▶ Once the Jews returned to their homeland, God promised that He would begin the process of blessing their land. This promise can be seen in the writings of the Old Testament prophets. Moses, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Amos, and Joel spoke of some of these latter day blessings of the land.
  - ▶ Blessings include water, wine, food, energy products, and more.
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# God will bless Israel with Latter Day Rains – 13

- ▶ I will open rivers in desolate 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. <sup>19</sup> I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together, <sup>20</sup> That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. Isaiah 41:18–20
- ▶ Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. Joel 2:23

- ▶ The desert plains and the wilderness will no longer be arid
  - ▶ Drip-irrigation techniques
  - ▶ Over 240 million trees were planted in Israel during the 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - ▶ average yearly rainfall has increased by over ten percent every decade over the last century
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# Land of Milk and Honey – 14

- ▶ **Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit:** Isaiah 27:6
- ▶ Prior to this end-time transformation, Israel will lay desolate for centuries. **The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur--nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. .... 24 All the nations will ask: "Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?" 25 And the answer will be: "It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers."**  
Deut 29:23-25

# Land of Milk and Honey

- ▶ Mark Twain wrote of his trip to Israel in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century... “There is no timber of any consequence.” “There was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soul, had almost deserted the country.” “A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action.” “Jerusalem is mournful and dreary and lifeless. I would not desire to live here.” “It is a hopeless, dreary, heartless land.”

# Israel now is a land of plenty

- ▶ All of that has changed
- ▶ I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. <sup>15</sup> I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

Amos 9:14–15

- ▶ "But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches and **yield your fruit** to My people Israel, for they are about to come. <sup>9</sup> For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. Ezek 36:8–9
- ▶ **'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'**  
Ezek. 36:35
- ▶ Since Israel gained its independence in 1948, they have tripled the area of land suitable for cultivation.

# Israel is now a major exporter

- ▶ Now Israel is a major exporter
- ▶ Israel is currently able to produce 95% of its own food requirements and has become a major exporter of vegetables, fruits and flowers to the rest of the world. Flowers (25%), vegetables and field crops (wheat and corn and sorghum) (45%) and fruit (25% including 10% citrus) comprise most of this list.
- ▶ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.  
Ezek 36:33–36

# Fields of Flowers



# Wine will flow in the end time – 15

- ▶ 'In that day the mountains will drip new wine.  
Joel 3:18
- ▶ They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them. Amos 9:14
- ▶ In 2010 Israel wine exports will amount to \$30 million produced by 150 wineries.
- ▶ Winemaking takes place in five vine-growing regions
- ▶ [The Wine Advocate](#) awarded 14 Israeli wines its highest wine rating of "outstanding."

# Vineyard



# Farming in Israel



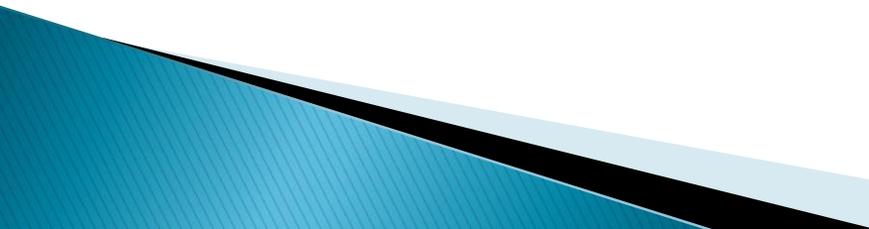
# Modern Methods of Farming



# God Will Bless Israel with Many Natural Resources in the Latter Days – 16

- ▶ Israel will be blessed with excellent natural resources in the latter days. Russia will want them!
- ▶ You will say, 'I will go up against a land of **unwalled villages**; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'— <sup>12</sup> **to take plunder and to take booty**, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and **against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.**  
Ezek 38:10–12
- ▶ Rich in agricultural resources even now

# Energy Production

- ▶ Organic Material – plants, algae, anything living – high in energy (ultimately **from the sun**) gets **buried beneath sand, rock, and dirt.**
  - ▶ **As time passes,** more and more sediments build up on the organic material. Pressure increases. The heat builds up because of the warmth of the earth.
  - ▶ Over time the molecules of these organic materials start to rearrange and form natural gas, oil, and other energy products.
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# Natural Resources

- ▶ "Blessed of the LORD is his land, With the precious things of heaven, with the dew, and the deep lying beneath, <sup>14</sup> With the precious fruits of the sun, With the precious produce of the months, <sup>15</sup> With the best things of the ancient mountains, With the precious things of the everlasting hills, <sup>16</sup> With the precious things of the earth and its fullness Deut 33:13-16
- ▶ Russian Jewish geophysicist and oil man named Tovia Luskin, believes these verses point to oil and/or natural gas lying beneath the surface in the land God gave to Israel.
- ▶ Gene Soltero, an MIT trained petroleum engineer and John Brown also have begun this quest in earnest.

# Bible Evidences for these Natural Resources

- ▶ Genesis 49:25 From the God of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, **blessings of the deep that lies beneath...**
- ▶ Deuteronomy 33:19 for they will draw out **the abundance of the seas, and the hidden treasures of the sand.**
- ▶ Deuteronomy 33:24 More blessed than sons is Asher; may he be favored by his brothers, **and may he dip his foot in oil.**
- ▶ And more...

# Current Events

- ▶ ***U.S. GOVERNMENT REPORT: ISRAEL HAS 122 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF NATURAL GAS OFFSHORE (they also reported in this one area 1.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil)***
- ▶ The Israeli newspaper, *Ynet News*, reported that the recent finds of oil and gas should soon allow Israel to become an exporter of oil!
- ▶ Wall Street Journal headline reported... “BIG GAS FIND SPARKS A FRENZY IN ISRAEL”.

# Current Events

- ▶ Noble Energy has two recent finds that they have named the Tamar and Leviathan Gas Fields. Together they will combine to yield twenty-five trillion cubic feet of gas. This is double the natural gas available to Britain in the North Sea. The Tamar Field alone should be able to provide all of Israel's gas needs for at least twenty years. The larger field, Leviathan, will be used for exporting energy for decades to come.
- ▶ In addition to these enormous natural gas discoveries, it is also reported that more than four billion barrels of crude oil lie beneath these gas fields. This is more than 20% of the entire United States total oil reserves.<sup>20</sup> New discoveries of these important energy sources are being made on a regular basis.
- ▶ Also, there have been recent massive oil shale discoveries as well.

# Other Economic News

- ▶ Bill Gates (the Microsoft billionaire) has been quoted as saying that “Israel is like part of Silicon Valley.” Wall Street tycoon, Warren Buffet, recently invested 4 billion in a *metal working company*.
- ▶ The Dead Sea – a great resource!
- ▶ Israel is ranked far ahead of Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon in gross domestic product. Benjamin Netanyahu recently stated, “In ten years, Israel could be one of the ten richest countries in the world.”

# The Sanhedrin – 17

- ▶ On October 13, 2004, seventy-one rabbis were ordained into the newly formed Sanhedrin.
- ▶ The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. Num 11:16
- ▶ It met for the last time in Tiberias in A.D. 453

# Sanhedrin cont.

- ▶ For the Temple to be rebuilt, and the many prophecies to be fulfilled related to this, the Sanhedrin must be in their proper spiritual and political leadership position.
- ▶ Important for building of the third Temple, the selection and training of Levitical priests for future positions in the Temple, and many other important religious end-time events.
- ▶ They have recently determined, interestingly, that the Temple *may* be able to be built without removing the Muslim's Dome of the Rock.

# The Third Temple – 18

- ▶ The Third Temple will exist during the Tribulation
- ▶ Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come unless** the falling away comes first, and **the man of sin is revealed, ... that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**  
2 Thess 2:3–4
- ▶ **On that day I will raise up the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down Amos 9:11**

