STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PANORAMA
OF
PROPHECY

A Lecture Series by
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This special teaching study guide is a college workbook. Space is allowed for your personal notes so the text can grow into your own material.

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All scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *King James Version of the Holy Bible.*

Scriptures marked *NKJV* are taken from the *New King James Version of the Holy Bible.* Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee, 1982.
# PANORAMA OF PROPHECY

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INTRODUCTION

Approximately one-fourth of the Bible is concerned with prophecy. Biblical prophecy does not just consist of dates, or future events, but of the acceptance of the Bible as divine truth.

READING

John 14:29, *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

1. THE COMMANDMENT TO STUDY PROPHECY

II Timothy 2:15, *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Without an understanding and mastery of the doctrines of eschatology (the study of the final events in history) and dispensations, we cannot rightly divide scripture. Prophecy is a heritage for us to study and understand.
2. THE ABUSE OF PROPHECY

Matthew 7:15,  *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Satan always has a counterfeit for God’s truth, but this does not excuse us. Prophecy has been abused by the setting of seasons, times, events, and people. Prophecy has been discredited when these extravagances have turned out to be false.

3. HOW TO HAVE A TRUE PERCEPTION OF PROPHECY

I Corinthians 2:13-14,  *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

v. 14,  *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

A person must be converted to Jesus Christ in order to truly perceive prophecy. The natural or unregenerated person cannot understand spiritual things. He may have education and culture, but he cannot discern the things of the Spirit.

4. FUTURE THINGS ARE REVEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Revelation 1:1,  *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.*

The Holy Spirit is the director of prophecy. He is the Author of the Word of God. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God--past, present, and future.

5. CHRISTIANS ARE DEPENDENT ON THE WORD OF GOD

John 16:13,  *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.*
An Introduction to Prophecy

When Howard Carter invited me to travel with him on a missionary trip around the world, I neglected to give him an address where I could be reached. Then I lost track of him the same hour I met him.

Through the word of wisdom, God revealed to me that I would find Howard Carter in Australia. With only $12 in my pocket, I boarded a ship that carried me from California to New Zealand.

When we reached Wellington, New Zealand, I was weary of travel and glad to have an opportunity to leave the ship. As I walked off the ship, and had a 36-hour lay-over, I wondered where I should begin my search for Brother Carter. I did not know that Howard Carter was teaching at a ministers’ retreat in the mountains of New Zealand.

About the same time, Howard Carter was praying. He asked, “Lord, where is the young man who was supposed to meet me in California? I’ve lost track of him.”

The Spirit of God spoke to his heart: “The traveling companion is not lost. He is in Wellington, and will be visiting the churches there looking for information about your location. Send the Wellington pastor home with a note for Lester Sumrall.”

Though I did not know what awaited me as I disembarked the ship, I was sure of one thing--God would not let me get stranded someplace and starve.

I trudged up and down the hills of Wellington during December, the middle of their summer, in my winter clothes. I was searching for a Full Gospel church. An inquiry at the Anglican cathedral in the center of town resulted in no information. I checked with the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, as well as the Salvation Army. Finally, I stopped a man on the street and asked, “Is there a church in town where the people say ‘Hallelujah’ or ‘Praise the Lord’?”

He laughed and said, “I think so.” Then he pointed across the railroad tracks, “Go down that street, and up a little hill. You will find it.”

I followed his direction, crossed the tracks and climbed the hill. Finally I spotted it--a lovely little white church. Standing next to it was a charming little house that I assumed, correctly, was the parsonage. While I was walking
toward the door, the pastor and his wife were inside wondering if somebody named Lester Sumrall would really show up. Howard Carter had given the pastor a card to give to me. Brother Carter assured the pastor that the Holy Spirit told him that this young man would be in Wellington looking for him.

I knocked at the door, and a giant man opened the door. “Yes?” he boomed. His voice would knock a timid person off the porch!

“You do not know who I am, but…”

The pastor interrupted me, “Yes, I do. You are Lester Sumrall.”

I was so stunned that I nearly fainted. Then the pastor invited me inside, and handed me the card from Howard Carter.

The card said: “Mr. Sumrall, continue on to Australia and minister there. I will meet you in Sydney.” The card was signed by Howard Carter.

This was my second encounter with the functioning of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

6. THE BIBLE IS OUR SOLE PROPHETIC GUIDE

There is a sure word of prophecy. It is revealed by the Bible and not determined by the will of man.

II Peter 1:19-21, We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

v. 20, Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

v. 21, For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

7. PROPHECY CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

John 16:4, But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.
An Introduction to Prophecy

Prophecy concerns the foretelling of events. It gives meaning to those events.

Prophecy is meant for confirmation, not speculation.

John 20:31, *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

8. PROPHECY MUST BE APPLIED

It is one thing to discover truth and another thing to use that truth. A visionary person may discover truth, but practical people apply it to their lives.

The religious men in Jerusalem knew prophecy. They understood that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. However, they did not go there with the wise men. They did not utilize the knowledge they had.

I John 3:1-3, *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

v. 2, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

v. 3, *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

We can only be unashamed at Christ’s second coming if we remain pure in heart.

9. THE FOCAL POINT OF PROPHECY: CHRIST’S RETURN

A. The second coming of Jesus Christ is referred to 380 times in the New Testament. These references are the clues to humanity’s greatest puzzle: “When will the Lord Jesus Christ return?”

B. Only four of the New Testament’s 27 books do not contain any reference to the Lord’s return.
An Introduction to Prophecy

C. One out of every 25 verses in the New Testament points to the second appearance of Christ.

D. The cornerstone of the Christian faith is the teaching of the second coming.

E. There are over 300 references to Christ’s second coming in the Old Testament.

F. All divine revelation points to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:10, And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The testimony of Jesus is the very spirit of prophecy.

Acts 10:43, To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

All the prophets gave witness to Jesus Christ.
INTRODUCTION

Our world staggers from crisis to crisis; and these crises become more critical every year. Do these crises have a prophetic significance? Can the Bible help to untangle the snarled affairs of the world? I believe it can.

The very viability of God is visible through His prophetic powers. He challenges any god who would dare to confront Him.

READING

Isaiah 46:9-13, Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

v. 10, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

v. 11, Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

v. 12, Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness:
What Is Prophecy?

v. 13,  I bring near my righteousness: it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

Isaiah 41:21-23,  Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

v. 23,  Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

v. 23,  Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.

1. A DEFINITION OF PROPHECY

A. Prophecy is the foretelling of the destiny of nations and empires. It is history written in advance.

B. Prophecy is the forecast of the human destiny.

C. Prophecy is not speculation; it confirms the existence of God.

2. PROPHECY BENEFITS THE HUMAN HEART

Prophecy is not meant for the head, or intellect; it is created for the heart.

A. The future, because it is unknown, contains factors of mystery. Everybody has a desire to know what the future holds.

People desire to understand the mystery, and relieve themselves of fear. They want to continue to hope for better days. They want to know how to plan for their future.

B. Various non-spiritual methods have been used to learn future events. These methods include the use of dreams, spiritism, the consultation of oracles and speculation. Every one of these methods have proven to be false and fruitless.
What Is Prophecy?

3. ONLY GOD CAN REVEAL THE FUTURE

A. While natural man seeks to know the future through his own devices, God desires to reveal the future to believers. God knows the future.

B. God has revealed the future through:

1) Abraham.

   Genesis 18:17, And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do.

2) The prophets.

   a) Amos 3:7, Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

   b) Daniel 2:22, He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

3) Jesus Christ, the Son of God: He was the greatest prophet of them all. See John 1:45; Matthew 24; and Luke 21.

4) The Holy Spirit.

   John 16:13, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

5) People who prophesy through the gift of the word of wisdom.

   I Corinthians 12:8, For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.

6) The prophecies of our sons and daughters are a fulfillment of prophecy.

   Acts 2:17, And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters
What Is Prophecy?

shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

4. JESUS CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF ALL PROPHECY

A. The testimony of Jesus is the very spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:10, And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

B. The first prophecy about the redemption of mankind by Jesus Christ:

Genesis 3:15, And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

C. All of the prophets spoke about Jesus.

Acts 10:43, To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

5. MANY PAST EVENTS WERE PROPHESIED

A. The flood.

Genesis 6:7, And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

B. The fall of Jerusalem.

I Kings 14:14, Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now.
**What Is Prophecy?**

Luke 21:24, *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

C. The fall of Babylon.

Isaiah 13:19, *And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldee’s excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.*

6. **PROPHECY PURIFIES THE HUMAN HEART**

I John 3:3, *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

7. **TODAY’S WORLD IS PROPHETIC**

Many of today’s current events were prophesied in the Bible.

A. The rise and fall of Russia (Gog and Magog).

Ezekiel 38:2-18, *Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*

v. 3, *And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:*

v. 4, *And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:*

v. 5, *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:*

v. 6, *Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.*

v. 7, *Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.*
v. 8, After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

v. 9, Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

v. 10, Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

v. 11, And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

v. 12, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

v. 13, Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

v. 14, Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

v. 15, And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

v. 16, And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.
What Is Prophecy?

v. 17, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?

v. 18, And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

B. The return of the Jews to Israel.

Isaiah 11:12, And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Deuteronomy 30:3-5, That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

v. 4, If any of thine be driven out unto the outermost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

v. 5, And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

C. The present turmoil of the nations; and the fall of their leaders.

Matthew 24:7, For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8. PROPHECY SPECIFICALLY REVEALS THE FUTURE

The Bible prophesies that the following events are still to happen.

A. The rise of the Antichrist.

Revelation 13:11-18, And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.
What Is Prophecy?

v. 12, And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

v. 13, And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

v. 14, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

v. 15, And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

v. 16, And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

v. 17, And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

v. 18, Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

B. The battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16, And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Revelation 19:17-19, And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

v. 18, That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.
What Is Prophecy?

v. 19, *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*

Isaiah 10:28-34, *He is come to Aiath, he is passed to Migron; at Michmash he hath laid up his carriages:*

v. 29, *They are gone over the passage: they have taken up their lodging at Geba; Ramah is afraid; Gibeah of Saul is fled.*

v. 30, *Lift up thy voice, O daughter of Gallim: cause it to be heard unto Laish, O poor Anathoth.*

v. 31, *Madmenah is removed; the inhabitants of Gebim gather themselves to flee.*

v. 32, *As yet shall he remain at Nob that day: he shall shake his hand against the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.*

v. 33, *Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature shall be hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled.*

v. 34, *And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.*

C. The kingdom of God and Christ.

Revelation 20:4-6, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

v. 5, *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

v. 6, *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*
INTRODUCTION

The Bible is a prophetic book. There have been millions of prophecies, but it was necessary for this particular one to be the first prophecy. The first prophecy is very important; it is the birth of all prophecy.

READING

Genesis 3:15,  And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

1. THE CREATOR GAVE THE FIRST PROPHECY

The first man, Adam, sinned. On the first day that he was out of fellowship with God, the Lord uttered the first prophecy: Eve’s seed would bruise the serpents head.

