



**Fourteen Signs
Announcing
Christ's Return**

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

By Roderick C. Meredith

*Do you know what events will signal
the biggest event of all time—the
return of Jesus Christ to this earth?*

*Learn what to watch for on the
chaotic world scene so you will not
be confused or caught unprepared.*

FS Edition 4.2 | March 2021
©2021 Living Church of God™
All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

This booklet is not to be sold!
It has been provided as a free public educational
service by the Living Church of God

Scriptures in this booklet are quoted from the *New King James Version*
(©Thomas Nelson, Inc. Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

Do you know what lies ahead in your future? What about the future of your nation and the world? We are not living in ordinary times. We are nearing the end of an age—the end of a civilization.

Our time truly fulfills the words that Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke in the midst of the Great Depression: “This generation... has a rendezvous with destiny.” Far more than the 1930s generation, which was then fast approaching the most destructive war in the world’s history, we, today, truly have a *rendezvous with destiny!* A world-shaking crisis is inexorably building and will, in the near future, explode the appearance of normalcy that still pervades Western civilization at this time.

Presently, the news media is randomly reporting tragic events, explaining their significance in a way that the average man or woman can understand. You need to know that the progression of disturbing news stories is *not* random and inconsequential. In fact, they foreshadow remarkable key trends and specific events that will change everything you are familiar with in the next few decades!

How can anyone know the future for sure? Who really understands the *big picture*?

There is one Source who really knows what will happen. Did you realize that about one fourth of the entire Bible is prophecy, and that about 90 percent of all prophecy is for “the end time”—the time just ahead of us?

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

These predicted events are sure. Of course, some people are not interested in Bible prophecy. But they should be, since it will affect their own lives, their families, their jobs, and their futures. There is a real God, and the Bible speaks for Him. God inspired the words of these prophecies, and *they are sure*. We had better **wake up** and believe they *will* happen! By the time you finish reading this booklet your eyes will be opened to understand the significance of today's news and where it is all leading.

Notice what the Apostle Peter wrote about the Bible's prophecies: "So we have seen and proved that what the prophets said came true. You will do well to pay close attention to everything they have written, for, like lights shining into dark corners, their words help us to understand many things that otherwise would be dark and difficult.... For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit within these godly men who gave them true messages from God" (2 Peter 1:19–21, *The Living Bible*). Why did God preserve these prophecies for us? Because the great God is working out a marvelous purpose here below, *nationally* and *individually*. We need to study God's inspired prophecies if we wish to understand His purpose!

Can the Almost Unimaginable Happen?

Do you know what the most important news story of our generation will be? What is the biggest event that will *shake the entire earth* within the lifetime of most of you? The Second Coming of Christ will be the *most important event* of this generation. Christ *is* coming back!

Make no mistake about it. Jesus' return will not happen secretly off in some cave with no one knowing about it. Jesus Christ will literally come back to the city of Jerusalem, to the top of the Mount of Olives, to begin governing the entire earth! There will be a *divine, one-world government*. What a shock that will be to all humanity!

This event is specifically predicted throughout the Old and New Testaments of your Bible. Hundreds of millions of people at least *superficially* believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. The Second Coming is predicted in each of the four gospels, in the book of Acts, and in the epistles of Paul, James, Peter, and John. Jesus' return is the focal point of the entire book of Revelation. If you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, then you **must** believe in the Second Coming of Christ.

If the King of kings is soon returning to establish the Kingdom of God upon this earth, you should be getting ready for it. You should know how it will affect your business, your economic future, your personal safety, and everything around you.

You can know what the *signs* are that will precede Christ's coming and watch for them. Why stay *in ignorance* about the meaning of the events taking place around you? Jesus *commands* His genuine disciples to watch and to be ready. "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

Your entire life is about to change. Events will unfold soon to destroy the Western world's way of life as we have known it.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke each contain an account of Christ teaching His disciples what to watch for before He returns. Luke wrote, "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Luke 21:31-33).

Jesus Christ gave a series of signs that must occur before He returns. Evidently, the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy would happen within the lifetime of one generation—once the signs relative to that specific prophecy begin. So, Christ *is* coming back to this earth, but not right away. **Not until these signs have occurred!** People who go running around mouthing their own ideas and predictions about Christ's return "tonight" are false prophets. They are not heeding the words of Jesus Christ. The signs listed in Jesus' words must occur *first*.

Soon, mankind will suffer through the most devastating, bloody war in human history—called, in biblical terminology, the Great Tribulation. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]; but for the elect's sake [for the sake of God's repentant, obedient people] those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

We are now approaching that time, and these things are now being revealed. "Many shall be purified, cleansed, and refined [God is examining you and me, testing us to see who is willing to obey His word], but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly. None of the

wicked shall understand, *but those who are wise shall understand*" (Daniel 12:10, *NRSV*).

Do you understand that our degenerate, corrupt nations are headed for a big fall? Do you fully realize that America's national debts are almost out of control? Can you grasp the full meaning—in God's eyes—of the spiritual and moral toboggan slide of our entire Western civilization?

If you consider yourself a follower of Jesus, then you should pay close attention to His instruction to you: "*Watch therefore*, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). Read on, dear reader, to see what things to "watch" for!