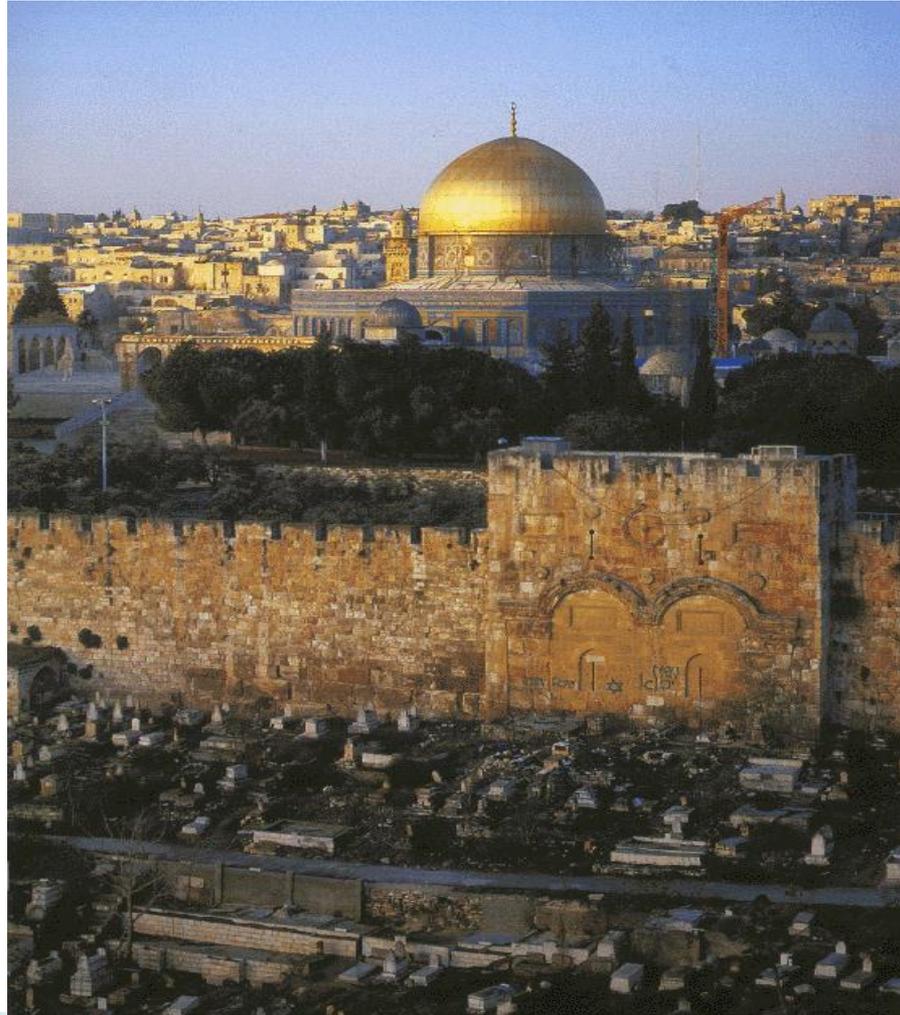
# Third Temple cont.

- ▶ There is absolutely no doubt that there will be a Third Temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation period that follows the Rapture. There are many verses that support this fact. For example, the books of Daniel and The Revelation note that halfway through the Tribulation, the Temple of God will be desecrated by the Antichrist.
- ▶ Everything is ready to go at this time!
- ▶ All that awaits is the proper political situation to allow for the groundbreaking to erect what will become the Third Temple, the Tribulation Temple.

# Model of the Second Temple



# Temple Mount and Eastern Gate



# Sacred Temple Vessels – 19

- ▶ The people of the Temple Institute have prepared almost one hundred sacred worship objects described in the Torah. These articles even include the linen garments for the Levite priests.
- ▶ A menorah completed over a decade ago and just waiting for use in the Temple cost over \$400,000 to complete
- ▶ The Temple Institute's leader, Rabbi Chaim Richman, has stated that *everything* that is required to resume divine worship services and to build the Temple is currently available.

# Levitical Priesthood – 20

- ▶ The Temple Institute has recruited and trained over 500 hundred Levite men for the priesthood. A registry is now kept of all known men of the proper lineage.
- ▶ All of the necessary training, including the preparation for playing of musical instruments, has been completed. These priests are only waiting for the right moment of opportunity and now stand ready to serve their God.
- ▶ A full scale model of the Third Temple is being built in Mitzpe Yericho, not very far from Jerusalem. The purpose of this facility will be to give hands-on training to Cohanim (i.e., a Jew who is a descendent of Aaron) and other Levitical priests

# Oil of Anointing – 21

- ▶ Special oil required for Temple worship services was prepared by the priests using five specific ingredients.
- ▶ And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. Ex 30:25
- ▶ One of the ingredients, from a rare plant called “sweet cinnamon” was apparently lost forever some two thousand years ago.

# Oil of Anointing cont.

- ▶ Copper scroll was found in “Cave 8” at Qumran
- ▶ cave, Cave 811 – a clay vessel containing a solidified gelatinous substance was discovered
- ▶ myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia, and oil olive an hin
- ▶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much (that is, 250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon, 250 shekels of fragrant cane, 500 shekels of cassia--all according to the sanctuary shekel--and a hin of olive oil. Ex 30:22-24

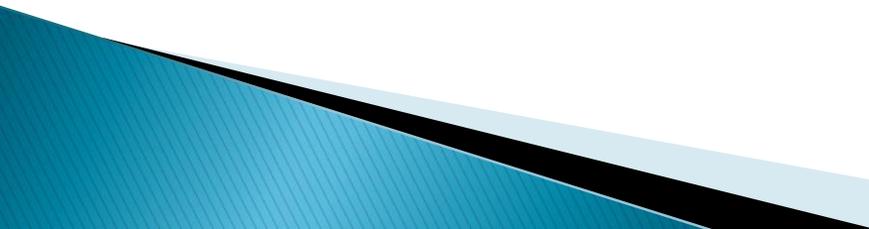
# Ark of the Covenant – 22

- ▶ **'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.'** It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore.  
<sup>17</sup> At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, Jer 3:16–17
- ▶ The verses written by Jeremiah point out that after the Jews are settled in Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom, with Jesus Christ reigning from His throne, the Ark of the Covenant will no longer be needed.
- ▶ However, it will be needed during the Tribulation.

# Ark of the Covenant



# History of the Ark

- ▶ Hitler and Mussolini
  - ▶ King Solomon through the Queen of Sheba produced a prince... Prince Menelik I
  - ▶ May have taken the Ark to Ethiopia
  - ▶ Falasha Jews... returned in the 1990s
  - ▶ Possible locations of the Ark
  - ▶ Aksum, a holy city in Ethiopia... in the Church of St. Mary.
  - ▶ Jerusalem tunnels under the Temple Mount
- 

- ▶ “Ancient Secrets of the Bible”, Rabbi Yahuda Getz and Rabbi Shlomo Goren
  - ▶ There is even one more story concerning the Ark and its current whereabouts. In this report, sources told Grant Jeffrey that an elite team of Israeli Special Forces flew into Ethiopia, carried the Ark out from its location beneath the Church of St. Mary, and then took it back to its current, secure location in Jerusalem.
- 

## Blue Dye for the garments of the High Priest – 23

- ▶ "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. Ex 28:31
- ▶ This blue dye was known as *tekhelet*. Since the days of the Second Temple, the source of this dye has vanished.
- ▶ In the late 1990's, Jewish divers discovered the hilazon snail in the Red Sea.
- ▶ Isaac Herzog and the *Murex trunculus* snail
- ▶ The contribution made by Otto Elsner
- ▶ Now the garments are ready!

# The Red Dye

- ▶ Rabbi Chaim Richman, led a group of interested people into the village of Neve Tsuf, Samaria on July 16, 2008 to harvest the tola'at shani, also known as the crimson worm.
  - ▶ The life cycle of the worm
  - ▶ Psalm 22 and the “worm.”
- 

# Jewish Priest



# The Sacred Red Heifer

- ▶ "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a **red heifer without blemish**, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come. <sup>3</sup> You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him; <sup>4</sup> and Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood seven times directly in front of the tabernacle of meeting. Num 19:2-4

# Red Heifer cont.

- ▶ the ashes of the heifer, and store *them* outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for the water of purification; it *is* for purifying from sin. <sup>10</sup> And the one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until evening. It shall be a statute forever to the children of Israel and to the stranger who dwells among them. Num 19:9–10
- ▶ Proper ceremonial cleansing will be needed to resume Temple worship services

# Where are the ashes?

- ▶ No one knows where these ashes are today
  - ▶ New ashes must be produced... are the old must be found
  - ▶ Moses Maimonides said the tenth heifer will come just before the Messiah comes
  - ▶ A big discovery in the spring of 2010!
- 

# Israel: End-Time Wars

- ▶ Israel will be involved in many wars in the latter days.
  - ▶ 1948, 1956, Six-Day War, Yom Kippur War, and more
  - ▶ Future wars are likely described in Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38/39, and The Revelation.
  - ▶ Israel will not lose any of these wars. God will protect them.
  - ▶ Let us discuss the war described in Psalm 83.
- 

# Israel will be surrounded by Arab Enemies in the Last Days – 25

- ▶ A song. A Psalm of Asaph. Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!  
2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. 3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.  
4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." 5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; 7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Psalms 83:1–8

# The Result of that War...

- ▶ Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD. <sup>17</sup> Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, <sup>18</sup> That they may know that You, whose name alone *is* the LORD, *Are* the Most High over all the earth. Psalms 83:16–18





- ▶ Edom and the Ishmaelites – located south and east of the Dead Sea
  - ▶ Moab – located east of the Dead Sea
  - ▶ Hagrites – located northeast of the Dead Sea (Lindsey says Saudi Arabia)
  - ▶ Gebal – current day Lebanon
  - ▶ Ammon – located east of the Dead Sea, just north of Moab
  - ▶ Amalek – located southeast of Israel
  - ▶ Philistia – located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea – south-central modern day Israel
- 

- ▶ Tyre – located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea just north of Galilee
  - ▶ Assyria – near modern day Syria – north of Israel
- 

# Two Additional Wars

- ▶ There are several other places in the Old Testament that also state that Israel will be surrounded by Arabic enemy nations in the end times. Two of the more intriguing are found in the book of Isaiah.
- ▶ An oracle concerning Damascus: “See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins... In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they are gone!” Isaiah 17:1&14 (concerning Syria)

# War involving Egypt

- ▶ "I will stir up Egyptian against Egyptian-- brother will fight against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city" (Isaiah 19:2).
- ▶ The prophecy continues with, "I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them," declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty (Isaiah 19:4)
- ▶ The Muslim Brotherhood and the so-called "Arab Spring."