A. God was the Speaker.

B. Humanity was the benefactor.

C. The devil was the deceiver.
2. SATAN TRIED TO NULLIFY THE PROPHECY

In order to postpone his own destruction, Satan has repeatedly attempted to circumvent God’s prophecy.

A. He caused Abel’s murder.

Genesis 4:7,  If thou [Cain] dost well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou dost not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

B. He caused the flood by polluting woman’s seed.

Genesis 6:1-4,  And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

v. 2,  That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

v. 3,  And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

v. 4,  There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

C. He caused confusion at the tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:5-9,  And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built.

v. 6,  And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

v. 7,  Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.

v. 8,  So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.
v. 9, *Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*

D. He caused Sarah’s barrenness, and planted the idea for Hagar to bare Ishmael.

Genesis 16:1-5, *Now Sarai Abram’s wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.*

v. 2, *And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

v. 3, *And Sarai Abram’s wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*

v. 4, *And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.*

v. 5, *And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.*

E. He caused King Saul to backslide and commit suicide.

I Samuel 31:4, *Then said Saul unto his armor bearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armor bearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.*

F. He tempted David into adultery.

II Samuel 11:2, *And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*
The First Prophecy on Earth

v. 3, And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

v. 4, And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

G. He caused Athaliah to kill the princes who were to inherit the throne of Israel. He wanted to stop the Messiah from coming.

II Kings 11:1, And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

H. Satan caused Israel to sin by committing fornication with heathen nations to pollute the chosen seed.

Hosea 9:1 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like other peoples, For you have played the harlot against your God. You have made love for hire on every threshing floor. (NKJV).

I. He caused the execution of John the Baptist.

Matthew 14:10, And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

J. He caused the Lord Jesus Christ to be rejected by Israel and suffer death on the cross.

Matthew 27:22, Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

3. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE FIRST PROPHECY

Despite all the schemes of Satan, the first prophecy was fulfilled 4,000 years after it was given. The Seed of the woman became the Savior of the world.

Genesis 3:15, And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
The First Prophecy on Earth

4. THE DIVINE PATTERN

The first prophecy set the pattern for God’s relationships with mankind and Satan. Whenever God utters a word of knowledge, it will come to pass.

Matthew 5:18, *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

Matthew 24:35, *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

5. PROPHECY IS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE

A. Nothing can break the power of God’s word.

B. Prophecy destroys the forces of unbelief. It overthrows the humanistic ideas that teach that man is his own god and savior.

C. Prophecy reveals humanity’s relationship with deity.
INTRODUCTION

God first spoke prophetically to man; then He spoke prophetically through man.

II Peter 1:21,  For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

READING

Genesis 5:21-24,  And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

v. 22,  And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

v. 23,  And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

v. 24,  And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

1. ADAM LIVED ALMOST TO NOAH’S DAY

   Genesis 5:3-29 tells us how old the patriarchs were when their children were born. With this information we can determine how many years there were between Adam’s death and Noah’s birth.
How Ordinary People Predict the Future

A. Adam’s son, Seth, was born when he was age 130 years.

B. Adam’s grandson, Enos, was born when Seth was age 105 years.

C. Adam’s great-grandson, Cainan, was born when Enos was age 90 years.

D. Adam’s great-great-grandson, Mahalaleel, was born when Cainan was age 70 years.

E. Adam’s great-great-great-grandson, Jared, was born when Mahalaleel was age 65 years.

F. Adam’s fourth great-grandson, Enoch, was born when Jared was age 162 years.

These ages total 622 years.

1) Adam lived for 930 years.
   - 622 years.

2) Adam lived with Enoch for 308 years.

G. Adam’s fifth great-grandson, Methuselah, was born when Enoch was age 65 years.

H. Adam’s sixth great-grandson, Lamech, was born when Methuselah was age 187 years.

I. Adam’s seventh great-grandson, Noah, was born when Lamech was age 182 years.

434 years.

+622 years.

Total 1,056 years.

Adam lived to be 930 years old. He died 126 years before Noah’s birth.
2. Enoch was the first man to prophesy

A. Enoch, the fourth great-grandson of Adam, was the first human prophet on record.

Jude 1:14-15, *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

v. 15, *To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

B. Methuselah was the son of Enoch. His name means “at his death judgment will come”. He was a walking warning from God.

1) Enoch was 65 years old when Methuselah was born (Genesis 5:21).

2) Enoch lived with his son, Methuselah, for 300 years before he was translated to heaven at age 365 (Genesis 5:22-24).

3) Methuselah was 187 years old when Lamech was born (Genesis 5:25).

4) Methuselah lived another 782 years after Lamech’s birth. He was 969 years old when he died (Genesis 5:26-27). He was the oldest person to live on earth.

5) Lamech was 182 years old when Noah was born (Genesis 5:28).

6) Lamech lived for 595 years after Noah’s birth. He was 777 when he died (Genesis 5:30-31). He was Methuselah’s son and Noah’s father.

7) Methuselah was 369 when Noah was born (Genesis 5:26-28).

8) Noah was 600 at the time of the flood (Genesis 7:6). This means Methuselah was 969 the year of the flood.

The very year of the flood was the year Methuselah died! The Biblical record proves it!
9) Though it took nearly 1,000 years, we have irrefutable proof that Enoch’s prophecy was true. This is prophecy of the first magnitude!

3. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PROPHETS

A. Noah.

Noah was a tremendous prophet.

Genesis 6:8, *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

II Peter 2:5, *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.*

Noah walked with God through the midst of evil.

B. Abraham.

Genesis 12:2-3, 7, *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

v. 3, *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

v. 7, *And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*

C. Moses.

Deuteronomy 18:17-18, 22, *And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.*

v. 18, *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

v. 22, *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not
How Ordinary People Predict the Future

spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

D. David.

The 22nd Psalm is an example of David’s prophetic ministry. This psalm prophesies the crucifixion.

Psalms 22:1, ...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

E. Daniel.

Daniel 2:23, 27-28, I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king’s matter.

v. 27, Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king:

v. 28, But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these.

F. Ezekiel.

Ezekiel is considered to be one of the major prophets.


2) He had a vision of a restored nation of Israel.

Ezekiel 39:25-29, Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

v. 26, After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.
v. 27, When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;

v. 28, Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

v. 29, Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

G. Malachi.

Malachi 4:1-2, 4-5, For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

v. 2, But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

v. 5, Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

v. 6, And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

H. Paul.

II Timothy 3:1, This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

v. 2, For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

v. 3, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
How Ordinary People Predict the Future

II Peter 3:3, Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

v. 4, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

J. John the Revelator.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is a great book of history and prophecy.

Revelation 1:3, Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

K. Agabus.

Acts 11:27-28, And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

v. 28, And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

4. PROPHETESSES MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

A. The four daughters of Philip.

Acts 21:8-9, And the next day we that were of Paul’s company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

v. 9, And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.
B. Other prophetesses mentioned in the Bible were:

1) Miriam (Exodus 15).

2) Deborah (Judges 4).

3) Huldah (II Kings 22:14).

4) Anna (Luke 2:36).

5. HOWARD CARTER

Howard Carter was from London, England. He received many prophecies from the Lord, and would always write them down.

Before we started to travel together, the Lord told him: “I have a companion for you and he will come from afar. These are the words he will say…” Eighteen months later, I met him at Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Without knowing what I was saying, I repeated the exact words the Lord had given him in London.
INTRODUCTION

Jehovah permits people to learn about the future through prophecy. Since the beginning of Earth’s time, God has understood its end, and has revealed that end to His people. During ancient times, He revealed the events of today, and some that will yet happen in the future. He shows people His revelation so that we will know that He is God.

READING

Isaiah 46:9-13,  Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

v. 10,  Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

v. 11,  Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

v. 12,  Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness:

v. 13,  I bring near my righteousness: it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.
The gift of the word of wisdom through Daniel presented a challenge to the first world empire, Babylon.

A. In Daniel two, the founder and emperor of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream which he forgot. When his Chaldeans, sorcerers, astrologers and magicians could not interpret his dream, the king vowed to execute them.

Daniel 2:2, 5, *Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to show the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

v. 5, *The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.*

1) Throughout this society of witchcraft, no one could tell the king his dream and its interpretation.

Daniel 2:10, *The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king’s matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.*
2) The king became even angrier and passed a death sentence on all his wise men.

Daniel 2:12, *For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*

B. Daniel was not present when Nebuchadnezzar made his original request, but the king’s captain told him about the situation. Daniel prayed, and God revealed the king’s dream to him in a night vision.

Daniel 2:19, *Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.***

C. Daniel went before the king and told him about his forgotten dream. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream consisted of a great image which represented Gentile history, from Babylon to its end.

The image had a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of a combination of iron and clay.

1) Daniel proclaimed Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom to be the head of gold.

2) The chest and arms of silver represented the empire of the Medes and Persians which would succeed Babylon.

3) The image’s belly and thighs of brass symbolized the Greek empire.

4) The legs of iron typified the Roman Empire.

5) The final empire consisted of clay mixed with iron. We are living in this empire of iron and clay.

D. The king was overwhelmed as he remembered his dream, and understood its truth.

Then Nebuchadnezzar attempted to worship Daniel as if he were a god. He offered him an oblation and sweet odors like he would sacrifice to a deity.
Daniel 2:46,  *Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odors unto him.*

E. Then the king recognized the God of Daniel and honored both of them.

Daniel 2:47-48,  *The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.*

v. 48,  *Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.*

F. The gift of the word of wisdom flowed through Daniel as he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The prophetic interpretation let the monarch of Babylon know that there is one God; and this God refuses to be left out of history by man.

2. **EMPIRES ARE DETERMINED BY PROPHECY**

A. Whenever people govern themselves independently of God, wars never cease and the blood flows forever.

B. Humanity must learn that the hand of the Almighty God of history and prophecy determines the ultimate outcome of every problem.

C. History consists of a long series of sequential events. God knows these events before they happen; and He will judge many people in relationship to these events.

D. Not only is the Bible up-to-date, but it also relates events which are yet to occur. God is related to every event of importance and spiritual significance.

What God will do next is far more important than what the United Nations will do next.
3. GOD’S DESCRIPTION OF THE LAST DAYS

A. Isaiah 13:13, Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

B. Jeremiah 25:32-33, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

v. 33, And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

C. The Gentile age is running out of time. When Jesus told the people of Jerusalem in 33 AD that the city would be trodden down by the Gentiles, the citizens could not believe that it would happen in a single generation’s lifetime. Yet it happened.

Luke 21:24, And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

D. Daniel 12:1, …and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time....

E. Isaiah 60:2, For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people....

4. THE ROAD TO ARMAGEDDON

There is no doubt that our present world is marching down the road to Armageddon.

This road consists of:

A. Material gain.

B. Sinful nations and people.

C. Immorality.
D. Hate and war.
E. Self-ease and contempt.
F. Idolatry and devil worship.
INTRODUCTION

With supernatural power, Daniel saw the entire scope of the Gentile world empires. This vision was only concerned with the empires prophetically involved with Christ.