1. Wars, Violence, and Lawlessness

Watch for wars—big wars, little wars, ethnic wars, wars of all sorts, along with escalating violence and increasing lawlessness—which will increasingly affect all of the world, especially the English-speaking nations.

A common perspective is that the world will somehow get better. Former U.S. President George H. W. Bush talked often about a "new world order" as though there was going to be peace. Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor to former U.S. President George W. Bush, described her vision of U.S. foreign policy as to "help developing countries move from war to peace, poverty to prosperity, poor governance to democracy and the rule of law" (*Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2008). Yet increasing numbers of people around the world consider the U.S. a threat to world peace. An April 2007 poll by the Forsa Institute found that German citizens consider the U.S. the greatest threat to world peace, with 48 percent naming the U.S. as the main instigator of war and lawlessness around the globe.

This post-Cold War time is unstable and extremely volatile. Will peace emerge from the chaos? Brian Urquhart, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General, reminds us that "in the age of humanitarian intervention, the human catastrophes of failed states and civil wars will continue to come before the Security Council" ("A Force Behind the U.N.," *The New York Times*, August 7, 2003). Indeed, the "new world order" is only producing a faltering, fading peace. Events will grow worse, not better.

Why is our civilization bankrupt of workable solutions to global, peaceful cooperation among nations and ethnic groups? Norman Lear, long-time television producer and political activist, clearly delineated the problem in a speech addressed to the National Press Club, saying that “at no time in my life can I remember our culture being so estranged from this essential part of itself,” referring to “the spirit-led, or spiritual, life of our species,” mentioned earlier in Lear’s speech.

The gospel of Matthew contains Jesus’ prophecy to His disciples about the state of the world just prior to His Second Coming. “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24:6–7). While humanity has lived with warfare over the millennia, our time in history is unprecedented because of the massive annihilative potential of modern weapons and the massive global scale of potential conflict.

Verse 22 is a prophetic qualifier that only points to *our time* of high technology and its awful, brilliantly evil weapons of mass destruction. “And unless those days were shortened [the time of world war using these new weapons], no flesh would be saved [human extinction]; but for the elect’s [God’s repentant, obedient saints] sake those days will be shortened.” Today’s world is full of widespread wars and rumors of wars. There are many ethnic wars taking place—not only in the former Yugoslavia, but also in the former Soviet Union and in many places throughout Africa and Asia. Dozens of regional wars are now being fought around the world!

America will not escape this increasing intranational and international strife. The day will come when the Los Angeles riots of 1992 and the destruction of the World Trade Center towers in 2001 will seem like minor skirmishes as America’s old allies become unstable and its old alliances fall apart. Civil wars and wars between nation-states will increase. There will be little wars and big wars, resulting finally in a great war that will culminate at the battle of Armageddon in the Jezreel Valley in Israel—at which point Christ will return.

Some think this is alarmist, pessimistic thinking, unwarranted because of mankind’s innate goodness. Such naïve people exude a quirky kind of optimism, proclaiming in the best “Pollyanna” tradi-

tion, “Oh, things are going to get better.” Well, as a minister of God, I am commissioned to tell you they are *not* going to get better *until after Christ returns*. Yes, there *is* a wonderful tomorrow’s world, but, realistically, you should realize that life will grow very dark and desperate before a new world dawns.

Have you noticed the completely inexplicable outbreaks of violence—random shootings, murders, and mass killings? Jesus Christ predicted this societal breakdown just before his return. “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). In the United States, we used to think we were a Christian society; perhaps some still do. But today, our leisure time entertainment—television, movies, and the Internet—rivals ancient Rome’s lust for sex, drugs (including alcohol), violence, and brutality.

Paradoxically, the United States and Canada have remarkably high percentages of their population who say they believe in God and go to church regularly. This hypocritical national behavior was foreseen as characteristic of the human society existing just before the Messiah’s return.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, “But know this, that in *the last days* perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *having a form of godliness* but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

Men deny the authority of God, despite a show of religiosity. Paul commands, under inspiration of God, that we “*from such people turn away*” (v. 5)! Get away from people who talk about religion, but deny the authority of God, because they will mislead you. They will confuse you. This sassy, sarcastic, lust-filled generation is headed for big, big trouble. You need to recognize that and not be a part of it.

The sign of wars, increasing violence, and lawlessness is the first thing to watch for.

2. Drought and Famine

Drought and famine—lack of rain and lack of food—will stalk the earth on a massive scale never seen before. Yes, these things will become much, much worse.

When there is drought you also have wildfires—range fires and forest fires. After the fires have burned off the brush, there is always the danger of floods when it resumes raining because there is no vegetation in the burned area's watershed to retain the precipitation. These catastrophes of drought, famine, fire, and flood naturally tend to go together. Jesus predicted that **“there will be famines”** (Matthew 24:7). Worldwide famines will engender vicious competition and strife among nations over food. This will mean increased political and military danger, especially for the United States, Britain, and the British-descended peoples, whose lands have typically been seen as the *breadbasket* of the world.

Those of us living in the advanced, developed world have thought these things would only occur in places like India, Bangladesh, or Africa. How could famine happen to us? It is practically unthinkable to suggest that one dark day the supermarkets and restaurants would have to close due to lack of food! But famine, the pain of empty stomachs, will occur in the United States of America, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere among the English-speaking peoples of the world. Let us understand what God says and why.