- ▶ In summary, the nations that today represent the ancient countries prophesied to surround Israel in the end times include: Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories within Israel. Each of these modern day nations have reason to want Israel defeated. Frankly, most have a long standing animus toward the Jews and their nation just as Asaph noted so very long ago. They believe that the nation of Israel should not exist. One way or another, the followers of Allah want to eliminate Israel.

# Israel's War with Russia and Iran – 26

- ▶ Ezekiel 38/39
- ▶ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of **Magog**, the prince of **Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal**, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> **I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup> Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops-- many people are with you. Ezek. 38:1-6**

# Ezekiel War continued...

- ▶ I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'-- <sup>12</sup> **to take plunder and to take booty** Ezek. 38:11-12
- ▶ You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes. Ezek. 38:16
- ▶ Joel Rosenberg has recently written a best-seller titled, *The Ezekiel Option* in which he took the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and turned it into an exciting novel

# Nations in Ezekiel War

- ▶ Magog – Russia (Gog is the ruler of Magog and leader of the invasion)
- ▶ Rosh – modern day Russian people and some of former Soviet Block nations
- ▶ Meshech, Tubal and Gomer – all are parts of modern day Turkey
- ▶ Persia – Iran
- ▶ Cush – Northern Sudan, Ethiopia
- ▶ Put – Northern Libya, Algeria, Tunisia
- ▶ Ed Hindson and Tim LaHaye say that this prophecy is “most likely a prophecy of a ‘Russian’- led invasion of Israel....

# Russian and Iran

- ▶ Russia's interest in Iran – rebuild their economy and regain lost international influence.
  - ▶ Iran's interest in Russia – military hardware and technology... including nuclear.
  - ▶ The Mahdi (Twelfth Imam) – Iranian leaders hope to bring this individual back to earth by starting a devastating war.
- 

# The Twelfth Imam

- ▶ President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei believe that this Mahdi will need to return in order for Islam to conquer the world. The Mahdi is a counterfeit Messiah.
- ▶ Shiite Islam fanatics – 12ers
- ▶ They believe that it is necessary to *help* this 12<sup>th</sup> Imam return to earth by starting a war.
- ▶ His “story” is very interesting...
- ▶ They believe that Jesus is the Mahdi’s “right hand” man.
- ▶ Mesbah Yazdi, a leading Muslim apologist, agrees with the statements of the above two Iranian leaders.
- ▶ The plan is to incite a world war in the near future that will lead to world-wide Muslim caliphate (domination).





# 200 Million Army of Horsemen -27

- ▶ Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." Now the number of the army of the horsemen was **two hundred million**; I heard the number of them. Rev 9:13,14,16
- ▶ Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that **the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.** Rev 16:12
- ▶ This was not going to happen during the time of Christ. There were less than 450 million people in the entire world at that time.

- ▶ The government of Red China has spent enormous sums of money to build a highway across Asia that heads directly toward Israel
  - ▶ An army of that size could march against Israel from the east and through a dried up Euphrates at this time in history.
- 

# Euphrates River Will Dry Up –28

- ▶ Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that **the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.** Rev 16:12
- ▶ A massive dam, called the Ataturk Dam, was completed in 1990.
- ▶ New York Times – July 13, 2009 – article on the drying up of the Euphrates River

# Israel Will Remain Invincible! – 29

- ▶ God has protected Israel in all wars since their independence in 1948... and will continue to do so.
- ▶ Jesus will come to save them at Armageddon
- ▶ In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; **they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left**, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place--Jerusalem. Zech 12:6

# God will protect His Chosen People

- ▶ In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David *shall be* like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.  
<sup>9</sup> It shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. Zech 12:8–9
- ▶ Alas! For that day *is* great, So that none *is* like it; And it *is* the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it. Jer 30:7

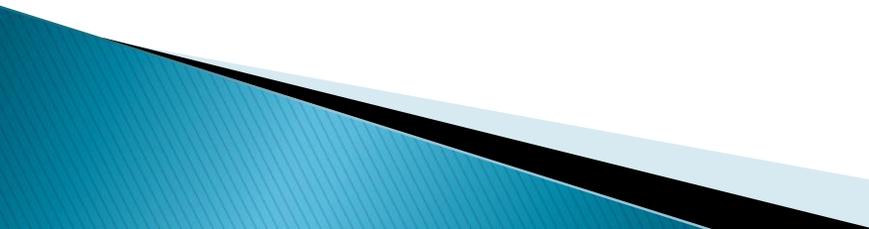
# Armageddon – Jesus will save Israel

- ▶ I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup> And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two. Zech 14:2–4

# Megiddo



# God Has Saved Israel in Many Recent Wars

- ▶ Israel has not lost a war since it regained independence on May 15, 1948
  - ▶ Wars fought –1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982 and other smaller battles
  - ▶ The evidence of divine intervention is great.
  - ▶ Examples of God's interventions:
  - ▶ The odds against them in 1967...
  - ▶ June 5, 1967 (the early air war)
  - ▶ Multiple angelic sightings
- 

# Miracles of War...

- ▶ Gershon Salomon and his story – 1958
  - ▶ Haaretz Newspaper report...
  - ▶ Col. Uri Banari – A case of mistaken identity
  - ▶ Overwhelming odds – a case of multiple frozen arms
  - ▶ West Point says no dice – God's way cannot be taught
  - ▶ Yom Kippur War – Angels on Israel's side
  - ▶ The minefield incident – God comes through again!
- 

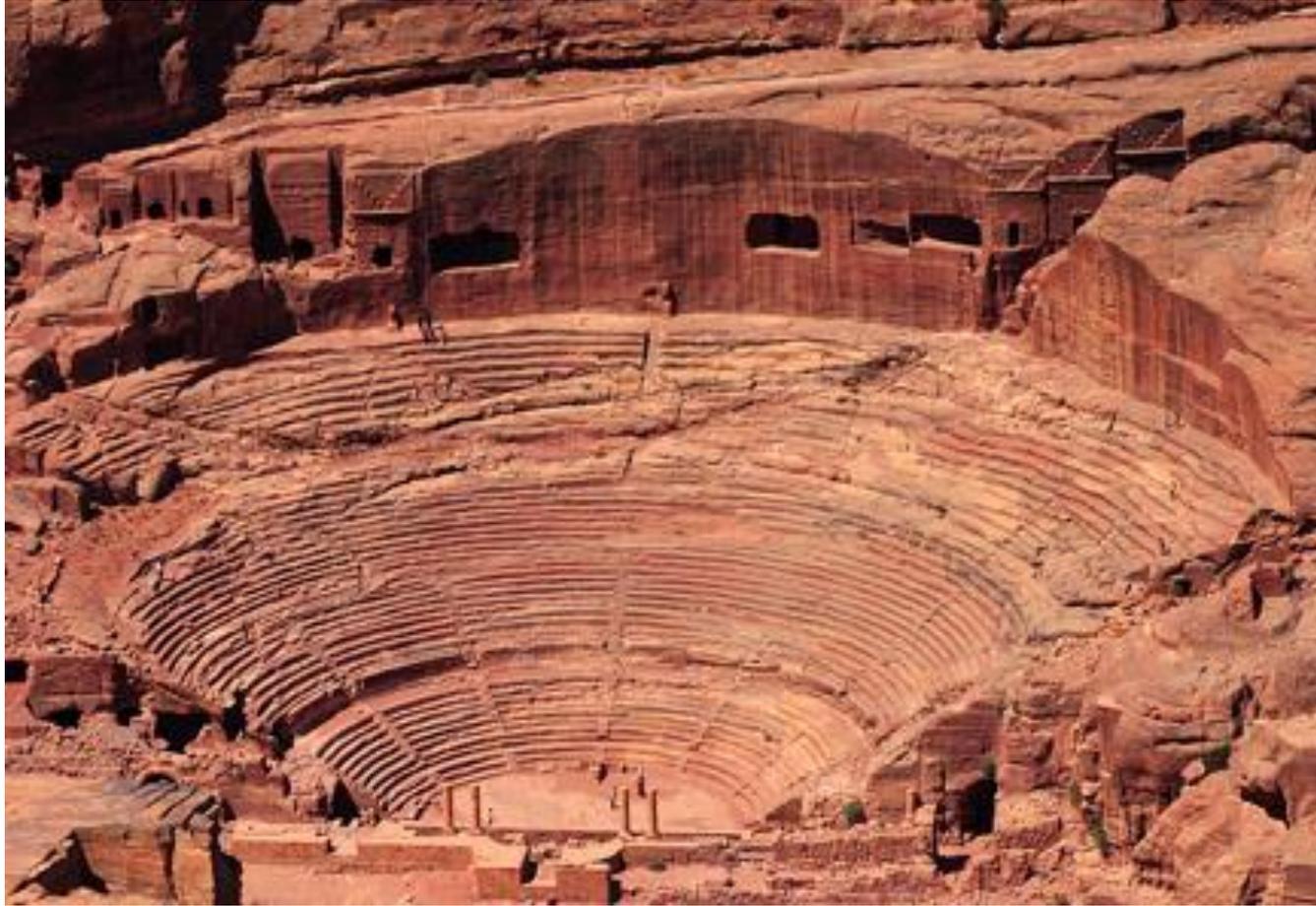
# Petra will exist and become the refuge for fleeing Jews – 30