The vision of a statue with a head of gold, chest and shoulders of silver, thighs of brass and legs of iron is not a human conception; it is a conception of God.

Nebuchadnezzar’s vision showed the imposing outward glory of the destiny of empires. God revealed their true natures in Daniel chapter seven.

READING

Daniel 2:31-35, *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.*

v. 32, *This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,*

v. 33, *His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

v. 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.*
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 threshing floors; 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.

1. THE KING’S VISION

A. In Daniel chapter two, God revealed through Daniel what the great metallic colossus symbolized for the future of humanity.

B. The metallic man revealed the destiny of four great prophetic world empires. These empires cover the entire period of Gentile world supremacy.

1) A unified head—the Babylonian Empire was represented by the head of gold.

Daniel 2:38, *Thou art this head of gold.*

2) The dual two—the silver portion of the image represented the Medo-Persian Empire.

Daniel 2:39, *And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee*…

3) The quadruple four—the Grecian Empire began as a monarchy under Alexander the Great but was later controlled by four of his army generals. It was represented by brass.

4) The legs and ten toes—the Roman Empire is represented by iron.

5) The entire Gentile world is represented by the image’s feet of iron and clay.

Daniel 2:45, *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*
The Prophetic Empires

C. The four great world empires were represented by the image.

1) Babylon—occult.

2) Medo-Persian—lasciviousness.

3) Grecian—intelligence.

4) Roman—government.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE EMPIRES

The interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream teaches us several things about world history from the Babylonian Empire to the end of this present age.

A. God has temporarily cast aside His people Israel for a time. Meanwhile, He has committed the power and dominion of the earth into the hands of the Gentiles. The Gentile world was first represented by the Babylonians (Daniel 2:36-38).

B. After the decay of the Babylonian monarchy, this power was subsequently given to three other empires. Later chapters of Daniel, supplemented by secular history, show that these empires were Persia, Greece and Rome respectively (Daniel 2:39-43).

C. During the period of the fourth world empire, Rome, God Himself shall set up a kingdom which will destroy the earthly, human dominion altogether. This divine kingdom will last forever.

Daniel 2:44-45, *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

v. 45, *Forasmuch as thou savest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*
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<td>Daniel 2:41, ... the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron...</td>
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**Daniel's Vision of the Empires**

**Lion**
Daniel 7:4, The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

**Bear**
Daniel 7:5, And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

**Leopard**
Daniel 7:6, After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

**Strange Beast**
Daniel 7:7a, After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it:

**TEN HORES**
Daniel 7:7b, And it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.
3. THE COURSE OF THE GENTILE WORLD SYSTEM

A. The four metals which compose the image symbolize four empires, fulfilled by Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

The Roman empire is shown divided, first into two legs, then into ten toes. The legs represented the Eastern and Western Roman empires. The toes represent a federation of nations under one head, the Antichrist, which will exist at the end of the present age.

B. The great stone (Daniel 2:34-35) destroys the Gentile world system with one sudden and incurable blow. It does not destroy with a gradual process of conversion and assimilation. Only after the Gentile empires are destroyed does the stone become a great mountain which fills the whole earth.

Further details of the end-time is given in Daniel chapter seven and Revelation 13-19. It is important to see that Gentile world power will end with a sudden catastrophic judgment—Armageddon. Note that Gentile world dominion begins and ends with a great image (Daniel 2:21; Revelation 13:14-15).

C. We are near the end of the times of the Gentiles. There is evidence of the end everywhere: Israel has been reborn, a world government and a world church are being formed, and worldwide moral deterioration is rampant.

D. Notice the devolution of human government from gold to clay as represented by the image. The specific gravity of gold is 19.5; silver, 10.47; brass, 8.0; iron, 5.0; and clay 1.93. The elements also diminish in value from substance to substance.

This colossus of human government is top-heavy, from gold to mud. The crumbling feet of clay depict this present hour we live in today.

4. EMPIRES WITHOUT GOD

A. Mankind has always attempted to rule kingdoms without God. These attempts began with Nimrod, who built Babylon. It was continued throughout the Assyrian, Egyptian, Persian, Grecian and Roman Empires.
The Prophetic Empires

Humanity has made at least six unsuccessful attempts to establish world empires without God.

B. Soon, the day will come when the greatest change in human history will occur. Jesus Christ shall return to earth and set up His Kingdom, then all human empires will become dust.
INTRODUCTION

Daniel received a divine vision in Daniel chapter seven. Even though the vision is about the times of the Gentiles, it is given from God’s viewpoint.

READING

Luke 21:24, *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

1. A DEFINITION OF THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

   A. *The times of the Gentiles* refer to the 2,500-year period of history which began when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem and carried the Israelites into bondage under Nebuchadnezzar. It will conclude with the destruction of the end-time world government.

   B. *The times of the Gentiles* have little to do with years, months, days or seasons. These times consist of all the events from the Babylonian Empire to the end of the rule of the Antichrist.

   C. The word, Gentiles, refers to nations other than Israel. *The times of the Gentiles* are now almost completed and fulfilled.
The Times of the Gentiles

2. DANIEL LIVED TO SEE THE FIRST YEAR OF CYRUS’ RULE

A. Babylon was captured by Darius, or Dura, the Mede, and with him were Persians under the rule of Cyrus.

B. Cyrus was the king of the Medes and Persians. Darius was his uncle.

C. Cyrus and Darius united their armies and destroyed Babylon. They built a single empire from two nations, the Medo-Persian Empire.

D. The 70-year bondage ended during the reign of the Persians. Under Darius the Jews began to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. During Cyrus’ reign they continued to return, and the walls of Jerusalem were started.

E. Daniel 1:21, And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Daniel was still alive when the exiles began to return to their land.

3. THE STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS

A. Daniel 2:34-44 describes a stone cut from a mountain without hands. This stone symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ, who will ultimately destroy the Gentile nations.

B. Jerusalem is destined to be politically subject to Gentile rule until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to reign (Luke 21:24).

Today, the nation of Israel controls the city of Jerusalem, but they cannot do anything that the United States or United Nations does not sanction. They also attempt not to offend the Arabs in Jerusalem, even though Israeli border police patrol the city.

C. The course and end of the Gentile rule was revealed to Daniel.

4. FOUR GREAT EMPIRES

The four metals of the great imaged seen by Nebuchadnezzar symbolize four great empires. Since the fall of Jerusalem world history has consisted of four titanic empires.
The Times of the Gentiles

A. Babylon was represented by the head of gold.

Daniel 2:37-38,  Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

v. 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.

B. The Medo-Persian Empire was symbolized by the arms and chest of silver.

Daniel 2:39,  And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee…

C. Greece was symbolized by the thighs and loins of brass.

Daniel 2:39,  …and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

D. Rome is symbolized by the legs of iron, and feet of clay mixed with iron.

Daniel 2:40-44,  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.

v. 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.

v. 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.

v. 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.

v. 44,  And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.
The Times of the Gentiles

5. THE ROMAN EMPIRE

A. The Roman Empire is divided by the two legs of the image. Rome was split into eastern and western divisions.

B. The power of Russia has historically been religion. It was a part of the Eastern Empire, which had its stronghold in Constantinople and has been in evidence for 2,000 years.

C. The Eastern Empire of the Orthodox Church never joined with the Western Empire and its seat in Rome.

D. The leaders of the two powers are the Patriarch of the Eastern Church and the Pope of the Western Church. Today they kiss each other when they meet.

E. The ten toes of the image represent the ten political leaders of the last days. The stone will strike the entire image, and then it will rule the world through the Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. THE EVIDENCE OF THE END-TIME

A. Israel was reborn miraculously. The nation is now a strong force in world opinion.

B. An attempt at the formation of a world government is evident in the United Nations, and European Economic Community (EEC). These organizations will change in order to conform to the wishes of the Antichrist.

C. There is worldwide moral deterioration.

8. THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES UNDER DIVINE SCRUTINY

God is watching Gentile nations and empires.

A. Daniel chapter seven relates a vision given to God’s prophet, Daniel. The times of the Gentiles are revealed through God’s viewpoint regarding nations. It has very little to do with man’s written history.
The Times of the Gentiles

B. The first empire mentioned is represented, not by a head of gold, but by a beast. The Babylonian Empire only lasted 68 years, and God called it a lion.

Daniel 7:4, *The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.*

1) Nebuchadnezzar had to live in a field for seven years because of his pride. When the seven years were completed, God reinstated him as the emperor of Babylon.

2) The wings of the beast represented speed. Nebuchadnezzar conquered the known world swiftly.

C. The Medo-Persian Empire lasted just over 200 years.

Daniel 7:5, *And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.*

1) The bear is a cruel and fierce animal. It represented a cruel empire.

2) The three ribs represented the nations that were devoured by Medo-Persia: Babylon, Egypt and Libya.

These were the nations who dared to fight their conquerors; the others paid taxes and tribute.

3) The Medes and Persians baked their laws in ceramic. They had a proverb: *The laws of the Medes and Persians change not.* Whether the laws were good or bad, they were upheld.

D. The Grecian Empire lasted just over 100 years.

Daniel 7:6, *After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.*

1) The leopard is a description of Alexander the Great; he leapt from Greece to India.
Alexander died in a drunken brawl when he was 33 years old. He had spent the night eating and drinking. He actually died of gluttony.

2) This creature had four wings and four heads. The Grecian Empire was divided into four parts and ruled by lesser persons for 100 years.

3) Empires always move west. Throughout history an empire has never moved east. Paul was commanded to go west to Europe when he desired to evangelize in the east (Acts 16:6).

E. The Roman Empire arose about 200 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 7:7-9, After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

v. 8, I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

v. 9, I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

1) This beast was so terrible that Daniel could not describe it.

2) The Roman Empire:
   a) Was a military power.
   b) Was a religious power.
   c) Is reviving itself in power today.
The Times of the Gentiles

3) In the future there will be ten kings or rulers. Their power will be similar to that of the Common Market in Europe today. They will revive the old Roman Empire.

All of this must happen so the prophecy concerning the gold, silver, brass, iron and clay can be fulfilled.

4) The teeth of the beast were made of iron. Rome was a hard master; anybody who refused to obey them, died.

5) Daniel 7:15-28 gives us a look into what will occur in the time in which we live today. Somewhere a universal monarch and dictator is dreaming of world leadership.

CONCLUSION

The Lord God saw these empires as vicious armies who burned cities. He compared them to beasts who destroy and tear apart nations.

The stone which was cut without hands is Jesus Christ. He was born without a natural father. He was not an ordinary man. Jesus did not create His power through natural means. He is the stone cut without hands or human strength.

Christ’s reign has nothing to do with the accumulation of worldly power or materials. He will come from heaven. His reign will be divine, and He shall battle against the Antichrist ruling in the times of the Gentiles.
INTRODUCTION


The Dispensation of Grace began at Calvary, and will continue into the Great Tribulation Period. It is the longest dispensation. After the Tribulation, the seventh dispensation will be the Millennial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. After the Millennium, the earth will be renovated and time will be no more.

READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1,  *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*

Daniel 7:25,  *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

1. PROPHECY IS A LESSON IN TIME

A. The first recorded promise was about the promised Seed, Jesus Christ. This promise began in Genesis chapter three in the Garden of Eden and was fulfilled 4,000 years later.
B. Noah was given a prophecy. He was told that a flood would come and destroy the earth. A hundred years later it came to pass.

C. The Bible teaches that there will be an end to time. There will be no more prophecy, because prophecy is an element of time.

2. ABOUT TIME

A. Time was born on the first day of creation.

   Genesis 1:5,  *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

B. What is time?

   1) Time is involved with activity. When something is done within a certain period, it is called time.

      Galatians 4:10,  *Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.*

   2) Humanity’s clock and calendar are actually states of mind.

   3) Time is a movement of a celestial body at its most accurate. When the solar system measures time, it measures in the space of a 15 degree arc. That movement is involved with time.

   4) We count time whenever we measure days or months, which are measurements of the earth’s progress around the sun. One revolution around the sun is one year.

   5) Time is the arrangement of a series of events which we remember. Birthdays, holidays, anniversaries and deaths are marked by dates in time.

3. THE HUMAN HEART IS A KIND OF CLOCK

   The human heart is similar to the speed of light. Its time-keeper is God, and nobody knows when a person’s time will run out except Him.
4. GOD WANTS US TO UNDERSTAND TIME

A. Luke 19:44, *And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

B. Our time is limited on this earth. We will be replaced by another generation.

Matthew 16:3, *And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*

C. Revelation 10:6, *And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.*

5. TIME WILL BE NO MORE

A. After the end of time, we will be living on a different planet, which will function at a different rate of speed.

B. There will be perpetual light, night will no longer exist.

Revelation 21:23-25, *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

v. 24, *And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.*

v. 25, *And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

C. Without any night, there will no longer be any measurement of time. People will no longer need to sleep. There will not be any need for clocks or calendars.
**Time, Times and End of Times**

Revelation 22:5, *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

6. **HELL HAS NO TIME**

Hell, like eternity, will not have any time, because time will no longer exist. Yesterday, today and tomorrow are equal.

Revelation 10:6, *And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.*

7. **PROPHECY NEEDS TIME**

The element of time has not been able to save nations and empires.

A. The Babylonian Empire only lasted 87 years; then it was gone.

B. The Medes and Persians thought their empire would last forever, but it ended about 200 years later.

C. Alexander the Great was a militant leader who commanded the world to bow before him. He died at age 33.

D. This is the last dispensation of time. When it ends there will be no more prophecy or time.

8. **THE ATOMIC DoOMSDAY CLOCK**

Atomic scientists have developed a clock, where midnight is atomic annihilation. The hands are moved back and forth according to their interpretation of the danger from nuclear arms.

They do not realize that we live on God’s schedule—not man’s.
9. THE BRIDE AND THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The bride of Christ will not have to endure the Great Tribulation Period.

A. The children of Israel in Egypt saw the judgment, but they did not have to endure it. God preserved them from His judgment on their oppressors.

Exodus 12:13, *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

B. Noah saw the flood all around him, but he rode above it.

Genesis 7:16-17, *And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.*

v. 17, *And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.*

C. The judgment of the Great Tribulation is for transgressors and sinners; not God’s people.

Revelation 7:3, *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*
INTRODUCTION

The Doomsday Clock is symbolic of our approach to the day of judgment.

READING

II Peter 3:8-12,  But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

v. 9,  The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

v. 10,  But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

v. 11,  Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

v. 12,  Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
**The Doomsday Clock**

Matthew 24:21-22, *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

v. 22, *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.*

1. **THE WORLD’S STRANGEST CLOCK**

   A. In 1947, a group of American scientists founded a publication called *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. This magazine supplies physicists, chemists and other nuclear scientists with information regarding nuclear science and the nature of the atomic world.

      On the cover of this magazine is a little clock, now referred to as the Doomsday Clock. Its hour hand is placed at midnight. In 1947, its minute hand was at eight minutes to 12.

   B. Periodically, atomic scientists meet and move the minute hand according to world tension and political conditions.

      1) In October, 1949, the Soviet Union exploded the atomic bomb, and the minute hand was moved to four minutes to 12.

      2) With the development of the hydrogen bomb in March, 1959, the clock’s hands read three minutes to 12.

      3) When world conditions grew quieter in 1966, the hands of the clock were placed at 12 minutes to midnight.

      4) In November, 1969, it was changed to 10 minutes to 12.

      5) In September, 1974, the hands were placed at nine minutes to 12.

      One of the editors of *The Atomic Bulletin*, Dr. Robert Jungk, has said, “An atomic blast is brighter than a thousand suns.”

   C. The atomic nightmare is associated with the transmutation of matter.

      When nitrogen is bombed with alpha particles, it is transformed into oxygen and hydrogen. This transformation produces energy; the energy required for an atomic blast.
**The Doomsday Clock**

D. Scientists who research nuclear energy are concerned that the world will be made void of all human and animal life through a nuclear war. They are especially concerned about the nuclear armaments of the former Soviet Union, as well as the development of the nuclear bomb in India and China.

The belief that the Middle East could become a nuclear powder keg causes anxiety. The thought that Middle Eastern countries could become nuclear powers is considered extremely dangerous due to the temperamental conditions of the area.

Atomic scientists believe the human world is in its final stage of survival. Actually, man feels completely helpless before the power of his own certain destruction.

2. **GOD’S DOOMSDAY CLOCK**

A. The Bible is the world’s real doomsday clock. It ticks off the minutes, hours and years to the time of God’s final judgment of this present world.

1) Noah was warned by God of the coming flood. After this warning God’s clock ticked itself down to zero hour—it took about 100 years.

2) God’s clock ran very fast one night at Sodom. (See Genesis 19:12-29).

3) In Egypt, Moses wound the clock, and it soon struck the midnight hour.

Exodus 12:41-42, *And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.*

v. 42, *It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.*

4) Nineveh repented when they heard that God had set the clock. So He reset it, adding another 150 years until their destruction. (Jonah 3:1-10).
**The Doomsday Clock**

5) Babylon’s time finally ran out.

Daniel 5:30-31, *In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.*

v. 31, *And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*

6) The earth’s midnight hour will occur at the Battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16-17, *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

v. 17, *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.*

B. At the earth’s midnight hour, every nation will be judged.

1) There will be a plague of sores on the people.

Revelation 16:2, *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.*

2) Hail stones, weighing 100 pounds each, will fall from heaven.

Revelation 16:21, *And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

3) The water will turn to blood.

Revelation 16:3-4, *And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea.*

v. 4, *And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.*
CONCLUSION

Jesus said a cry would come at midnight. ...Behold, the bridegroom cometh.... (Matthew 25:6).

When the final hour of God’s Doomsday Clock strikes, ...the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away.... (Job 34:20).
INTRODUCTION

One of the most remarkable signs of the end-time is the rebirth of dead nations. No other historic period has ever known the number of nations reborn as this one has.

The resurgence of ancient people and places is the fulfillment of prophecy. It proves the truthfulness of the Bible. It is a divine phenomena when an affluent land dies, then reenters world affairs centuries later.

READING

Daniel 4:10,  Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

Ezekiel 17:24,  And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

1. NATIONS SYMBOLIZED BY TREES

A. The Lord often uses trees to symbolize nations.

Luke 21:29-31,  And he spoke to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;
The Rebirth of Dead Nations

v. 30, When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

v. 31, So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

B. The renewal of all kinds of trees speaks of the revival of Gentile nations.

2. THE REBIRTH OF ISRAEL

Ezekiel 37:11-14, Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

v. 12, Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

v. 13, And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

v. 14, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

A. Jesus referred to Israel as a fig tree shooting forth. In the Old Testament, the fig tree symbolized Israel spiritually.

Joel 1:6-7, For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

v. 7, He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

B. Ezekiel relates the tremendous prophecy of the restored nation of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:21-23, 25-26, 28, And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:
v. 22, And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

v. 23, Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

v. 25, And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children’s children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

v. 26, Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

v. 28, And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

3. THE REBIRTH OF EGYPT

A. Ancient Egypt had a brilliant history of leadership. Its Pharaohs, pyramid and great riches were famous throughout the known world. Egypt ruled North Africa throughout ancient times; and they invaded and conquered the Holy Land several times.

B. For the last several centuries, Egypt has occupied a lowly place under foreign dominion.

1) The Phoenicians built Carthage; they fell from power about 842 BC.

2) Later Assyrian armies conquered Egypt.

3) After the fall of Assyria, Greece ruled the land.

4) The Carthaginians, descendants of the Phoenicians, ruled North Africa until Carthage was destroyed by the Romans.
5) In 146 BC, Africa became part of the Roman Empire.

6) The Vandals took the rule of Egypt from Rome in 429 AD. They held power for about 100 years.

7) The Vandals were followed by the Byzantine Empire, which kept the peace for another 100 years.

8) The Arab conquest of Africa occurred about 641 AD. During the seventh and eighth centuries they brought the Arabic language and Moslem religion to North Africa.

9) The Europeans arrived in the 15th century.
   a) Portugal was the first nation to weld its influence.
   b) Later, explorers from Europe and America covered Africa.
   c) Great Britain began to rule Egypt during World War I.
   d) Egypt gained its independence in 1922. King Faruk ruled until he was dethroned.

C. Egypt is referred to prophetically in the last days. Its rebirth is a fulfillment of prophecy.

D. Egypt will be closely associated with Israel in the last days.

   Isaiah 19:24, *In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land.*

4. THE REBIRTH OF TURKEY

A. Turkey ruled the Near East for about four centuries as the Ottoman Empire. It allied itself with German in World War I. During that war Turkey lost the Holy Land and the Near East.

B. Turkey is resurfacing with a strong voice as a buffer zone between Israel and Russia.
5. THE REBIRTH OF SYRIA

A. The Syrian capital city of Damascus is one of world’s oldest cities. It has existed throughout antiquity.

B. Hundreds of wars have been fought on Syria’s land.

C. Syria has not had any political importance for the last several hundred years. Now it has become an important nation.

D. After World War I, Syria was controlled by France.

E. Throughout the Cold War, Syria was a close friend of the Soviet Union and communism.

6. THE REBIRTH OF LEBANON

A. About 1,000 years ago, the Maronite Christians of Lebanon welcomed the Crusaders from Europe. Ever since that time, France and Lebanon have been traditional friends.

B. The Ottoman Turks conquered Lebanon in 1516 AD. For 400 years, the Ottoman Empire ruled Lebanon until its defeat in World War I.

C. The League of Nations placed Lebanon under the control of France.

D. Lebanon received its independence in 1943.

7. THE REBIRTH OF AFRICA

A. Various parts of Africa have been ruled by Britain, France, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands. In the 1950’s, it began to awakened to its own political reality.

B. Africa is a continent of 11,635,000 square miles, which makes it the second largest continent in the world. It contains the world’s longest river, the Nile, and the world’s largest desert, the Sahara.