Most people just do not understand that it is God Almighty who controls the weather and that He sometimes uses this power to punish nations that displease Him! King Solomon knew this. During the dedication of God's temple in Jerusalem he acknowledged God's power: “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they [the people] have sinned against You” (1 Kings 8:35). Does God collectively punish a nation for mocking or ignoring His moral, ethical standards? You bet He does! “For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The LORD will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:30–31).

The book of Revelation confirms this coming famine. “When he had broken the third seal [shortly before the coming of Christ], I heard the third Living Being [an angelic personage] say, ‘Come!’ And I saw a black horse, with its rider holding a pair of balances in his hand. And a voice from among the four Living Beings said, ‘A loaf of bread for \$20, or three pounds of barley flour, but there is no olive oil or wine’” (Revelation 6:5–6, *The Living Bible*).

Yet God is merciful and patient with individuals and nations that have a change of heart. Solomon also understood this point when he

prayed, “When... they [the people] pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance” (1 Kings 8:35–36).

We need to recognize that **God controls the weather!** He punishes His own people when needed. If our nations would return to God with heartfelt repentance, and begin to keep His laws and live His way, then these plagues need not come. But how many of you believe this will really happen? How many of you believe that our nations will have a heartfelt repentance and get back to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel? I think most of us know better. I wish they would, but I doubt that they will. Regrettably, our nations have some *very hard lessons to learn* about thumbing their noses at God.

3. Earthquakes and Other Natural Catastrophes

God prophesies that *earthquakes* and other natural catastrophes will increase as we approach the end of this age.

Los Angeles is regarded as one of the media capitals of the world. More rotten, vile movies and television shows featuring murder, mayhem, and illicit and perverted sex are produced in Los Angeles than in any place else in the world. California has long been regarded as the “leading edge” of almost any form of perversion known to man. So the great **God** who guides the affairs of men and nations has every right to *punish* such degeneracy and rebellion against His laws and His ways by a people He has blessed so much. And the people in California—as in most parts of the English-speaking world—have had *many* chances to learn the truth in the past if they had any genuine interest.

“Why pick on Los Angeles?” some local journalists have asked. The better question would be, “Why *not?*” Maybe a good shaking up will get people’s attention!

Yet earthquakes affect people all around the world—not just in southern California. And Scripture tells us that, before Jesus Christ returns, there will be increasing “earthquakes in various places” (Mark 13:8; Matthew 24:7). In the last few years, most of you realize that there have been frequent earthquakes, sometimes in unusual places. This trend will continue because the Bible indicates that it

will. Jesus Christ prophesied of them. And you, too, should be expecting them. Watch as the number and magnitude of earthquakes grow, because they will become extremely devastating.

There had been earthquakes even in ancient times, as mentioned in the writings of Josephus (*Antiquities*, bk. 15, chap. 5, sec. 2). The Bible records specific instances of earthquakes in the past and predicts them in the future (Zechariah 14:4–5).

These earth-jarring occurrences arise from natural shifts and changes in the earth's mantle, especially along worldwide earthquake belts or fault lines. As journalist William Broad pointed out, a million people died in earthquakes during the twentieth century, and scientists acknowledge that the twenty-first “might see 10 times as many deaths, with a million lost in a single blow” (“Earthquakes: A Matter of Luck, Most of It Bad,” *New York Times*, September 28, 1999).

U.S. Geological Survey scientists reported in May 2008 that a 7.8 magnitude quake along the San Andreas Fault would likely result in more than 50,000 injuries, thousands of deaths, and \$200 billion in quake-related damage (“The ShakeOut Scenario,” U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 2008-1150). That is in a region where for decades there has been extensive warning about, and extensive preparation for, earthquakes. Yet human nature often leads people to ignore warnings. In the wake of China's devastating May 2008 earthquake in Sichuan Province, Chinese scientists have been quick to point out that they have for decades known the risk of a potentially catastrophic quake along the very fault that gave way. “But they say preparations for a quake there were cursory at best, and building codes remained well short of the codes that have become standard in other well-known earthquake zones” (“Experts Warned of Quake Risk in China,” *New York Times*, June 5, 2008).

In the near future, there will be more earthquakes even in places where they are not normally expected. A report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in September 2000 warned that while California is at greatest risk of severe economic harm from earthquakes, cities across the U.S. are also at risk of heavy damage—yet are not doing enough to prevent or prepare for such harm. Earthquake expert John Nance put the matter into perspective: “‘The Eastern Seaboard is in more danger than the West because they are abysmally unprepared,’ with building standards far less stringent than Califor-

nia's" ("Superquake May Lie Ahead Almost Anywhere in U.S.," *Los Angeles Times*, March 26, 1989).

In recent years, scientists have come to a better understanding of the immensity and magnitude of the tremendous fault systems that trace themselves underneath the whole earth. However, not all the earthquakes of the near future will be natural disasters—the usual groans and strains of planet earth's crust. Some will be directly induced by God as *a sign* of His power, and will be designed to *help people wake up*. God will take a direct hand in the affairs of men. The earthquakes specifically mentioned by Jesus Christ as a foreshadowing sign of His return will be unusual by their *location or unparalleled magnitude*.