- ▶ I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like *sheep of the fold* (“sheep of the fold” is the Hebrew name for the city of Bozrah/Petra). Like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people. Micah 2:12
- ▶ when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),<sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the **mountains** (Petra). Matt 24:15–17
- ▶ The “Red Rock” of Petra
- ▶ 1994 treaty with Jordan

# Petra



# Petra



## Birds of prey and wild animals to clean up the dead – 31

- ▶ Millions of people will die on the battle fields of Israel
- ▶ I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Ezek 39:4
- ▶ **'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: "Assemble yourselves and come; Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal Ezek 39:17**
- ▶ the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom. Isaiah 34:6

# Birds of Prey

- ▶ Wars of Ezekiel 38/39 and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, Babylon, Armageddon and possibly others
- ▶ The plains of Megiddo have the greatest population of this kind of bird in the entire world! Number one in the world!
- ▶ These birds and wild desert animals exist in massive numbers in the Petra and Bozrah region just below the Dead Sea as well.
- ▶ It will take seven years for the clean-up to be completed

# The World in the Latter Days

- ▶ A revival of the Roman Empire
  - ▶ One World Government and one world leader
  - ▶ Amazing scientific advancements
  - ▶ The pouring out of God's Holy Spirit
- 

# Revival of Roman Empire – 32

- ▶ Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible. 32 This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. 36 This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. Daniel 2:31–37

# The Fourth Kingdom

- ▶ 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. Dan 2:38-43

# Revival of Roman Empire

- ▶ "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a **fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful**. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. 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 it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully. Dan 7:2-8
- ▶ The final form of the Roman Empire will have one individual (a little horn) which will rise up to uproot three of the original ten horns

- ▶ I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell--the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom. Dan 7:20-22

# The Four Kingdoms

- ▶ The first kingdom - (head of fine gold = the **lion**) --- represents Babylon
- ▶ The second kingdom - (chest and arms of silver = **bear**) --- represents the Medes & Persians
- ▶ The third kingdom - (thighs of bronze = **leopard**) --- represents Greece and their various leaders
- ▶ The fourth kingdom - (legs of iron = **beast**) --- represents Rome
- ▶ The *fourth kingdom revived* --- represents the Roman Empire revived with ten divisions, eventually giving its power to a very charismatic world leader, the Antichrist (certainly, this type of event is not that unusual in history... note how the charismatic Adolph Hitler rapidly rose to power in Nazi Germany)

# 4 Beast Comparison Chart

Gold	 <p>Dan. 2:</p>	Babylon		Dan. 7:4		
Silver		Medo-Persia		Dan. 7:5		Dan. 8:3
Bronze		Greece		Dan. 7:6		Dan. 8:5
Iron		Rome		Dan. 7:7	Rev. 13:	
Iron/Clay		Final Empire		Dan. 7:8		

# Revived Roman Empire

- ▶ Winston Churchill comments on the need for a unified Europe.
- ▶ Treaty of Rome – March 25, 1957 (European Economic Community – six nations to begin)
- ▶ The total expanded to its current total of twenty-seven in 2007 with the addition of Romania and Bulgaria.
- ▶ In 2007, the U.S. lost its seat to the European Union (EU) as the world's largest economy.
- ▶ Most prophecy scholars believe that the world is on the precipice of a coming world government that will be ruled by one very impressive, charismatic man coming out of this European Union... the future Antichrist.

# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- ▶ The prophecy often referred to as **the seventy “sevens”** (Daniel 9:20–27) gives detailed information concerning **the future dealings of God with His “chosen people”**. In these verses, the actual time that Christ would come into Jerusalem for His final appearance and crucifixion is actually given. In fact, this concludes the first sixty–nine of the seventy periods of seven years.
- ▶ This Tribulation period will immediately precede the onset of the Millennial Kingdom
- ▶ The European Union

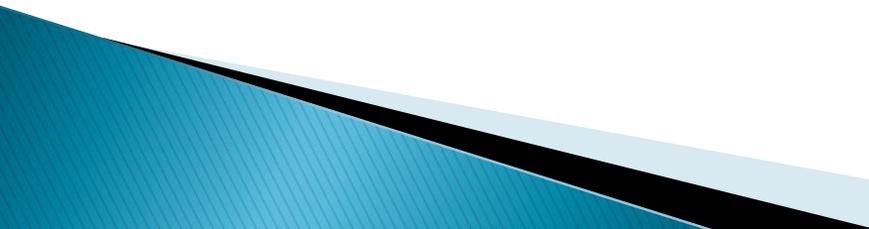
# One World Government – 33

- ▶ He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 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. Rev 13:7-8
- ▶ The Bible refers to the ultimate and final world leader as the Antichrist.

# One World Government

- ▶ Council of Foreign Relations
  - ▶ Tri Lateral Commission
  - ▶ The Bilderbergers, the Council of Europe, the Club of Rome, and the World Federalist Movement. Virtually every nation now is governed by individuals who belong to one or more of these globalist associations.
- 

# Comments of World Leaders

- ▶ Today and for some time now, there have been many noteworthy people who have proposed this form of government for the world. It is often referred to as the New World Order.
  - ▶ On Jan 17, 1961, Dwight Eisenhower warned the people of the United States of a possible coming New World Order
  - ▶ George H.W. Bush and Clinton look forward to this world government
  - ▶ Henry Kissinger, Gordon Brown believe it is inevitable
  - ▶ President Obama frequently talks about this future world government
  - ▶ The world is progressively moving to this form of government and a charismatic world leader.
- 

# A New World Order

- ▶ What would be the result?
  - ▶ Loss of sovereignty
  - ▶ Everything is in place for a one world government to come into being. As people such as Hiliary Clinton and Rahm Emanuel have just recently implied, all that it may take will be one more crisis to tip the scales just enough so that our country will join with others in forming this New World Order. There are already many world leaders who literally are asking for it!
- 

# Babylon – the great city is overthrown – 34

- ▶ **Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there. Isaiah 13:19–20**
- ▶ **Because of the LORD's anger she will not be inhabited but will be completely desolate. All who pass Babylon will be horrified and scoff because of all her wounds. Jer 50:13**

# Babylon in the end-times

- ▶ In Zechariah 5, the prophet has a vision of a basket with a woman in it (the woman is said to represent wickedness). The angel told Zechariah that he was taking the basket... "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When it is ready, the basket will be set there in its place." Zech 5:11
- ▶ Babylon will have been rebuilt before or during the time of the Tribulation.
- ▶ The history of Babylon...
- ▶ The Babylon Project

# World-wide (Global) communication-35

- ▶ And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies 3 1/2 days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. Rev. 11:8-9
- ▶ It has become commonplace to broadcast important images completely around the world.
- ▶ Satellite television and the internet are significant signs of the end-times as this capability has only been available for a couple of decades.