C. Africa connects to Asia with a 100-mile strip of land at the Suez. At the Straits of Gibraltar, it is within nine miles of Europe.
D. Africa contains more individual countries than any other continent. There are over 50 nations in the continent.

E. From 1900 to 1945, most of Africa was under foreign rule.

8. THE REBIRTH OF CHINA

China has a population of over one billion people. For hundreds of years, China was closed to foreigners. It was called a sleeping dragon, which is now suddenly starting to awaken.

Under its own dominion, China has become a world power. She has spent most of the last 50 years in a race with Russia to see who could influence or control the most African nations.

9. THE REBIRTH OF INDIA

A. India was ruled by Great Britain for about 100 years.

B. India is composed of one-and-a-half million square miles, and has a population of over 800 million. Only China contains more people.

C. In 1857, the British East India Company gained control over all of India.

D. India received its independence in 1947.

Revelation 9:14, *Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

Revelation 16:12, *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

10. THE REBIRTH OF BABYLON (IRAQ)

Babylon is being resurrected in our time. Saddam Hussein believes he is the reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar. He has not only challenged America, but the United Nations and entire world.
11. THE REBIRTH OF PERSIA (IRAN)

The resurgence of ancient Persia is another sign of the Lord’s soon return.
The Rebirth of Dead Nations
INTRODUCTION

The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob encompass about one percent of the world’s population, yet they are a race of destiny. They have spent centuries as outcasts, no-man’s-land children and the world’s untouchables.

READING

Genesis 12:1-7, Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee:

v. 2, And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

v. 3, And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

v. 4, So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.
God’s Prophecy to Abraham

v. 5, And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

v. 6, And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

v. 7, And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

1. A MAN FOUND GOD

A. Acts 7:2, ...The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran.

   After Abraham’s father died, his call was renewed (Genesis 12:1-3).

B. The Bible records 10 appearances of God to Abraham.

2. A NATION WAS BORN

   A. When Lot moved out of Abraham’s camp, God’s promise to him was reconfirmed.

      Genesis 13:14-18, And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

      v. 15, For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

      v. 16, And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

      v. 17, Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

      v. 18, Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.
God’s Prophecy to Abraham

B. After Abraham fought a great battle to recover Lot from slavery, God spoke to him again.

Genesis 15:1-7, After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

v. 2, And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

v. 3, And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

v. 4, And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

v. 5, And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

v. 6, And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

v. 7, And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

3. A SEPARATE PEOPLE

A. After the flood, universal wickedness spread throughout the human race. People again began to forget God; because of sin, God divided the earth’s land mass into continents.

Genesis 10:25, And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided...

B. God desired to have a separate people, so He could bring forth the world’s Redeemer. So He called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees.
God’s Prophecy to Abraham

Genesis 11:31, And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son’s son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Abraham’s seed became God’s alarm clock for generations.

4. LAND FOR A HERITAGE

A. God promised in the Abrahamic Covenant that the land of Canaan would belong to Abraham and his seed.

Genesis 12:7, And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land…

B. This promise to Abraham made Canaan, later called Palestine and Israel, the nerve center of the world. It has been a place of some of the greatest political controversies ever since the promise was made.

C. The Promised Land is the scene of some of the world’s greatest religious upheavals. It is also the location of many of history’s terrible battles. Israel is one of the most blood-stained nations in the world.

5. THE HATRED OF ALL NATIONS—ISRAEL

Egypt made the people of Israel slaves (Exodus 1:8-14). When Moses and Joshua finally led them home, they were surrounded by enemies who tried to deny them the right to the land.

Babylon, Assyria, Greece, Rome, Spain, Turkey, Poland, Russia, France, England and Germany have all taken a turn to drive their heels into the head of the Jewish people. The city of Jerusalem has been besieged 40 times and partially destroyed 35 times.

A. During the 3rd-5th centuries, Jews were exiled and murdered. One calamity continually followed another.

B. At least 20,000 Jews were slain during the 6th century.

C. During the 7th century, Jews were enslaved in Spain.
God’s Prophecy to Abraham

D. Abuse, persecution and derision continued throughout the 9th-12th centuries. Jews were greatly persecuted in Europe. In 1272, King Edward banished them from England; mobs fell on them and massacred hundreds of Jews.

E. During the 11th to 16th centuries, Jewry focused itself in Spain. In 1492, they were expelled from Spain; and shifted their focus to the Balkans, and eastern coast of Africa.

They were considered aliens without any civil rights. They were forced to be shopkeepers, peddlers, bankers and money lenders.

F. Around 1800, the Jewish population numbered 2½ million people.

By 1850, there were more than 4½ million Jews.

In 1900, the Jewish world population numbered 10½ million.

At the beginning of World War II, there were over 17 million Jews worldwide. Today, they number about 11 million.

The Jews have suffered and wept for centuries. Their race has produced famous leaders in science, politics, finance and education.

They have been persecuted, but not destroyed; scattered, but not obliterated.

6. A SIGN OF CHRIST’S RETURN: THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

Ezekiel 6:8,  Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.

Ezekiel 11:16,  Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Ezekiel 11:17,  Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.
God’s Prophecy to Abraham

The restoration of Palestine to Israel, and Israel to Palestine, is a great sign of Jesus’ soon return. If no other sign was given to this generation, this one sign would be sufficient to make our heart’s burn with the anticipation and love of Christ’s return.

The prophecy made to Abraham is nearing it’s completion. His Son, Jesus Christ, will soon sit on the throne of David forever and ever.

Psalms 102:16, When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.
Jerusalem is the most prophesied about city in the world. Over 3,500 years ago, Abraham met Melchizedek in Salem, later called Jerusalem. This is the city where Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20).

Isaac was offered to God on Mount Moriah, which is located in the heart of Jerusalem (Genesis 22).

Jerusalem is the city King David established as his capital. It is the place where he reigned and formed a unified nation (II Samuel 5:5).

Jerusalem is the city where God determined His temple should be built of gold and precious stones (I Kings 6:21).

Outside the walls of Jerusalem, the Son of God was crucified and resurrected (Matthew 27-28). On the hill of Zion, the Church was born, formed and established (Acts 2:1)!

In the future, Jerusalem will be the capital of the world!
Jerusalem: The World’s Most Prophetic City

READING

Isaiah 2:3,  And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

1. THE NAME: JERUSALEM

A. Jerusalem means City of Salem, or City of Peace. Presently, it is the capital of the modern state of Israel.

B. When God told Abraham to ...get thee into the land of Moriah.... (Genesis 22:2), He pinpointed the area of the Immortal City.

The city has been built on two large hills. The eastern hill consists of three smaller hills, called the South-Eastern (SE), Central Eastern (CE), and North-Eastern (NE) hills. The western hill is composed of two smaller hills, called the South-Western (SW) and North-Western (NW) hills.

Melchizedek’s city stood on the South-Eastern hill. Isaac was offered on the Central-Eastern hill. A millennium later, Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected near there.

2. THE HISTORY OF JERUSALEM BEFORE CHRIST

A. About 1900 BC: Melchizedek, the Priest of the Most High God, ruled the city of Salem as priest-king. This is when he met Abraham (Genesis 14). The city is also mentioned in the Execration Text (written in the 19th century BC).

B. 1900 to 1800 BC: Egypt ruled the city. The Amarna letters (from the 14th century BC) call the city Uru Salem.

C. 1300 BC: Jerusalem was a Jebusite fortress. Joshua entered the land, but did not attempt to take the city (Joshua 15:8).

D. About 1004 BC: David established Jerusalem as his capital. He captured the city from the Jebusites and called it Zion (II Samuel 5:7). David and his successors held the city for about 400 years.
Jerusalem: The World’s Most Prophetic City

In 1996 AD, the city celebrated its 3,000-year anniversary (according to the Jewish calendar), since its founding as the capital of Israel.

E. Around 960 BC: Solomon began to build the First Temple in Jerusalem (I Kings 6:1).

F. 587 BC: The Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar captured and destroyed the city. The Jews were exiled to the land of Babylon (II Kings 25).

G. 537 BC: The Persian king, Cyrus, permitted the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem. By 515 BC, the Second Temple was completed.

H. About 440 BC: Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem at government expense (Nehemiah 2-3).

I. 332 BC: Alexander the Great captured and visited Jerusalem. The city was now ruled by the Grecian Empire.

J. 312 BC: Jerusalem fell to Egypt. After the death of Alexander the Great, General Ptolemy (founder of the Ptolemic Dynasty) included Jerusalem and Egypt in his portion of the Greek Empire.

K. 198 BC: Syria captured Jerusalem. Antiochus III (a descendant of Seleucus Nicator, another of Alexander’s generals) took Palestine and Jerusalem.

L. 169 BC: Antiochus IV Epiphanes plundered and desecrated the Second Temple. This desecration led to a revolt led by the Maccabees, which lasted from 167-141 BC.

M. 164 BC: The Temple Mount was captured by Maccabean forces, and the Second Temple was re-dedicated.

N. 141 BC: Total independence from Syria was gained.

O. 63 BC: The Roman general, Pompey, captured the city. Jerusalem became a part of the Roman Empire.

P. 40 BC: The Hasmonean king, Mattathias Antigonus, and the Parthian army captured and plundered Jerusalem.
Jerusalem: The World’s Most Prophetic City

Q. 37 BC: The Romans recaptured the city, and Herod the Great was placed as its ruler.

During the reign of Herod the Great (37 BC-4 AD), the Fortress of Antonia, Herod’s palace and three towers were built. He also began rebuilding the Second Temple.

3. JERUSALEM’S HISTORY AFTER THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

A. About 33 AD: Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected from the dead. Tiberius was the Roman emperor; Pontius Pilate was the procurator of Judea; Caiaphas was the High Priest in Jerusalem.

B. 70 AD: Titus surrounded Jerusalem with the Roman army in April. By May, half the city was captured. In July, the Fortress of Antonia and the Second Temple fell, and the daily sacrifices ceased.

On September 4th, Jerusalem fell after 143 days of siege. Over 600,000 people perished.

C. 132 AD: Emperor Hadrian razed Jerusalem to the ground after the Jews revolted again. A much smaller city called Aelia Capitolina was built on the site and dedicated to the pagan god, Jupiter. All Jews were exiled from the city.

D. 312 AD: Emperor Constantine permitted Jews back into the city. Jerusalem was now in Christian hands.

Queen Helena, the mother of Constantine, visited Jerusalem and determined the location of many sites associated with Jesus’ life. Churches and monasteries were built over these sites.

E. 614 AD: Persians stormed and plundered the city.

F. 629 AD: The Byzantine Empire captured Jerusalem.

G. 638 AD: The caliph Omar, a Moslem, captured the city. By 691, the Dome of the Rock was completed.

H. 1099 AD: The Crusaders captured the city and established a Christian Kingdom which lasted nearly 100 years.
Jerusalem: The World’s Most Prophetic City

I. 1187 AD: Saladin captured Jerusalem from the Crusaders.

J. 1517 AD: The Turks of Ottoman Empire took the city. Between 1538-1540 Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilt the city walls as they are today.