Why? Most of us understand. But remember that Jesus Christ directly predicted, "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and *earthquakes in various places*" (Matthew 24:7). Have there not always been earthquakes? Of course. So Jesus must have been speaking of *more* earthquakes than usual—and *more powerful* earthquakes. And certainly that is *exactly* what has been happening over the past several years!

In Isaiah 29:6, God says of Jerusalem, "You will be punished by the LORD of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire." God says, "I do **not** change" (Malachi 3:6). He did punish ancient Jerusalem with *earthquakes* and *storms*. Now, He is beginning to punish modern Israel in the *same way*.

Dear readers, please *watch* for *increasing earthquakes* as a sign that Christ is coming soon. And if you would like to know more about God's intervention in natural phenomena, write for your free copy of our booklet *Who Controls the Weather?*

4. Disease Epidemics

A plague of disease epidemics and pandemics is beginning to worry public health officials all around the world. And many old scourges of humanity (malaria and tuberculosis to name just two) are reemerging as super, drug-resistant diseases that ignore penicillin and other drugs that were formerly used to combat them! Of course, degenerative diseases such as cancer and heart disease continue to affect greater numbers of people, as our food and water supplies become increasingly tainted with the pollutants of our technological age.

The Bible indicates clearly that future disease epidemics will be, in part, spread by wild animals (Revelation 6:8). Some of the worst plagues of humanity have been animal borne, like *bubonic plague*. Bubonic plague is a naturally endemic problem among wild animals in certain regions. It is only due to society's diligence in maintaining sanitary standards that such problems stay at the fringes of civilization.

People are aware that whenever society is disrupted due to war or natural calamities, there is always the threat of disease. But these disease problems are just a small foretaste of the deadly contagious *pandemics* that are prophesied to sweep the earth. "I heard the fourth Living Being say, 'Come!' And now I saw a pale horse, and its rider's name was Death. And there followed after him another horse whose rider's name was Hell. They were given control of **one-fourth of the earth**, to kill with war and famine and disease and wild animals" (Revelation 6:7-8, *The Living Bible*).

The Greek word translated "pale" is *chloros*, which signifies the pale green or sickly yellow-greenish color of severe disease. Jesus Christ predicted that great "pestilences" would be one of the signs to mankind to warn of His imminent return (Matthew 24:7).

Would God afflict the earth with lethal disease plagues? Moses was inspired by God to write this: "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you on high above all the nations of the earth" (Deuteronomy 28:1). God, speaking directly through Moses, is saying that if His people today would obey Him, and diligently observe to do His commandments, He would set us on high above all the nations of the earth. That is exactly what God did for the ancient Kingdom of Israel at the time of King David. When King David turned to God with all his heart, He began to bless and prosper Israel magnificently.

But what happened when "the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel" because they were disobeying? (2 Samuel 24:1). "So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. And when the angel stretched out his hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, 'It is enough; now restrain

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

your hand” (vv. 15–16). We, whatever our descent or ethnicity, are no better than those ancient Israelites.

The Old Testament Israelites, who accepted a relationship with Almighty God, promised to live by His word. They praised His name with their mouths and thought of themselves as God’s people. The great God of the universe, however, is not impressed with hypocrisy—mere words of loyalty and love—but requires us to back up our words with action, genuineness, and honesty.

“What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:14–17, 26).

We must show ourselves as being fully faithful and engaged in our commitments to God. We must do, or at least make serious efforts to do, all that God requires of us in our family, sexual relations, business dealings, and every other area of life. Why? Notice what God inspired to be written for our benefit: “But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these *curses* will come upon you and overtake you.... The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.... The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart” (Deuteronomy 28:15, 22, 27–28). *Disease epidemics* are clearly a tool used by God to punish disobedient people.

Yes, God will do all these things to this world, including the modern descendants of Israel, unless we turn back to God in profound, heartfelt repentance in a way that few people have ever done.

Awesome times are bearing down on us. We are not talking about some little thing to be done off in a corner. We are talking about the most massive, *event-by-event* intervention by the Creator in the history of this earth. Nothing in the past can even remotely compare to

this. Can you grasp the massive effect these events will have on your life and **on everything you have ever known?**

Listen! *God is trying to get your attention!* These soon-coming events are real. They will happen. Do not just believe me. **Believe what is written in your Bible.** Check up and prove it. That is how you come to know God. You *must* know God to receive His protection in this coming time.

Remember, these coming events will not occur primarily somewhere remote from the Western nations. *Disease epidemics* will begin to strike America, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia in a worse way than they have ever done in our entire history.

5. The Rise of an Aggressive, Fundamentalist Islamic Power

In the time of the end, the Bible predicts that there will arise, in North Africa or the Middle East, a charismatic personality who will be able to unify, harness, and lead a powerful block of nations in which Egypt will have a key role.

“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack *him* [a power located north from the king of the South]; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm *them*, and pass through.... He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians *shall follow* at his heels [will be at his feet or footsteps]” (Daniel 11:40, 42–43).

This is a good example of why you need to watch the daily newspapers. Your newspaper reading will be very interesting if you understand Bible prophecy. You will begin to realize, from now on, what is the significance of the massive arms purchases by Middle Eastern countries from weapon-producing countries like North Korea, China, Russia, and the U.S.