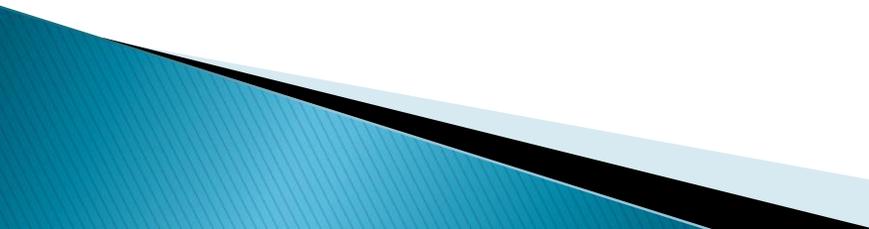
# Mark of the Beast – 36

- ▶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: his number is 666. Rev 13:16–18

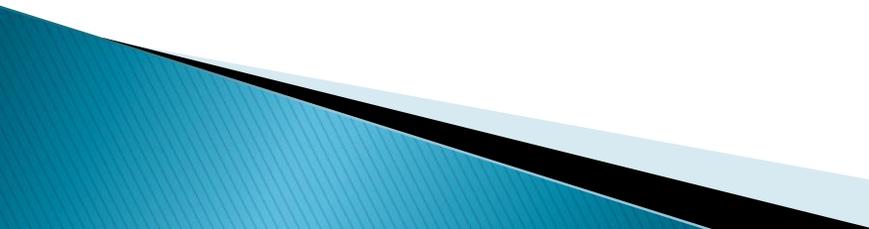
# The Martyrs

- ▶ I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. Rev 20:4–5

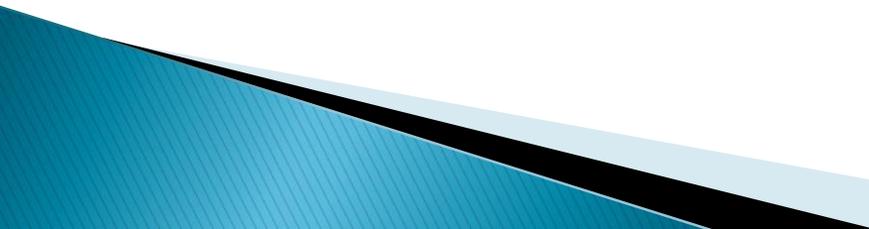
# The Choice of Life or Death

- ▶ People will have to choose between taking the “Mark of the Beast” and rejecting Jesus, or staying true to Christ and thereby likely dying a martyr’s death.
  - ▶ The False Prophet will command all humanity to receive this “mark” as a mark of allegiance to the Antichrist
  - ▶ Why would someone want to mark the body of a person?
  - ▶ Microchips are actually smaller than a grain of rice and contain more than five megabytes worth of information.
  - ▶ This mark will allow the Antichrist to control of all of those who receive it.
- 

## Knowledge and travel will increase at an extraordinary pace – 37

- ▶ "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."  
Dan 12:4
  - ▶ Twenty to thirty miles per hour was the speed limit that man has lived with forever... until the last hundred years or so.
  - ▶ For centuries, the amount of knowledge available to man increased very slowly. At times, it actually went down... for example, in the Dark Ages.
- 

# The Knowledge Explosion

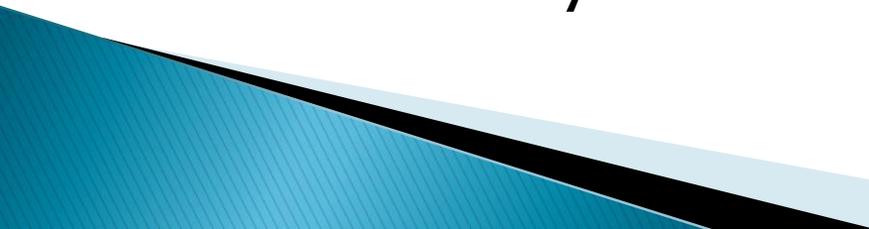
- ▶ The workings of the cell (DNA, proteins, amino acids, mitochondria, etc.)
  - ▶ The ability to cure many human diseases – totally new knowledge of bacteria, viruses, antibiotics, chemotherapy, etc.
  - ▶ Knowledge to build airplanes, satellites, cars
  - ▶ Television, phones, computers!!!
  - ▶ The internet
  - ▶ Cloning
- 

# Knowledge explosion continued...

- ▶ It is said that 80% percent of the world's total knowledge has come forth in the last ten years and that 90% percent of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today. Others who study this subject say that *knowledge* is *doubling* every 22 months!

# Jesus will appear to people in dreams and visions – 38

- ▶ I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28–29
- ▶ Even with the threat of death, there still are record numbers of Muslims turning to the one true Savior, Jesus Christ in that part of the world

- ▶ Joel Rosenberg, a Messianic Jewish scholar, had important comments...
  - ▶ Some anti-Christian claims... let us take a look
  - ▶ The actual answer with respect to the growth of Islam and Christianity. Both are growing.
  - ▶ Muslims grow almost exclusively via birth
  - ▶ Christians grow via birth and by *conversion*... and are growing faster than any other religion
  - ▶ Muslims are converting in large numbers to Christianity!
- 

# Muslims convert to Christianity

- ▶ Let us take a look at some of these miraculous conversions.
- ▶ In Egypt, 10,000 new believers worship in a “garbage village” every weekend. The *Jesus* Film sold 600,000 copies in the year 2000 alone.
- ▶ In Algeria, the nearly 100,000 new Christians have alerted the Islamic clerics.
- ▶ More than one million Sudanese have become Christians since 2000!

# Muslim Converts

- ▶ Sheikh Ahmad Al Qataani said in an interview on Aljazeera television that six million Muslims convert to Christianity each year.
- ▶ The known numbers of Christians in Afghanistan has grown from 17 people to over 10,000 believers since 2001.
- ▶ In Iran, more people have come to Christ in the last 20 years than in the previous 1400 years! In 1979, there were only 500 known Muslim converts to Jesus. At this time, one Iranian minister told Joel Rosenberg that he believes that there are more than one million Iranians who believe in Christ as their Savior.

# Dreams and Visions

- ▶ A recent Muslim survey revealed that 42% of Muslims convert to Christianity primarily due to Jesus appearing to them via dreams or visions.
- ▶ Christine Darg, author of *The Jesus Visions: Signs and Wonders in the Muslim World* states that “He is going into the Muslim world and revealing, particularly, the last 24 hours of His life

# Encounters with Jesus

- ▶ In a “preparatory dream”, Jesus typically appears in a white robe to confirm His true identity and that He is the only way to heaven.
- ▶ The second type of encounter revolves around Jesus empowering the new convert in the face of persecution.
- ▶ An Egyptian’s encounter with Jesus
- ▶ The miracle of the “carful of Bibles”
- ▶ Try an Internet search of: **Muslim dreams and visions of Jesus**

# Summary

- ▶ Prophecies concerning the world of the end-times
  - ▶ Daniel and the Revived Roman Empire
  - ▶ One World Government with one world leader
  - ▶ Babylon, Knowledge Explosion, Increased speed of travel, and the mark of the Beast
  - ▶ The Holy Spirit will be poured out on all flesh  
- Muslims become Christians
- 

# The Olivet Discourse

- ▶ The end-time prophecies of Jesus
- ▶ Matthew 24, in particular
- ▶ Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, 'and will deceive many. 6 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. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. 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. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

# Olivet Discourse cont.

- ▶ **Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.**

# False Christs and False Prophets

- ▶ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. **21** For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. **22** If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. **23** At that time 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 appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.

# The Sun will be darkened

- ▶ For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. 29 “Immediately after the distress of those days  
“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”  
30 “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

# The generation that sees these things...

- ▶ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. 32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. 34 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

# As in the days of Noah

- ▶ **36** “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man
- ▶ **the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.** Matt. 24:4–39,44

# An Increase in False Messiahs – 39

- ▶ **For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ, ‘and will deceive many. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

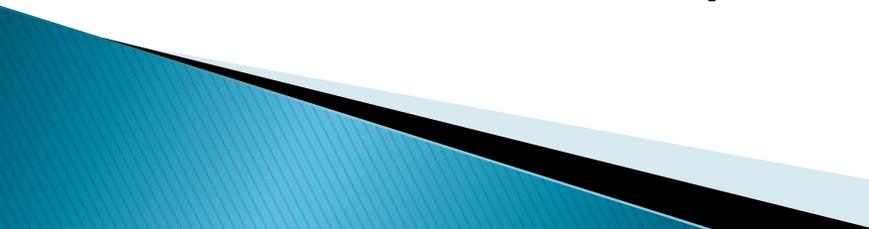
Mathew 24:5,24

- ▶ Simon Bar Cochba
- ▶ Approximately one False Messiah per century
- ▶ Now, dozens claim to be the Messiah!