K. 1917 AD: The British conquered Jerusalem, and General Allenby entered the city on foot. Soon the Balfour Declaration opened Palestine for some Jewish immigration under a British Mandate.

L. May 14, 1948: The modern State of Israel was born, and the British Mandate ended. A fierce war was fought with Arabs until January, 1949. On May 28th, the Jewish Quarter in the Old City falls after an intensive siege. In April, 1949, the Israel-TransJordan Armistice Agreement was signed, and Jerusalem divided between the two countries. On December 13, 1949, Jerusalem was declared the Capital of Israel.

M. June 7, 1967: Israeli troops recaptured the Old City and reunited Jerusalem. The city was under Jewish control for the first time in over 2,000 years.

4. JESUS DESCRIBED THE DRAMA OF JERUSALEM

When Jesus was asked about the coming of His kingdom, His reply was recorded in three long chapters in the Gospels: Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21.

A. Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem by encircling armies. He warned His disciples to flee for their lives when they saw this event begin. This prophecy was fulfilled by Titus in 70 AD.

B. Jesus looked beyond the immediate political and military dominance of Rome to a far-off day.

Luke 21:24, And they [the Jews] shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.
Jerusalem: The World’s Most Prophetic City

C. Jesus saw a day when Jerusalem would no longer be part of an occupied country, but free in her own right. That day would signal the approach of a great international upheaval, the end of the great powers, and the beginning of a new day when He would return as the Jew’s Messiah to establish a universal kingdom of justice and peace. (Daniel 2; Isaiah 11; Matthew 24; Romans 11; and Revelation 20).

5. JERUSALEM’S HECTIC HISTORY

A. This immortal city has been besieged 40 times, and totally destroyed 4 times. One calamity has followed another for the last 3,000 years. It is the most controversial city of the ages.

B. The devil wants Jerusalem more than any other city in the world. Today, conflicting forces rage in Jerusalem. These battles rage both in the spiritual and temporal realms.

C. Today, Jerusalem is physically united but deeply divided by resentments between the Arabs, Jews and Christians. Religious and political tensions remain high.

D. Peace is alien to the spirit of Jerusalem. Death, battle and armed siege are normal occurrences. The quiet of Jerusalem is filled with a sense of expectant destruction. Jerusalem the Golden retains its sadness, reminders of cruelty and mysterious prophecies.

6. THE TEMPLES OF JERUSALEM

Matthew 24:15, When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:).

II Thessalonians 2:3, Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

v. 4, Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
Jerusalem: The World’s Most Prophetic City

Revelation 11:2,  But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

A. Jerusalem and the First Temple was destroyed by Babylon in the eleventh year of Jehoiachim’s captivity, 587 BC.

Ezekiel 26:1,  And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

v. 2,  Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste.

Ezekiel’s ministry began about seven years before the destruction of the temple (594 BC), which occurred in the fifth year of Jehoiachim’s captivity.

B. Solomon’s reign began in 961 BC. I Kings 6:1 tells us that this is when construction on the First Temple started. A little over 1,000 years later, around 30 BC, Herod the Great began re-construction work on the Second Temple.

Could the 3,000th anniversary of the start of Solomon’s temple, and the 2,000th anniversary of the work on Herod’s temple indicate that another temple will soon be built?

C. Whether the third Jerusalem temple be started before or during the Tribulation Period, it will certainly be completed by the middle of the Great Tribulation. The covenant will be broken in the middle of the week, and the Jews will no longer be allowed at the temple after that time.

Daniel 9:27,  And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

This third temple is not Herod’s temple, it was destroyed in 70 AD.

The great millennial temple has not been built yet.

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7. JERUSALEM’S EMINENT DESTINY

Zechariah 12:3, *And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*

8. JERUSALEM: THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING

A. It was a wonderful day for Jerusalem in 1918 when the British general, Lord Allenby, walked reverently through the Jaffa Gate. He did not lead a glittering cavalcade of richly-dressed horses or a panoply of shimmering armor. Instead, the representative of Britain walked into the city on foot. He was a liberator, not a conqueror.

Isaiah 31:5, *As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.*

The capture of Jerusalem by the British was a turning point in history. The Holy City was delivered from its oppressors on the same day as it was lost to Nebuchadnezzar in 588 BC.

B. Lord Allenby’s advance into Jerusalem reminds us of another day and another Liberator, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ. He will come, not only to free Israel, but to free the world from its distress. The psalmist wrote about his Messiah:

Psalms 24:7-10, *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.*

v. 8, *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.*

v. 9, *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.*

v. 10, *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.*
C. Jesus knew what the city of Jerusalem would face before He could return in glory. The very thought caused Him to weep over the city.

Luke 19:41-44,  And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

v. 42,  Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

v. 43,  For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

v. 44,  And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.
INTRODUCTION

Ezekiel prophesied about the history of Israel for 2,500 years after his death.

Chapter 36 of the book of Ezekiel talks about the enemies of Israel. The rebirth of the land of Israel, which had been in the hands of its enemies for over a millennium, was prophesied. The land had become infamous. God commanded mountains to grow trees again, for Israel would return to the land—the cities would be rebuilt and man and beast would multiply.

The 37th chapter of Ezekiel prophecies the rebirth of Israel as a nation. Ezekiel had a vision of a valley of dry bones; they were very dry without any hope of life. God called these bones the ...whole house of Israel...

When these bones came back to life, the rebirth of the nation was prophesied.

READING

Ezekiel 39:1-4, Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

v. 2, And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:
Russia Makes a Blast

v. 3, And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

v. 4, Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

1. RUSSIA’S BLAST

Russia is the most overpowering enemy Israel has today.

A. Ezekiel 38:2, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.

1) Gog is the chief prince of Rosh, later known as Russia. Ezekiel 38:15 states that Gog would come ...out of the north parts....

Bishop Lowther said, “Rosh, taken as a proper name, in Ezekiel signifies the inhabitants of Scythia, from whom the modern Russians derived their name.”

2) Magog: The Jewish historian, Josephus, stated that the Greeks called the Scythians, Magog. They migrated from Asia Minor into the south of Russia with the Caucasian Mountains as their southern boundary.

3) Meshech and Tubal: “These are the progenitors of those who penetrated into South Russia and then spread into the northern parts of the same vast empire. The inhabitants of the Moschi Mountains, east of the Black Sea, are called Moschi, and Meschech and Tubal can be identified as Moscow and Tobolsk, the two great capital cities of East and West Russia. Moscow is derived from Muscovy, and Muscovy is derived from Meshech, while Tubal is the origin of Tobolsk.” (Dr. Sale-Harrison).

B. Ezekiel 38:4, And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.
Russia Makes a Blast

1) Today Russia is marching toward a titanic rendezvous, not with the West or Israel, but with God. Communism, along with half the world population, is drunk on socialism and revolution.

2) An international stage is set. The final act is impending. Russia is getting prepared to marshal together the largest military host in history.

C. Ezekiel 38:5-6, Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

v. 6, Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

1) Togarmah: When Dr. Wolf visited the Tartar hordes who live between the Sea of Aral and the Caspian Sea, he found that they called themselves Togarmah. The area where they lived is now the southern portion of Russia; directly north of Palestine.

2) Gomer first settled in a place called, Gomeria. Then it was renamed Cimmeria, and later it became called Crimea. This area is also in the southern part of Russia. Many of Gomer’s descendants settled around the Black Sea. Others migrated up the Danube River, and settled the present land of Germany, which was first called Gomerland. (Dr. Sale-Harrison).

3) If Togarmah and Gomer are interpreted as today’s Russia and Germany, then a military alliance must be formed between the two nations in the last days. They will attack Israel from the north.

4) Meshach, Tubal, Togarmah, and Gomer with Persia (Iran) Ethiopia, and Libya will form a great confederation of nations. All but two of these nations are north or east of Israel. They form a semi-circle around the Holy Land.

2. THE WORLD UNDER RUSSIA’S SHADOW

Ezekiel 38:8-11, After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always
Russia Makes a Blast

waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

v. 9, Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

v. 10, Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

v. 11, And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates.

Russia’s shadow has been cast over Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. The power of Russia in international politics cannot be overestimated. Never before have the eyes of the world been so drawn to Russia as during the last two decades.

3. RUSSIA’S DESTINY

A. Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 predict the doom of Russia and its alliance on the mountains of Israel. The doom of Gog and Magog is inevitable.

Ezekiel 38:14-18, Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

v. 15, And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

v. 16, And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

v. 17, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?
v. 18, *And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.*

B. Ezekiel 39:2, *And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel.*

This chapter of Ezekiel continues to describe how God will destroy Russia and its allies. Verse four states that God will give the armies of Russia to ravenous birds and animals.

Verse nine declares that it will take seven years to burn the weapons used in the battle.

Verses 11 and 12 tell us that it will take seven months to bury the dead, and pilgrims will have to hold their noses as they help to bury Gog.

Verse 21 reveals that the destruction of Russia will demonstrate the hand of God. The world will know that there is a God.

4. WHY GOD DOES NOT STOP RUSSIA NOW

A. To the natural mind, it seems that Russia should be stopped in her irresistible move toward Armageddon now. She has exerted aggression in the Orient, Africa, South and Central America, as well as the rest of the world.

B. Russia embodies the world’s socialism and communism.

Socialism attempts to create a heaven on earth and deny that there is a heaven in heaven. It is a religion whose chief doctrine is: *Man lives by bread alone.*

The golden rule of socialism is: *When nobody has anything, everybody has everything! Nobody can have more than anybody else! If somebody does have more than anybody else, liquidate that person; then everybody will be happy except the person who was liquidated.*

This philosophy is supposed to bring about a proletarian millennium.
5. RUSSIA WILL INVADE ISRAEL

A. The Jewish race has suffered throughout history in Russia; yet the Word of God indicates that Gog of the land of Magog will be the most vicious for Israel, apart from the Antichrist. Russia has continually defied Israel’s God—Jehovah.

B. Ezekiel 38 is a graphic, detailed exposition of Russia’s hatred for the Jew. In its ambition to annex the Middle East, Russia will launch an offensive and sweep down on the land of Abraham.

C. God, Himself, will defend Israel. He has brought Israel back to her land in a miraculous manner. God will defend Israel so fiercely that all nations will see His fierce anger; and it will take Israel seven months to bury the dead (Ezekiel 39:12).

D. The Holy Spirit has allowed Bible-believing Christians to become aware of the fact that they are living in the last days. God is setting the stage for the great drama at the end of the age.
INTRODUCTION

We believe that the United Nations can be identified positively as part of the prophetic pattern for the future.

READING

I Thessalonians 5:1-3, *But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

v. 2, *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

v. 3, *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

1. **THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

   After the awful ravages of World War II, the United States and its European allies believed the survival of humanity depended upon the world’s nations uniting to resolve their problems.

   On April 25, 1945, the representatives of 50 nations met in San Francisco, California to create the United Nations Charter.
2. THE UNITED NATIONS’ HEADQUARTERS

The international buildings forming the headquarters of the United Nations are located on the East River in New York City. They have been built on the same site that used to hold slums and four slaughter houses.