Presently, the whole Islamic world in the Middle East and North Africa is being enveloped by a wave of resurgent Islamic fundamentalism. Islamic fundamentalist insurgencies, funded by rogue states and terrorist organizations, are trying to destabilize the moderate, Western-leaning, secular regimes currently in power, and are seeking to replace them with a unified, resuscitated Islamic caliphate (empire)—the

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

prophesied “king of the South.” The final leader over these reinvigorated Muslim nations will be a tremendously powerful religiopolitical false Messiah or “Mahdi” who will draw his power from a confederation of those nations. He will provoke the key events written in Daniel 11, which must occur before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

The Pew Research Center observed that, in addition to “well-publicized bouts of violence, from civil war to suicide bombings, plague the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, concern about Islamic extremism is high among countries with substantial Muslim populations.... And in the Middle East, concern is growing. Lebanese, Tunisians, Egyptians, Jordanians and Turks are all more worried about the extremist threat than they were a year ago. Meanwhile, publics hold very negative opinions of well-known extremist groups, such as al Qaeda, Hamas and Hezbollah” (“Concerns about Islamic Extremism on the Rise in Middle East,” July 1, 2014).

Do you think that fanatical Muslims will not use nuclear or biological weapons if they have the opportunity? You had better believe they will. And Bible prophecy shows how it will all turn out. This great charismatic “Mahdi” (Messiah) will gather together the forces of Islam in a final *jihad* (holy war) against the morally corrupt nations of the West, whose religion, lifestyle, and values represent a deadly challenge to the Islamic dream.

He will feel emboldened to provoke or attack the European Union (Daniel 11:40). This will anger the fierce “king of the North” and the forces of the king of the South will be *completely crushed* by this European power. The king of the North will then come down “like a whirlwind” (v. 40) and take over the Middle East, including the Holy Land (vv. 41–42). The king of the North’s armies will seize control of the region’s vast oil reserves (v. 43).

These soon-to-happen events will be awesome to witness. The “king of the North,” a future European Napoleon or Hitler type of powerful, dynamic leader, will react mightily with a blitzkrieg retaliation. *This dramatic military response against the king of the South will set off a chain of other events.*

“And... they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the *abomination of desolation*” (Daniel 11:31). As this dual prophecy shows, there will, at the end of this age, either be a *temple* or a special *altar* in Jerusalem.

The priests of the family of Aaron will again offer the daily animal sacrifices prescribed in the Old Testament until a great military power comes in and places there what is called the *abomination of desolation*.

The description continues: “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time” (Daniel 12:1). This is talking about the American, British Commonwealth, and Jewish peoples. The great Muslim “king of the South” will cause a war, and the European “king of the North” will conquer much of the Middle East. This king of the North also comes west against God’s people at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. This is the same time Jesus described in Matthew 24:21: “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor *ever shall be.*”

We need to realize where all these things are leading and how they will affect our lives—your life, your family, your children, your job, and your future.

6. An Ascendant European Union Seeks Global Primacy

Watch Europe! Revelation 13 describes the revival of a great military power. The symbolic language that the Apostle John used—about a fantastic *beast* rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns—depicts a recurring, evil political system which has greatly oppressed and heavily influenced the peoples in Western civilization, and through them, the entire world.

The seven heads represent seven distinct revivals of this evil empire over a long period of time. The ten horns represent the ten leaders (kings) of the constituent nations that will make up this ungodly federation that will, first of all, fight against God’s saints. “It was granted to him [the leader of the ungodly empire] to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation” (Revelation 13:7). These ten leaders will also fight against Christ Himself at His return! “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they *will give* their *power* and *authority* to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:12–14).

This final, seventh *revival* will be similar in form to today’s European Union—ten different nations or groups of nations will be represented by ten different kings or presidents. These ten heads of state “receive authority for *one hour* as kings with the beast” (v. 12). In other words, they will rule for a *very short time* along with the final “Hitler.”

That is shocking! The Bible is discussing a wholly evil empire that is yet to arise—not some political power way back in history somewhere. Life in the future will not be “kinder and gentler.” This final system is just ahead of us, and the men and women in this oppressive government will **literally fight Jesus Christ at His coming!**

Right now we are living in an unstable transition time in world history. Momentous changes are afoot in Europe. In 1966, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson remarked, “Europe has been at peace since 1945. But it is a restless peace that’s shadowed by the threat of violence.” Now, with the Cold War behind us and the Berlin Wall a fading memory, Europe is proceeding toward a unification that would have seemed improbable to most on that day in March 1957 when France, Germany, Italy, and the Benelux nations signed the Treaty of Rome, establishing the European Economic Community.

Condoleezza Rice, former National Security Advisor in the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush, stated in the July/August 2008 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, “The goal of a Europe whole, free, and at peace is very close to completion. The United States welcomes a strong, united, and coherent Europe. There is no doubt that the European Union has been a superb anchor for the democratic evolution of eastern Europe after the Cold War.”

Yet a “strong, united and coherent” Europe represents a threat to the U.S. economy. As writer Carter Dougherty pointed out on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the European Central Bank, “Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Rome and Berlin were each, at some point, the political and economic capital of an empire containing the power of New York and Washington combined. And they all surrendered a piece of their sovereignty to a common currency... [The euro] is the currency of 15 countries and 320 million people, and as gilt-edged an investment as can be found in the current tumultuous global economy” (“An Impossible Dream, the Euro Finds Its Way,” *New York Times*, June 3, 2008).