# False Messiahs

- ▶ This is a time very conducive for certain individuals to make this claim
  - ▶ Financial benefits, fame, comforts, easy to do, a proper spiritual environment exists today as well
  - ▶ **Sun Myung Moon (Unification Church)**
  - ▶ **Charles Manson**
  - ▶ **David Koresh**
  - ▶ **David Icke**
  - ▶ **Maitreya, Mahdi, Jim Jones and many more**
- 

# Explosion of False Prophets – 40

- ▶ **Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.**
  - ▶ A little background
  - ▶ Television has changed the face of many things in the world, including religion.
  - ▶ “*name it, claim it, gospel*” or the “*health and wealth doctrine*.”
  - ▶ Jesus never promised His followers anything of this sort... this is just one of the sick, false doctrines that has become so very popular in these latter days.
- 

# False Prophets

- ▶ Oprah Winfrey – there are many ways to heaven
  - ▶ Eckhart Tolle, a New Age leader and mentor of sorts to Winfrey
  - ▶ Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, and Christian Science adherents. Scientology, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam are also religions claiming that only they have the answer.
  - ▶ Who will you follow?
- 

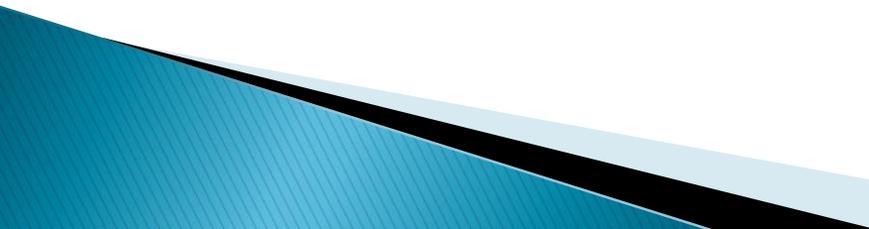
# Worldwide Apostate Church – 41

- ▶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the Day of the Lord) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”  
2 Thess. 2:3
- ▶ “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;” 1 Tim. 4:1&2.
- ▶ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other Matt. 24:10

# The Apostate Church

- ▶ The United States clearly was founded on Christian principals.
  - ▶ During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were great Christian evangelists and preachers in England and the United States such as D.L. Moody and Charles Spurgeon. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, men such as Billy Sunday and Billy Graham have brought the Christian message to millions of people around the world.
  - ▶ There are more people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in recent years than at any other time in history
- 

# The Paradox

- ▶ Recent concentration of many with Secular Humanism
  - ▶ New Age Religion
  - ▶ *“the doctrine emphasizing a person's capacity for self-realization through reason; rejects religion and the supernatural”; another definition is “a religious worldview based on atheism, naturalism, evolution, and ethical relativism.”*
- 

# History of this recent trend...

- ▶ This apostasy began over fifty years ago, but really gained significance in the 1960s after our country legislated God out of our schools. Soon thereafter, abortion was legitimized and legalized (1973). Homosexuality was deemed to be a totally reasonable and honorable lifestyle beginning in the early 1970s.
- ▶ Secular Humanism has replaced Christianity as the *ruling* belief system in the United States, Canada, and European nations
- ▶ The World Council of Churches – apostasy

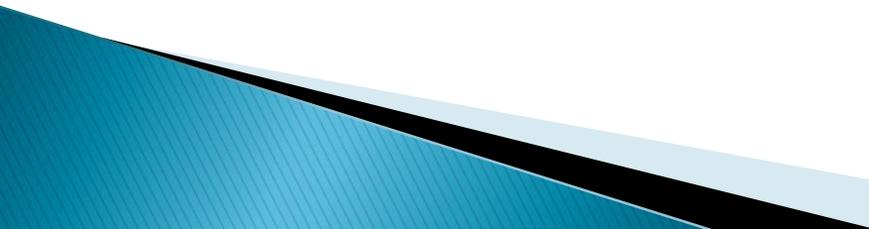
# An Increase in Christian Martyrs – 42

- ▶ “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.  
Matt. 24:9
- ▶ In the two thousand years of the Church Age, approximately 70 million faithful Christians have given their lives because of their faith in Jesus. Sixty-five percent of these martyrs died within the last one hundred years!

# Nations that are greatly involved...

- ▶ Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nazi Germany, Turkey, India, Nigeria, East Timor, Cuba, many of the former Soviet Republics, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries have contributed significantly to the quantity of these terrible murders
  - ▶ Virtual genocidal martyrdom in Rwanda and Burundi in the 1990s produced more martyrs than at any other time period in history.
  - ▶ An average of 160,000 Christians are martyred yearly since 1990 according to Antonio Socci, an Italian journalist
- 

# As the end-times approach

- ▶ Socci also noted that Communism and Muslim Fundamentalism are the greatest fuels for this persecution of Christians in the modern world. Lately, this has been most severe in the Sudan.
  - ▶ Although this persecution is already very bad, it will get even worse after the Rapture for anyone who chooses to follow Jesus Christ. However, God forbid if any other decision is made by those who are left behind.
- 

# Rise of Anti-Semitism – 43

- ▶ **You will be hated by all nations because of me.**  
Matt. 24:9
- ▶ Today, Israel and the Jewish people face unparalleled hatred from other nations and people of the world. This hatred of God's "chosen people" was predicted thousands of years ago in the Scriptures.
- ▶ The history of the Jews and anti-semitism
- ▶ with the naming of Christianity as the state religion of Rome, some early Christian fathers came out against the Jewish people. St. Augustine wrote that they were a "wicked sect" and should be banished because of their evil.

# Anti-Semitism through the Ages

- ▶ The Crusades
  - ▶ The Muslims
  - ▶ Spanish Inquisition
  - ▶ *Of Jews and Their Lies* - Luther
  - ▶ *The Victory of Judaism over Germanism* by Wilhelm Marr, postulated that Jews were genetically different than Germans and therefore could never be assimilated into the German race
  - ▶ Hitler
- 

# Modern Day Anti-Semitism

- ▶ Consider the reaction to the world community to the situation between Israel and the Palestinians.
- ▶ The view of the world
- ▶ The view of the “Palestinians”
- ▶ The simple fact is that the Jews are hated by many people in the world today. God said that they would be and they are. They are His “chosen people”, but God has obviously allowed them time to see how they do without His guidance and help

# The Kingdom Will be preached to entire World – 44

- ▶ **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**  
Matt 24:14
  - ▶ "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth." Isaiah 45:22
  - ▶ A brief history of the gospel...
  - ▶ The printing press
  - ▶ Missionary Age
- 

# The Gospel to the World

- ▶ Almost **fifty percent of Africans** have become born-again Christians within the last century.
- ▶ Indonesia
- ▶ **Russia now has over one hundred million Christians.** Koreans had rejected Christ almost without exception as World War II began. Now **fifty percent are believers.** As has been pointed out in an earlier *sign*, **Muslims are turning to Christ** in **surprisingly vast numbers** in the past couple of decades.

# China

- ▶ **China may be the greatest example of this end-time coming to faith in Christ. In 1950, after over 100 years of continuous missionary intervention, there were only 1 million Christians in all of China.**
  - ▶ **Approximately 125,000,000 have turned their lives over to Jesus in recent decades.**
- 

# Lausanne Statistics Task Force on Evangelism

- ▶ In 1430, one percent of the world was Christian
  - ▶ In 1790, two percent called themselves Christians
  - ▶ In 1940, three percent of people were Christian
  - ▶ In 1997, ten percent were Christian – and it has risen even faster over the last decade
- 

- ▶ In other words, it took 510 years to increase from one to three percent, but only 57 years to go from three to ten percent! In total numbers, this may be even more impressive. In 1934 there were 40 million evangelical Christians. Today there are approximately 650 million!
- ▶ Wycliffe translators have translated the Bible into 3,850 languages reaching over 98% of the world's population. The gospel of John has been translated into virtually every human dialect in the world.

# The Amazing Growth of Christianity

- ▶ The number of people becoming new Christians each day is estimated (in a detailed study by researchers from *World Christian Encyclopedia*) to be 125,000!!! In this past decade, there is a net gain of approximately 42,000,000 Christians every year on this earth. With the ever increasing rate of evangelization, **estimates are that one billion more people will become Christians in the next decade. Evangelical Christianity is growing at the fastest rate of all.**

# The Church vs. Islam

- ▶ Although Islam is increasing rapidly in the world today, studies show that Christianity is increasing at almost twice their rate!
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. John 14:6–7
- ▶ Jesus said that the end would come when His gospel message was preached throughout the world... that time is certainly at hand.

# Wars and Rumors of Wars – 45

- ▶ **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. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.** Matt. 24:6,7
- ▶ The Red Cross estimates that over 100 million people have died in armed conflict since 1901. In 1993, there were twenty-nine major wars fought.
- ▶ Sixty million people died in WWII alone.

# Possible Total Annihilation

- ▶ The most terrible aspect of modern warfare is the possibility of total annihilation of great numbers of people... even, the entire planet
  - ▶ Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons can all result in total devastation
  - ▶ Almost fifty percent of the world's scientists are working on weapon-related research. Forty percent of all scientific funding goes to arms research.
  - ▶ The terrifying arms race...
- 

# Weapons of Mass Destruction

- ▶ Nuclear and others just mentioned
- ▶ EMP
- ▶ There has never been the development of a weapon system that has not eventually been used in some manner and by some one.
- ▶ **Someone, probably a rogue terrorist, will someday use a nuclear bomb against some nation – a particularly important reason why it is likely very near the time of the Second Coming.**
- ▶ **The Bible does tell us that Jesus will intervene and put a stop to all of the destruction... and lead us in to the Millennial Kingdom of peace!**

# Famines – 46

- ▶ There will be **famines** and earthquakes in various places... Matt. 24:7
- ▶ In just the last year, the United Nations has stated that **one billion** people suffer from hunger!
- ▶ The level of hunger poses a “serious risk” to world peace and security. Almost 20% of the world goes to bed hungry every night!
- ▶ Josette Sheeran, says the world may be reaching a point where the global system can no longer cope with the massive numbers of malnourished people.