The United Nations’ main building is a 39-story, glass-and-marble skyscraper, often called The World Capitol.

The 25 acres of land where the United Nations headquarters sit were donated by the Rockefeller family and was valued at over seven million dollars.

3. THE SCOPE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is mankind’s largest effort in history to secure peace throughout the world. It costs billions of dollars every year to operate.

4. WHY THE WORLD WANTS A UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

A. Nations have been brought closer together through modern communications technology.

B. All nations live in fear of a nuclear war which could eliminate the human race.

C. Everybody has the desire to be free.

5. PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO FORM A UNITED NATIONS

A. The first human attempt at world government occurred at Babel.

   Genesis 11:4,  And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

B. As early as 1305, philosophers have theorized about a one-world government in their writings.

C. The 20th century has seen two attempts at an international organization: the League of Nations after World War I and the United Nations.
The United Nations and Prophecy

6. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

A. It is a human effort, without God, to save mankind from himself.

B. The founders of the United Nations refused to start their sessions in San Francisco with prayer.

Since his expulsion from the Garden of Eden, man has tried to re-enter paradise with his own strength and wisdom.

C. The majority of the United Nations’ member countries are not Christian. Most of them are pagan, heathen and worship the devil. They do not believe that you should love thy neighbor as thyself. They do not even understand the moral philosophy of Christianity.

D. The United Nations is controlled by people who reject Jesus Christ as God and Savior. There is no place for God’s Son at the United Nations.

E. The United Nations harbors a strange hatred for democracy and individual freedom.

F. The organization seems to have a deep resentment and hatred for the Bible, Christianity, Israel and the Jews.

G. The United Nations has a consuming desire to compel all countries to conform to their laws and regulations, not God’s laws.

H. They are working toward a one-world bank and currency in order to control the world’s wealth.

I. The United Nations is attempting to control the world with force and military might.

J. They want to develop pro-United Nations textbooks, so the children of the world can be taught to hate nationalism.

7. END-TIME CONDITIONS AMONG THE WORLD’S NATIONS

A ruler will arise, and most modern nations will accept him as a god-king.
The United Nations and Prophecy

A. II Thessalonians 2:3-12, Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

v. 4, Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

v. 5, Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

v. 6, And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

v. 7, For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

v. 8, And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

v. 9, Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

v. 10, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

v. 11, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

v. 12, That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1) He is called the man of sin because he is the very embodiment of sin.

2) He is the son of perdition. He will be a leader, symbol and guide into perdition, damnation and hell.

3) He will oppose God and exalt himself above everything that is called God.
B. Revelation 17:12, *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

C. Revelation 13:7-8, 11-18, *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

  v. 8, *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

  v. 11, *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.*

  v. 12, *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

  v. 13, *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

  v. 14, *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

  v. 15, *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

  v. 16, *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

  v. 17, *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

  v. 18, *Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*
The United Nations and Prophecy

D. Daniel 8:23-25, *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*

v. 24, *And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.*

v. 25, *And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*

E. Revelation 17:13, *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

8. THE WORLD STAGE: SET FOR THE ANTICHRIST

A. A world summit conference can produce:

1) A false security in peace, or détente.

2) A stalemate that will require a superman to bring order out of world chaos.

B. This is the most important decade in history. The world is on the verge of having a:

1) World army in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region.

2) World bank, starting with the European Economic Community, or Common Market.

These organizations will cover every facet of society. They will effect the population of the world, from emperors to slaves.

C. God said that in the last days a world government would exist. This government will be against Christ and in opposition to God.
INTRODUCTION

The Antichrist is one of the most solemn subjects we can discuss. There are many strange theories regarding the Antichrist, which are offered by pastors, teachers and lay people.

READING

II Thessalonians 2:7-12, For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

v. 8, And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

v. 9, Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

v. 10, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

v. 11, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

v. 12, That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
The World Welcomes the Antichrist

1. WHAT IS ANTICHRIST?

The Antichrist is not just a political or philosophical system. Antichrist is not a metaphor, form of speech or example of rhetoric. It is not an influence projected by this present age or a spirit of anarchy in this world. The Antichrist is not a distorted creature with a head like a monster. The Antichrist is specifically a person. He is the devil’s answer to Jesus Christ.

A. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. The devil will produce a counterfeit savior called the Antichrist.

B. The world will decide which Savior to follow: God’s Son or the devil’s counterfeit.

C. The global stage is being set for the diabolic appearance of this person, referred to as the man of sin.

II Thessalonians 2:3, *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.*

2. WHY THERE MUST BE AN ANTICHRIST?

A. When humanity refused to accept God’s Christ as Savior, they left themselves no alternative except to receive the devil’s Antichrist.

B. The seeds of universal moral breakdown, hatred, witchcraft and heathen religions have been planted in this present generation. God has been regulated to the background.

This generation believes it can live without God. Open expressions of worship and faith in God are violently opposed. Parents permit their children to grow up without any fear or respect for God. They allow their children to give themselves over to television and every kind of uncleanness. People know nothing about God’s laws or judgments.

The book of Romans contains a photograph of this generation.

Romans 1:28-32, *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*
The World Welcomes the Antichrist

v. 29, Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

v. 30, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

v. 31, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

v. 32, Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

The populace is filled with unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, murder, hatred for God, disobedience and implacability. You cannot reason with this generation.

C. Modern parents do not understand that people are either servants of God, or slaves to the devil. Drugs, sex and alcohol are horrible pits of Satan.

Most parents believe their children to be attractive and beautiful; yet these same children grow up to be drug addicts, alcoholics and rebellious individuals.

3. THE WORLD DESIRES A STRONG LEADER

The modern world is rapidly preparing for the appearance of the supreme antagonist, the prophesied archenemy of God.

This generation is constantly being conditioned emotionally, spiritually, morally, economically and politically for the appearance and rule of a world dictator.

Modern society, worldwide, is clamoring for a superman with the destiny to lead them. People want somebody to lift them out of their distress, discouragement and destruction. The Antichrist will present himself as a champion of the common people.
4. THE ANTICHRIST REFLECTS HIS GENERATION

A. No generation in history has ever been fully represented by a perfect type of itself. The Antichrist will completely represent the popular conception of life among the generation of his appearance.

B. The Antichrist will not seem strange or different to the million of human persons who will adore and follow him. He will be the perfect reflection of the spirit and soul of his followers and admirers.

5. WHAT WILL THE ANTICHRIST ENCOMPASS?

A. Economically, the Antichrist will bring the world prosperity in a seemingly miraculous way.

Daniel 8:25, And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

B. Revelation 13:1-8, And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

v. 2, And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

v. 3, And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

v. 4, And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

v. 5, And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

v. 6, And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
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v. 7, And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

v. 8, And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Politically:

1) The Antichrist will rise from the sea of mass humanity.

2) He will bear blasphemous names.

3) He will act like a leopard in speed and action.

4) He will be like a bear in strength and furious energy.

5) Like a lion, his roar will be loud, and his rule will be supreme.

6) Since the Antichrist’s power comes from the devil, he will be like a dragon.

C. Morally, the Antichrist will not desire women.

Daniel 11:37, Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Jesus said in Luke 17:28 that the world will be like the days of Lot when the Son of Man is revealed. It was popular to be a homosexual in the Sodom of Lot’s day.

The Antichrist will lead the world in immorality. People will praise him for his uninhibited attitudes and brazenness in sin. Psychiatrists will consider him perfectly normal and adapted to society.
**The World Welcomes the Antichrist**

**D.** Religiously, the Antichrist will not …*regard the God of his fathers*… (Daniel 11:37).

Revelation 13:6-8 states that the Antichrist will open …*his mouth in blasphemy against God*… He will cause everyone whose name is not in the Lamb’s book to worship him.

The Antichrist’s partner and prime minister is called the false prophet in the Word of God. He will be the Antichrist’s high priest and religious advisor. He will bring the world to worship at the Antichrist’s feet.

Revelation 19:20, *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

**6. THE ANTICHRIST IS MARKED**

Revelation 13:18, *Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

The Antichrist is marked by God with a number: 666.

**7. THE LENGTH OF THE ANTICHRIST’S REIGN**

The Antichrist will be in power for seven years. His fierce battle with Christ and God will occur during the last three-and-a-half years of his reign. During this time, God’s judgments will be on him. Hailstones weighing 100 pounds will fall. People will be scorched by the sun. Water will turn to blood. Yet none of these fierce judgments will cause people to turn to God.
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8. THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE MIRACULOUSLY HEALED

He will receive a deadly wound, which will heal.

Revelation 13:3,  *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*
INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ promised to return. His character, deity and saving force depend upon the fulfillment of His prediction.

READING

Titus 2:13,  Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

1. JESUS CHRIST’S SECOND COMING IS NOT:

   A. It is not regeneration when Jesus Christ’s presence enters the human heart.

   B. It does not occur at death when the Christian’s spirit goes to heaven.

   C. It is not Pentecost or the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

   D. It is not the Lord’s conquests or victories on the earth.

   E. It is not His divine revelation of truth.
2. ALL FUTURE EVENTS ARE RELATED TO HIS RETURN

A. Everything written about Jesus Christ in Scripture must be fulfilled.

Luke 24:44, *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

B. We are commanded to search the Word of God for references to our Lord and Savior.

John 5:39, *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

C. Jesus Christ has positively committed Himself that He will come back.

John 14:3, *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

D. Scripture will not be entirely fulfilled until Jesus Christ returns and takes His Church away and comes back to defeat every enemy.

1) He must return to fulfill the hope of the Church and Israel.

2) Jesus Christ must execute judgment against the ungodly nations.

Isaiah 2:4, *And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

E. Christ’s return will inaugurate His 1,000-year-long reign of righteousness.

Revelation 20:4, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

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3. RAPTURE AND REVELATION

The Word of God refers to two different future appearances of Jesus Christ. The distinctions between the rapture and His revelation are very important.

A. During the rapture, Christ will come for His saints, His bride, and His redeemed ones.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

v. 17, *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

B. At His revelation, Christ will return with His saints. He cannot return with His saints until He comes for His saints.

I Thessalonians 3:13, *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

4. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE REVELATION

A. How Christ will return is different in these two events.

1) At the rapture, Jesus Christ will appear in the air for His own followers. Nobody else will see Him.

Matthew 24:27, 30, *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

v. 30, *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*
Revelation 19:11, *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

B. The time for these appearances of our Lord are different.

1) The rapture will precede the great tribulation.

II Thessalonians 2:7-8, *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

v. 8, *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.*

2) Christ’s revelation will conclude the great tribulation (Revelation 19:11).

C. The purposes of Christ’s two appearances differ.

1) The purpose of the rapture is to take His blood-washed saints to live with Him.

I Thessalonians 4:17, *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

2) During His revelation, Jesus Christ will descend to earth to deliver Israel, judge the nations and establish His Kingdom.

Joel 3:12, *Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.*

Matthew 25:31, *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.* (NKJV).
5. TESTIMONIES TO THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Many Old Testament prophets testified to Christ’s revelation.