One of the major characteristics of this European federated union, described in the Bible as “Babylon the Great,” is its enormously attractive economic prosperity and wealth. Material goods will abound for those who cooperate and submit to “Babylon.” The Bible says this about the coming, wicked federated union: “For all the nations have drunk the fatal wine of her intense immorality. The rulers of earth have enjoyed themselves with her, and businessmen throughout the world have grown rich from all her luxurious living” (Revelation 18:3, *The Living Bible*).

Humanity will become seduced by one of the oldest of false gods—the golden calf of materialism and pleasure. Revelation 18:12–13 gives a partial listing of the commodities being traded in “Babylon.” At the end of verse 13 it lists “bodies and souls of men.” The original Greek text is talking about not only living human beings being sold as slaves but also the *dead corpses* of men.

In Hitler’s Third Reich, human bodies were sold. Dental gold was picked out of the mouths of gas chamber victims for remelting into ingots. Skin was used for lampshades. Hair was used to stuff pillows and make fabric. Could this happen again? Perhaps you did not grow up during World War II as I did. This is exactly what happened in what was supposed to be the most educated, cultured nation on earth—Germany! That was the nation with the greatest number of people with master’s and doctor’s degrees, proportionately, of any peoples on the earth.

Do not think these things cannot happen again! God says these things *will* happen. There will be a revival of an evil empire in the same spirit as the pagan Roman Empire. It will hate God’s people and His word.

As of mid-2008, there were 27 nations associated with the European Union. Yet Scripture describes “ten” nations or groups of nations as comprising the final “beast” power. So we can expect old national boundaries to shift, or some current EU members to quit. Since EU law requires all 27 nations to ratify certain important policy documents that would shift greater control away from individual nations and toward EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, the resistance of several key states has so far posed a problem for the most vigorous advocates of European unity. France, Great Britain, Ireland, and the Netherlands have all at one time or another failed to ratify key EU unification pro-

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

posals. This has led some EU advocates to call for a “two speed” Europe, with Germany and other key nations forming an “inner core” of EU members, with closer economic, military, and political cooperation than other EU nations that retain misgivings.

We do need to understand the momentous times in which we live. A new world order is in the process of emerging. Will the present European Union transform itself into “Babylon the Great”? Watch! The Bible’s prophecies *will* be fulfilled before Christ returns—that is the whole point.

A crucial element that will be essential to the creation of “Babylon the Great” is yet missing from the picture. All of the awesome empires of the past were led by charismatic, dynamic leaders, such as Adolf Hitler, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charlemagne, Justinian, Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and Nebuchadnezzar.

The Bible does give us some information about this coming “great” leader who will assume political and military control of “Babylon the Great.” Notice the time setting of this prophecy: “And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, *until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time*” (Daniel 11:35). The context of this prophecy is the end time. Also, it is important to point out that the nature of many prophecies is dual. That is to say, there was one preliminary fulfillment of a prophecy in antiquity, and there is to be a yet future fulfillment of that scripture.

We learn in Daniel 11 that a powerful leader is yet to come on the world scene. This “king,” who will rise up in Europe, “shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods” (Daniel 11:36).

Some Bible students assume this is talking about the great, end-time false prophet, who will be contemporaneous with the rising political-military leader. But there are to be two different individuals involved. Verse 36 is about the secular-power leader—the coming dictator—who will be a charming *flatterer*, cunning, egotistical, and ruthless. This leader is destined to exalt himself above any other religious entity. He will be “full of himself.” “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper **till the wrath has been accomplished**; for what has been determined shall be done” (Daniel 11:36).

God uses vicious leaders like the coming “king of the North” to punish His hypocritical people, who say they worship Him and print His name on their money (the Americans), but do not *do* the things He commands. This future “Hitler” will execute God’s wrath, especially upon the peoples of America and the British countries, because as nations they have rejected God’s values and chosen sinful pleasures and conveniences.

“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel [whose descendants are now living in the U.S.A., the British countries, and other places]: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. Now the end *has come* upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations shall be in your midst; then you shall know that I *am* the LORD!’

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster; behold, it has come! An end has come, the end has come; it has dawned for you; behold, it has come! Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble is near, and not of rejoicing in the mountains. Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, and spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst. Then you will know that I am the LORD who strikes’” (Ezekiel 7:2–9).

This coming king of the North “shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above them all” (Daniel 11:37). This despicable political leader will cooperate with a false church system for a time, but he is not attracted to its religious teachings personally, and only wishes to use it to achieve power. He sees himself above it. In his enormous ego he tries to make a god out of himself.

“But in their place,” this coming Hitler type will “honor a god of fortresses,” or a god of munitions, as some translations have it, “and

a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things” (v. 38). This powerful individual will dedicate tremendous amounts of international resources to building up his military machine. And he will worship his power and that military machine. “He shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall make more wealthy, and shall appoint them as rulers over many, and shall distribute the land for a price” (Daniel 11:39, *NRSV*).

Here is this awesome power of a coming “Hitler,” and, as we explained, there will be exactly ten nations or groups of nations eventually in Europe having ten kings or rulers over them. They will give their power and strength to this coming dictator, this “Hitler,” for a short time just before Christ’s return. And, as verse 40 shows, this European power bloc will also fight against the Islamic power bloc to the south.