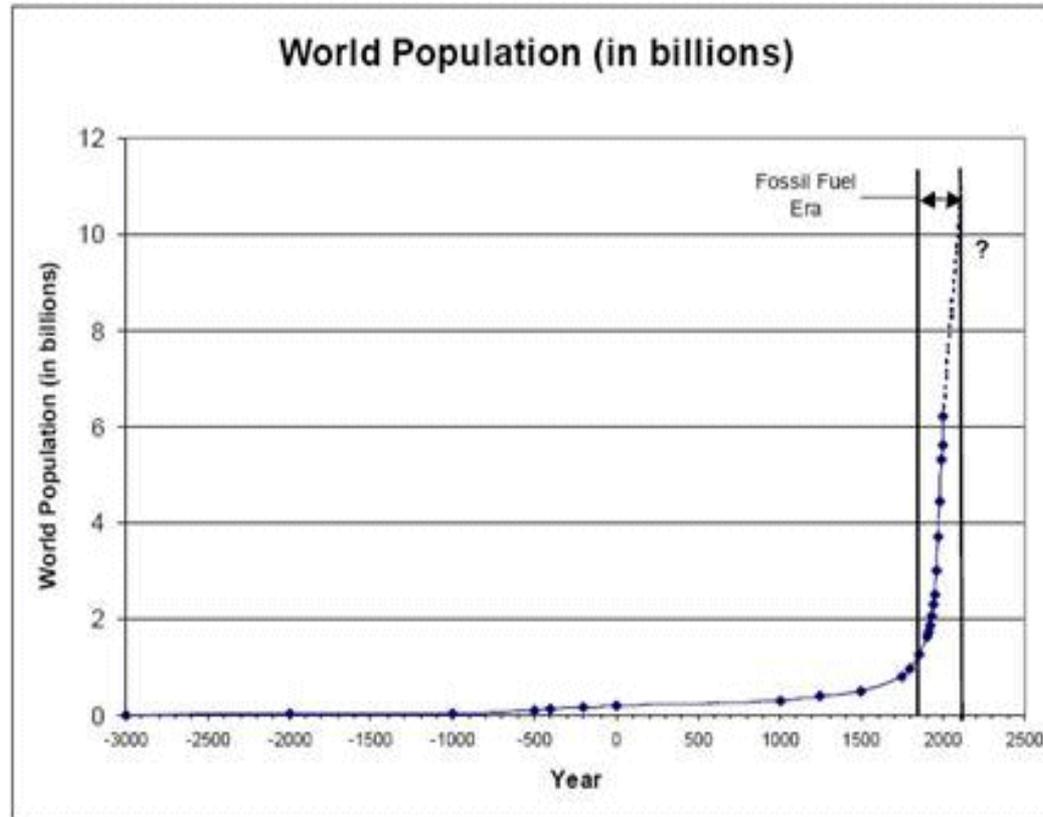
# Starvation in the World

- ▶ Darfur, Ethiopia and Somalia are in critical need of food resources
- ▶ An estimated 3.2 million people, 42% of the population, in Somalia **are** malnourished. One in six children are considered acutely malnourished (requiring specialist care) and are in danger for their lives every day according to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).
- ▶ Deserts are increasing at a rate of 15 million acres per year. Tens of billions of tons of topsoil are being lost yearly as well.
- ▶ Population growth (over 225,000 people added per day)

# Population over the centuries

- ▶ From Adam until Jesus, the population grew from one to 300,000 people. From Jesus until the beginning of WWI it grew to 2 billion people. In 1962, the population reached 3 billion; 5 billion in 1980; 6 billion in 2000; 7 billion today.

# Worldwide Population



# Pestilence – 47

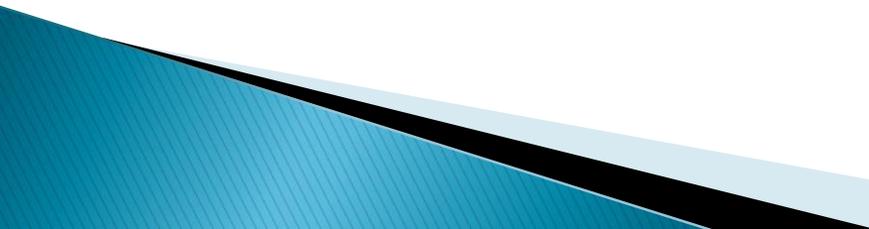
- ▶ **And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences.**  
Luke (21:11)
- ▶ Webster's dictionary defines pestilence as "a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating."
- ▶ AIDS – an excellent example of this problem
- ▶ An estimated 22.4 million adults and children in sub-Saharan Africa are currently infected with HIV. 1.4 million Africans died from AIDS in 2008. 14.1 million children have lost one or both parents to the AIDS virus. 1.8 million children have the virus themselves!

# Devastating Contagious Diseases

- ▶ Tuberculosis has now mutated to become a much more virulent organism.
  - ▶ Malaria has done the same. Dysentery kills millions of people around the world as well.
  - ▶ Avian influenza (H5N1) continues to cause deaths worldwide. One third of the cases in Egypt prove fatal.
  - ▶ Malaria kills three million people yearly!
- 

# Mutations contribute greatly to the problem

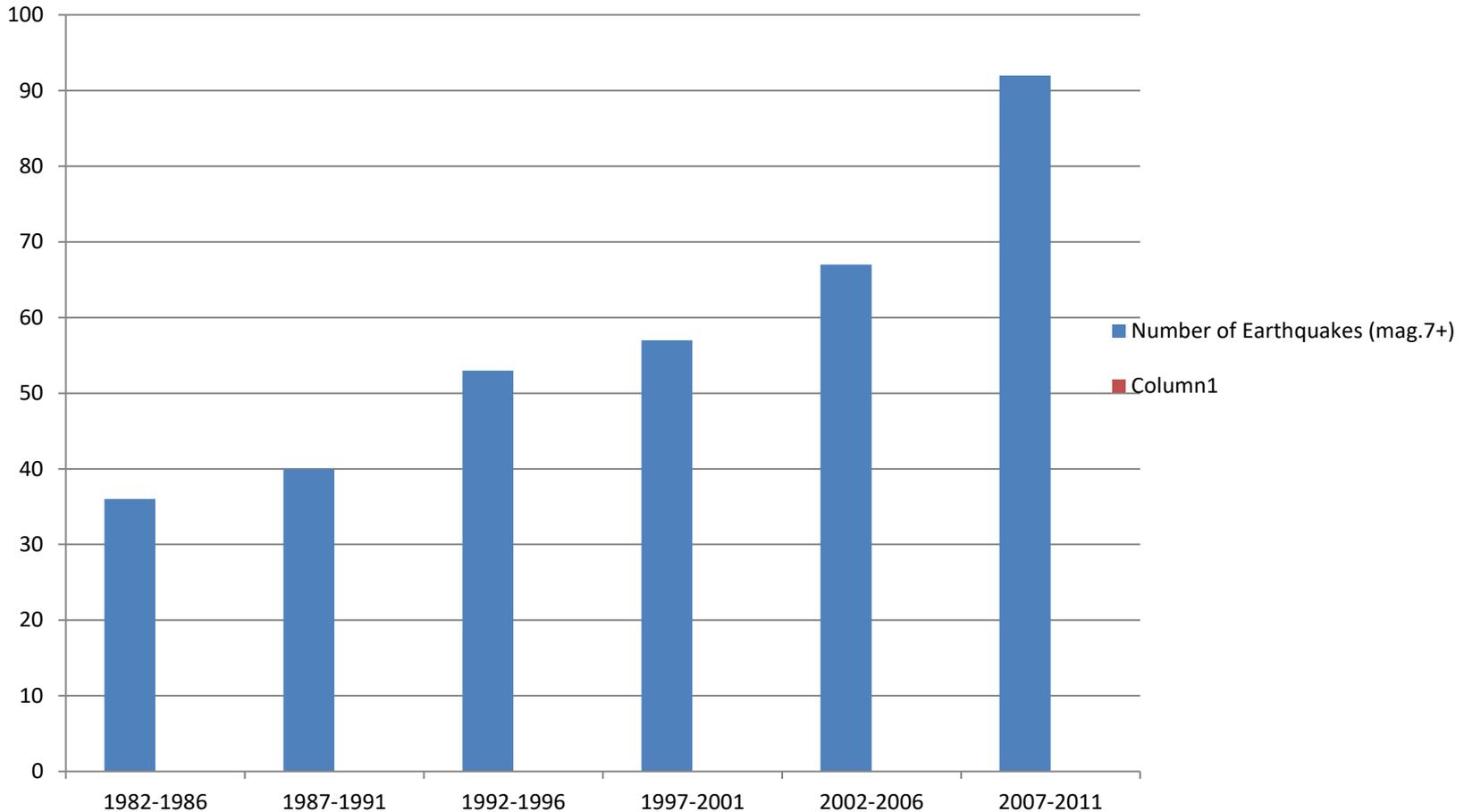
- ▶ Many other infectious diseases are mounting a terrible comeback at this time. For many years it looked as if drug therapy would wipe out these killers. Unfortunately, these bacteria and viruses have the capability of mutating and becoming even more potent killers... and many have already done so.
- ▶ MRSA and a similar new resistant bacteria, even more deadly that made its appearance in 2013!
- ▶ Newsweek Magazine stated that *there have been thirty new contagious diseases come onto the world scene since the mid-1970s causing combined tens of millions of deaths!*

- ▶ The Associated Press in 2006 reported that “Humans risk being overrun by diseases from the animal world, according to researchers who have documented thirty–eight illnesses that have made that jump over the last twenty–five years.”
  - ▶ Ease if world travel increases risk significantly
  - ▶ During the Great Tribulation, the increase in pestilence in our world will become a devastating killer.
- 

# Earthquakes – 48

- ▶ There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. (Matt 24:7–8)
- ▶ There has been a marked increase seen over the last ten years of earthquakes with a magnitude of 7.0 or greater on the Richter Scale.
- ▶ Terribly destructive tsunamis often accompany these huge earthquakes. Two of the most destructive tsunamis in history have occurred in the past seven years (Indonesia – 2004; Japan – 2011).