A. Enoch.

Jude 1:14, *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.*

B. Jacob, or Israel.

Genesis 49:10, *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

C. Isaiah.

Isaiah 59:20-21, *And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.*

v. 21, *As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.*

D. Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 23:5, *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

E. Daniel.

Daniel 2:44-45, *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

v. 45, *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king*
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what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

F. Zechariah.

Zechariah 2:10-13, Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

v. 11, And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

v. 12, And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.

v. 13, Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

6. PURPOSES FOR CHRIST’S REVELATION

A. To destroy the Antichrist.

Revelation 19:11-16, 19-20, And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

v. 12, His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

v. 13, And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

v. 14, And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

v. 15, And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

v. 16, And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
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v. 19, And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

v. 20, And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

B. To separate the tares (wicked) from the wheat (righteous).

Matthew 13:30, Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

C. To restore Israel.

Matthew 24:31, And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Romans 11:20-24, Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear:

v. 21, For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

v. 22, Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

v. 23, And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.

v. 24, For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?
7. **HOW CHRIST WILL RETURN**

**A.** John saw the heavens open.

Revelation 19:11, *And I saw heaven opened...*

Matthew 24:29-30, *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

v. 30, *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

**B.** Jesus Christ will return riding a white horse, and His clothing will be dipped in blood.

Revelation 19:11, 13, *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...*

v. 13, *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

**C.** Christ will have the power and authority to judge and make war.

Isaiah 11:4, *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

Isaiah 49:2, *And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me.*

Revelation 19:11, *...and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

**D.** He will return with His saints and angels to defeat the dragon, the beast and the false prophet.

Revelation 19:8, 14, *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*
v.14, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

E. Jesus Christ will rule with a rod of iron.

Revelation 19:15, *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

8. THE MANNER OF CHRIST’S COMING

A. It will be immediate.

Matthew 24:27, *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

B. His appearance will be public and seen by everybody.

Matthew 24:30, *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

C. He will come in brightness to give light.

Habakkuk 3:4, *And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.*

D. He will return to the Mount of Olives, the place from which He departed.

Zechariah 14:4, *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

E. He will return in the same manner as He left.

Acts 1:11, *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
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F. He will come with the clouds.

Revelation 1:7, Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

G. He will return as a judge and king.

Isaiah 11:3-4, And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

v. 4, But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

v. 5, And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

9. HIS APPEARANCE

A. He will have eyes like a flame of fire.

Revelation 1:14, His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire.

Revelation 2:18, And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.

Revelation 19:12, His eyes were as a flame of fire...

B. On His head will be many crowns.

Revelation 19:12, ...and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

C. His clothing will be dipped in blood.

Revelation 19:13, And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
10. THE MIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Armies will follow Him on white horses.

Revelation 19:14, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses…*

B. These armies will be clothed in white.

Revelation 19:14, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him…clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

C. He shall rule with a rod of iron, and a sharp sword will go out of His mouth.

Revelation 19:15, *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

11. HIS TITLES AND NAMES

A. He will be called Faithful and True.

Revelation 19:11, *...and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

B. One of His names is the Word of God.

Revelation 19:13, *...and his name is called The Word of God.*

C. He is both the Lamb of God and King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 17:14, *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

D. He will have a name unknown to every human except Himself.

Revelation 19:12, *...and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*
CONCLUSION

The most glorious and beautiful sight in eternity will be the spectacle of the armies of heaven, clothed in spotless white, riding on beautiful white horses in perfect order and rank.
INTRODUCTION

Christ often spoke just to His disciples and not to the crowds nor unbelievers. The parable in this lesson is for all of His disciples—including YOU!

READING

Matthew 25:1-13,  *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*

v. 2,  *And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

v. 3,  *They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*

v. 4,  *But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

v. 5,  *While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*

v. 6,  *And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*

v. 7,  *Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*
Some Taken; Some Left

v. 8, And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

v. 9, But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

v. 10, And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

v. 11, Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

v. 12, But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

v. 13, Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

1. DO NOT BE DECEIVED

Matthew 24:4, And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

2. LOST HOPE

Some people will lose their hope of the Lord’s return.

II Peter 3:4, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

3. SOME WILL BE TAKEN; OTHERS LEFT

A. During Noah’s time, most of the people were left behind.

B. In Lot’s day, only three people survived God’s wrath.

C. For some people, Christ’s return will be a last good-bye. Now is the time to warn our unsaved loved ones!

1) Our daughters.

2) Our sons.
3) Our mothers.

4) Our fathers.

5) Our aunts, uncles and grandparents.

4. THE MESSAGE IS WATCHFULNESS

Before the call of the bridegroom, the wise and unwise virgins looked very much alike.

A. All ten knew their Lord was coming.

B. All of them recognized the importance of the event.

C. All of them had lamps.

D. All of them went forth to meet the Bridegroom.

E. All of them were waiting for His coming.

The sun went down, and darkness covered the land; yet the bridegroom did not appear. The dew gently fell, and the bridegroom still did not come. The stars silently moved across the heavens; and there still was no bridegroom. The wise virgins replenished the oil in their lamps since the night seemed long. The unwise virgins had not brought any extra oil, so they could not refill their lamps.

5. THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

Matthew 25:1, *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*

Jesus began this parable with the word, then, which reveals that this parable is connected to the rest of Christ’s message.
Some Taken; Some Left

A. There were ten virgins.

1) They all belonged to the wedding party.

2) They all lived together.

3) They all looked alike. Nobody could tell the difference between them.

4) They all expected the bridegroom.

B. They took their lamps.

The lamps in this parable symbolize the Christian experience.

C. They went to meet the Bridegroom.

The appearance of the Bridegroom symbolizes Jesus’ second coming.

D. All the lamps were filled with oil.

Five virgins took extra oil with them. These young women demonstrated forethought and preparation.

Matthew 25:4, *But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

E. The Bridegroom tarried.

Today, many people feel like the coming of Christ has been delayed.

II Peter 3:4, *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

F. The virgins slept.

The fact that the virgins fell asleep does not connote an evil meaning. It was a natural thing for them to slumber since it was late at night.

G. The cry came at midnight.

Midnight symbolizes the end of old things and the beginning of new ones. It is the end of this dispensation and the beginning of a new dispensation.
Some Taken; Some Left

H. The Bridegroom is coming.

The dramatic climax of the parable has arrived. The announcement was made, and the time to meet the bridegroom had come.

I. All the virgins arose.

This was the moment the virgins had been awaiting. They trimmed their lamps and prepared to enter the chamber.

J. The unwise virgins needed oil.

1) They had not noticed their lack before the bridegroom arrived.

2) These same virgins had complained about the delay in the bridegroom’s coming, yet they were not prepared.

3) They could not say that they did not have time to prepare. The bridegroom did not arrive during the first watch, but the fourth.

K. The unwise virgins begged for more oil.

This was not right. Our blessings come from God, and not from each other. It is God who saves, and not humans.

L. The wise virgins kept their oil.

The wise virgins told the unwise to go and purchase more oil. Every individual has sufficient for himself.

M. The unwise virgins went to buy more oil.

While they were gone, the bridegroom arrived.

N. The wise virgins entered into the chamber.

They entered into immediate and intimate relations with Christ.

There was no intermediate place like purgatory.
Some Taken; Some Left

O. The door was closed.

There are two reasons for shutting the door. The people inside were safe and secure; while those outside were barred from entering.

God shut the door, and no man can open or close it.

Revelation 3:7, *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.*

P. The unwise virgins knocked at the door.

They cried for the door to be opened, but the Lord said, “I do not know you.”

The unwise virgins did not receive a second chance. They had missed the greatest event of their lives. Their exclusion was final.

6. THIS PARABLE IS A WARNING TO ALL

Matthew 25:13, *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

The key to this parable is “watch.”

A. Shall we drink at the same communion table and eat the same bread; yet be divided when Christ returns?

B. Shall we hear the same sermons, hymns and prayers, yet be divided at Christ’s return?

C. There is an hour when profession fails. The time will come when the private and personal life will have all of its secrets revealed. Therefore, we must watch.

The passwords and passport to Christ and heaven is life, power, victory and overcoming.
Some Taken; Some Left

Only Holy Spirit-empowered lives can meet the challenge of the needs of our world today. We must prepare now!
Some Taken; Some Left
THE PANORAMA OF PROPHECY IN REVIEW

1. WE ARE COMMANDED TO STUDY PROPHECY

II Timothy 2:15,  *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2. THE RETURN OF OUR LORD IS THE FOCAL POINT OF ALL PROPHECY

The are 380 references to the return of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

3. JESUS CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF PROPHECY

Revelation 19:10,  *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

4. THE FIRST PROPHECY

This prophecy foretold the struggle between the divine and the demonic.

Genesis 3:15,  *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
5. GOD DECLARES HE IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD

In the golden text of prophecy, God declares that He is the only true God since no one else can predict the future.

Isaiah 41:21-23, Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

v. 22, Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

v. 23, Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.

6. THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD’S EMPIRES REVEALED IN A SINGLE DREAM

Daniel 2:31-35, 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.

v. 32, This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

v. 33, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

v. 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.

v. 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 threshing floors; 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.

7. EZEKIEL PROPHESIED THE REBIRTH OF ISRAEL

Ezekiel 37:11-14, Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
v. 12, Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

v. 13, And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

v. 14, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

8. ABRAHAM’S DESTINY WAS FORETOLD BY PROPHECY

Genesis 12:1-7, Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee:

v. 2, And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

v. 3, And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

v. 4, So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

v. 5, And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

v. 6, And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

v. 7, And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.
9. THE MOST PROPHETIC CITY IS JERUSALEM

Zechariah 12:3, And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

10. RUSSIA’S DESTINY IS SEALED WITH PROPHECY

Ezekiel 39:1-4, Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

v. 2, And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

v. 3, And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

v. 4, Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

11. THE ANTICHRIST WILL DOMINATE THE WORLD STAGE

II Thessalonians 2:7-12, For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

v. 8, And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

v. 9, Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

v. 10, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

v. 11, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
v. 12, That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

12. THE TWO SEPARATE EVENTS OF CHRIST’S RETURN

A. The Rapture

I Thessalonians 4:16-17, For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

v. 17, Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

B. The Revelation.

I Thessalonians 3:13, To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.
Our world staggers from crisis to crisis. These crises become more critical each year. Do they have a prophetic significance? Can the Bible help untangle the tangled affairs of the world?

About one-fourth of the Bible is taken up with prophecy. Bible prophecy does not consist only of dates, or forecasting events, but of accepting the Bible as total divine truth.

— LESSON TITLES INCLUDE —

- WHAT IS PROPHECY?
- THE FIRST PROPHECY GIVEN ON THIS EARTH
- HOW ORDINARY MEN PREDICT THE FUTURE
- TIME, TIMES AND CONCLUSION OF TIME
- DEAD NATIONS REBORN
- THE WORLD WELCOMES THE ANTICHRIST
- THE RAPTURE AND REVELATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

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