7. A Powerful Religious Figure Leads a Religious Revival

One of the definite signs of the end times, which will herald the close of this present evil age, is the arrival on the scene of a *great false religious leader*, called in the Bible the “*false prophet*” (Revelation 19:19–21). This religious leader will possess great charisma, and will exercise a very powerful influence over a political power—the soon-coming “beast” (Revelation 13, 17, 19). He will be the long-prophesied, influential *head* of a great, militant church in Europe. Together, this combination of personal charisma and awesome power to influence others will have an enormous effect on the future of the nations of the Western world.

This coming *false religious leader*—a leader who is prophesied to sit astride the end-time “beast” (the revival of a governmental system having characteristics similar to the old Holy Roman Empire, which was a combination of church and state) is described in Isaiah 47. “Come down and sit in the dust, O *virgin daughter of Babylon*” (v. 1). Notice that this is a *daughter* of ancient Babylon. A modern sort of Babylon is to rise up! “Sit on the ground without a throne, O *daughter* of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate” (same verse).

Who, then, is this “lady” mentioned in Isaiah 47? Scripture gives us a clear answer. “Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the Lady of Kingdoms” (v. 5). This woman is called the “Lady of Kingdoms” because she has a

fornicating political relationship with, and actually *rules over*, quite a number of different kingdoms or governments of this world.

Now, read on in this important end-time prophecy. God says, “I was angry with *My* people” (v. 6). Who are God’s people? There are *two ways* this can be properly understood: *one* is the Church of God, the *other* is God’s physical people, Israel—“You [Israel] only have I known of all the families of the earth” (Amos 3:2). This prophecy is definitely speaking *nationally*, so this is *not* talking about God’s true Church. Clearly, this is speaking about the end-time nations that comprise *modern Israel*.

So God says, “I have profaned My inheritance, and given them into your [the Babylonish system’s] hand. You showed them no mercy; on the elderly [‘ancient’ people, Israel—*KJV*] you laid your *yoke* very heavily” (Isaiah 47:6).

Notice the word “yoke.” This is a *yoke of slavery* laid upon us by the daughter of the ancient Babylon. “And you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’ so that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the latter end of them” (v. 7). And so this modern “lady,” this false religious system, will put a yoke on God’s *birthright people*—those who have received their tremendous national inheritances from God Almighty.

God speaks of this *woman* as being a “Lady of Kingdoms” putting a “yoke” on the neck of God’s chosen people, Israel, and says this Babylonish “lady” will not think she is doing any terrible thing when she afflicts God’s people. Then He says, “Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely, who say in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children’” (v. 8). “But,” God says, “these two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day: the loss of children, and widowhood” (v. 9).

That is what God says! But *where* is this explained in the Bible? How can we *know* that this is an *end-time prophecy*?

Turn back again to the book of Revelation, where He is talking about this same system. God says, “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of *her fornication*, the kings of the earth have committed *fornication* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury” (Revelation 18:3). A great religiopolitical trading system!

Well, what is that trading system? Verse 2 says, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of *demons*,

a prison for every *foul spirit*....” Yes, this modern Babylon, which is now in the process of forming in Europe, will be a very sophisticated, wealthy system that will soon dominate most of Europe. Yet it will be *heavily influenced by Satan!*

Notice God's warning to His people: “*Come out of her, my people*” (Revelation 18:4). Dwelling in this Babylonish system will be some of God's people (this applies both *physically* and *spiritually*)—and they are commanded, “Come out... lest you share in her *sins*, and lest you receive of her *plagues*. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities” (vv. 4–5). And so this Babylonish system and the people in it will be warned!

Now notice verse 7: “In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for *she* [this modern Babylon] says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’” Do you remember those words? That is quoting directly from Isaiah 47. Yet modern Babylon will say those words!

“Therefore,” God says, “her plagues will come in *one day* [just like God said back in Isaiah 47:9]—death and mourning and famine. And *she will be utterly burned with fire*, for strong is the Lord God who judges her” (Revelation 18:8).

But first, the modern descendants of ancient Israel will be brought down and punished by God through this system. These people will be punished *as no peoples have ever been punished* in modern history, because of their flagrant disobedience and their going after every ungodly abomination.

A Great False Religious Leader

The *great false religious leader* will rise up very soon now—in our very day! He will *deceive* not a few hundred people—like David Koresh and his Branch Davidians—but hundreds of *millions!* Yes, prophecy indicates that *hundreds of millions* of people will be deceived! That is exactly what will occur before Christ's coming.

The Apostle Paul, in a letter concerning the Second Coming of Christ, wrote, “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...” (2 Thessalonians 2:1). He then cautioned God's people “*not* to be soon shaken in mind or *troubled*, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the

day of Christ had come” (v. 2). Some were even writing letters purporting to be from Paul. “Let no one deceive you by any means; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition** [or son of destruction]” (v. 3).

Clearly, a great *false religious leader* will rise up before Christ returns to this earth. What will be the attitude and *modus operandi* of this great false prophet? He “opposes and **exalts himself above all that is called God** or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that *he is God*” (v. 4).