# Major Earthquakes Since 1982



# Tornadoes

- ▶ Although not specifically mentioned by Jesus... tornadoes may certainly be considered to be a “**fearful event and great sign from heaven.**” (Luke 21:11)
- ▶ There were 1,897 tornadoes reported in the US in 2011 (of which at least 1,706 were confirmed). 2011 was an exceptionally destructive and deadly year for tornadoes.
- ▶ The last two years have been two of the deadliest years on record related to extremes in weather... especially due to these major tornadoes.

# The love of most people will grow cold – 49

- ▶ **Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.** (Matt. 24:12)
- ▶ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, falseaccusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good...
- ▶ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim 3:1–7)

# Take a moment to reflect on the times in which we live

- ▶ If one just thinks about these statements by Jesus and Paul and then takes a moment to reflect on the times in which we live, I believe that it will not be hard to recognize that wickedness is increasing around our nation and world...
  - ▶ **Abortions**
  - ▶ **Murder**
  - ▶ **Homosexuality**
  - ▶ **Sexual immorality**
- 

# A Very Wicked World

- ▶ Angry, brutal people
- ▶ Childhood Pornography and Prostitution
- ▶ Many of the people in our world today have become hardened to sin and immoral activities. They have become “**lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God.**” That is why very little is being done to rectify most of these terrible problems. This is what we would expect if we are living in the latter days. Jesus will be coming to correct this situation soon.



# Israel, the Messiah and the World

- ▶ Israel will turn to the Messiah one day...
- ▶ God has always said that those that bless Israel will be, in turn, blessed. However, those who curse Israel..... they will be cursed!

# Doomsday Weapons and the melting of the elements – 50

- ▶ **Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!** Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: <sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains..... A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. (Joel 2:1–3)

# A Description of the Devastation

- ▶ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved. (Matt 24:21–22)
- ▶ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (2 Peter 3:10–12)

# Nuclear Bombs

- ▶ The energy produced by a nuclear explosion is millions of times more powerful per gram than conventional explosives.
- ▶ When there is a surrounding material such as air, rock, or water, the radiation rapidly heats it to an equilibrium temperature (i.e. the same temperature as within the bomb). This causes vaporization of surrounding material resulting in its rapid expansion and a massive shockwave. The effects are devastating and difficult to imagine. Indeed, “the elements actually will melt with fervent heat!”

# Weapons of Mass Destruction

- ▶ There has never been the development of a weapon system that has not eventually been used in some manner and by some one.
- ▶ **Someone, probably a rogue terrorist, will someday use a nuclear bomb against some nation – a particularly important reason why it is likely very near the time of the Second Coming.**
- ▶ The Bible does tell us that Jesus will intervene and put a stop to all of the destruction... and lead us in to the Millennial Kingdom of peace!

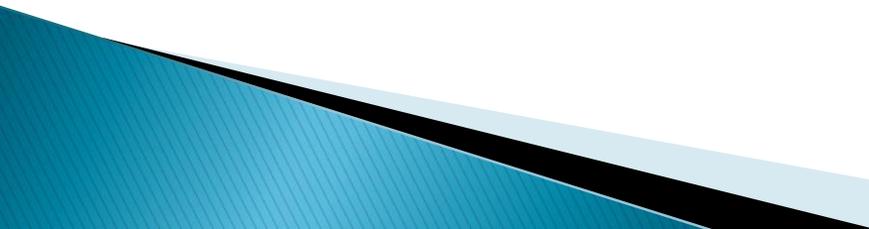
# Conclusion

- ▶ In his address on Mount Olivet, Jesus spoke on the topic of His Second Coming. He told His listeners that the world would deteriorate into very perilous times as that day approached. Jesus noted that many alive in those days would experience terrible famine, pestilence, earthquakes, and wars. Although the gospel would finally be spread throughout the entire world, there would also be a marked increase in apostasy. False Messiahs and False Prophets would spread Satan's lies to all those who would listen. Yet, millions would die for their love of Jesus. All of these signs are here in the world today.

# How Can I Go to Heaven?

- ▶ Since the world is really getting close to a time of terrible crisis... i.e. Armageddon, what can anyone do to prepare for meeting God? What must one do to be saved?
- ▶ The Bible gives us the answer to this question... very specifically. It says, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31)
- ▶ “You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jer 29:13)

# The Path to Salvation

- ▶ Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus.
  - ▶ Jesus tells Thomas how to follow Him to heaven.
  - ▶ Philip asks to see God... Jesus replies.
  - ▶ Jesus came to earth and gave us a model of how to live our lives while on this earth,
  - ▶ He came and proved through His words and actions that He was God incarnate.
  - ▶ Most importantly, Jesus came and lived a sinless life, thus enabling Him to be the required perfect, unblemished, sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
  - ▶ The gospel message
- 

# The Roman Road

- ▶ **Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. (Heb 9:27)**
- ▶ **For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Romans 14:10–12)**

- ▶ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice...  
(Romans 3:23–25)
- ▶ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Romans 6:23)

- ▶ **God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21)**
- ▶ **Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)**
- ▶ **But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him. (Romans 5:8)**



- ▶ 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.  
<sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... <sup>13</sup> For *“everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”* (Romans 10:9–10,13)
- ▶ Therefore, there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

- ▶ **And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you. (Romans 8:11)**
- ▶ **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. (Romans 8:9)**
- ▶ **Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:13–14)**

- ▶ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)
- ▶ ... we are God's children. Now if we are children, we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ... (Romans 8:16–17)
- ▶ He [God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Rev 21:4–5)



# Evidence to Believe

- ▶ Ankerberg, John & Weldon, John, *Ready With An Answer*, Harvest House, Eugene, 1997, 404 pp.
- ▶ Craig, William, *Reasonable Faith, Christian Truth and Apologetics*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, 1994, 350 pp.
- ▶ Lewis, C. S., *Mere Christianity*, MacMillan, N.Y., 1952, 1990 pp.
- ▶ McDowell, Josh, *A Ready Defense*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1993, 495 pp.
- ▶ McDowell, Josh, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1999, 760 pp.
- ▶ Strobel, Lee, *The Case for Christ*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1998, 292 pp.
- ▶ Strobel, Lee, *The Case for Faith*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2000, 286 pp.

# Apologetic Books

- ▶ The following books give incontrovertible evidence that the universe, the earth, and mankind required a Creator.
- ▶ Ankerberg, John & Weldon, John, *Darwin's Leap of Faith*, Harvest House, Eugene, 1998, 392 pp.
- ▶ Behe, Michael, *Darwin's Black Box*, The Free Press, N.Y., 1996, 307 pp.
- ▶ Behe, Michael, *The Edge of Evolution*, The Free Press, N.Y., 2007, 320 pp.
- ▶ Denton, Michael, *Evolution, A Theory In Crisis*, Adler and Adler, Bethesda, 1986, 368 pp.
- ▶ Ferguson, Kitty, *The Fire In The Equations; Science, Religion, and the Search for God*, Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, 1994, 308 pp.
- ▶ Geisler, Norman & Turek, Frank, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, 2004, 448 pp.

- ▶ Heeren, Fred, *Show Me God*, Day Star Publications, Wheeling, 2000, 407 pp.
- ▶ Johnson, Philip, *Darwin on Trial*, Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, 1993, 220 pp.
- ▶ Moreland, J.P., Editor, *The Creation Hypothesis, Scientific Evidence for an Intelligent Designer*, Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, 1994, 331 pp.
- ▶ Pun, Pattle, *Evolution, Nature And Scripture In Conflict?* Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1982, 336 pp.
- ▶ Ross, Hugh, *The Creator and the Cosmos*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, 2001, 266 pp.
- ▶ Ross, Hugh, *The Fingerprint of God*, Promise Publishing, Orange, 1991, 233 pp.
- ▶ Wells, Jonathan, *Icons of Evolution*, Regnery Press, Washington, 2000, 338 pp.