This man will have *supernatural power* to deceive! He will have the ability to perform *great miracles* such as causing fire to come down out of the sky (Revelation 13:13). Will you follow such a man? Or, will you now begin to study and understand your Bible so you will know what is ahead? “And he *deceives* those who dwell on the earth by those signs [miracles] which he was granted to do in the sight of the *beast*, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the *beast* who was wounded by the sword” (v. 14).

This great false religious leader will have tremendous impact on the Western world—make no mistake about it! You need to watch for these things so that you will not be misled or deceived by him (the soon-coming great “false prophet”) or by *any man*! “**Take heed that no one deceives you**” (Matthew 24:4)! Keep alert! Keep your eyes open! Be on the lookout for a great, charismatic *false religious leader*—a “false prophet”! He, like the early New Testament false prophet, Simon Magus (Acts 8:9–11), will deceive hundreds of millions into thinking he is a great servant of God.

If you *know* God’s word—and *obey* it—you will *not* be one of those many millions who will be deceived by the soon-coming, great “false prophet”!

8. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God Preached to All Nations

The great “Olivet prophecy” of Jesus Christ is pivotal in understanding future events. In Matthew 24:3, Jesus was asked by the disciples, “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” As we have seen, Jesus first warned them about false prophets, wars and rumors of wars leading to world war, famines, disease epidemics, and earthquakes, and said, “All these are the beginning of sorrows” (v. 8).

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation” (v. 9). The coming Great Tribulation will affect the Church as well as national Israel. “[They will] kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.” This verse is quite significant because it says, in effect, that God’s true Church and Work will be known by *all* nations. People will not hate it unless they know about it, will they? They will hate the true Work of God because **they will hate its message.**

“But he who endures to *the end* shall be saved” (v. 13). The end of what? Well, certainly the end of our physical lives individually, but this also applies to those alive at *the end of this age*. By this statement, Jesus intended to signify the end of 6,000 years of human experience and sin under the influence of Satan the devil, which is heralded by the Second Coming of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In verse 14, Jesus mentions another sign that must happen before His Second Coming—and is happening right now. “And *this gospel of the kingdom*”—the Good News of the coming Kingdom or world-ruling government of God, based on God’s laws—“will be preached in all the world as a *witness* to all the nations...” This Gospel is good news, but it contains a warning. Every nation on earth, not just a few, will hear about this as a “witness,” **not to convert them, but as a testimony of God’s future intentions.**

This is not the time when God is trying to convert everyone, as many ministers, who are trying to “save” the world now, would have you believe! God is not going around like a lonely hound dog wagging his tail and hoping someone will pay attention to him. Through his sins, man has *cut himself off* from God (Isaiah 59:1–2). Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44). This is the only way one can come to God. God’s Church is proclaiming the Gospel, witnessing to humanity so that those who are willing can seek Him. Whoever has their mind opened by God can understand. You are reading part of God’s “witness” right now!

9. Faith Again Becomes a Matter of Life or Death

Watch for *persecution of Christians* and the Church of God that keeps the Commandments of God (Revelation 12:17; 14:12). Jesus said, “Then they will deliver you up to... *kill you*” (Matthew 24:9). Here He is speaking to His people, His genuine disciples. The Apostle John gave the

Church (and anyone who reads the Bible) a *test* that can be used to determine who is a *bona fide* Christian and who only masquerades as one. “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3–4).

It is these commandment-keeping Christians who will be persecuted. “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake” (Matthew 24:9). Jesus clearly foresaw that the world would be full of religious confusion during the end-time. “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many” (Matthew 24:11). Only the few seem to understand—only those called by God. What is the result of this spiritual blindness and confusion? “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (v. 12). So, at the end, there will be widespread chaos and lawlessness—and God says much of it can be traced back to false teachings and religious confusion from a “Babylon” of religions and denominations.

God’s people will be persecuted at the time of the end, just as the early Christians faced vicious attacks. “If the world hates you,” Jesus told the disciples—and this certainly applies to us, His disciples today—“you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18–19).

This present society around us will **become increasingly hostile to God’s people and the moral standards they live by!** The political, business, media, cultural, and religious elites will feel *condemned* by the true Church of God, which will not compromise regarding God’s word. God’s Church will be *politically incorrect*. This world will feel guilty.

How about you? If Scripture reveals to you some truth that may be inconvenient, embarrassing, or personally or financially costly—what will your reaction be? Will you become angry at God because He is meddling? God says He has a right to tell you what is right or wrong in the most sensitive areas of your life. Some people will even start spitting in hatred at the mere thought that Someone else seeks to impose His values on them! All animals and human beings blink when suddenly exposed to light when they have been in darkness. They do not like that bright light. So it is with the light of the truth.

“Remember,” Jesus said, “the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20). Did the religious and political authorities of Jesus’ time keep His word? No, they did not. **They crucified Him instead.** But Jesus continued, “But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they *do not know* Him who sent Me” (v. 21).

10. A Crisis Strikes Jerusalem

Watch! The modern nation of “Israel,” populated by the descendants of the biblical tribe of Judah (plus significant remnants of Levi and Benjamin) will suffer serious military losses with part of its territory *occupied by enemies* just before the Second Coming of Christ. This is of utmost significance! Many students of Bible prophecy declare that 1948 saw the great regathering of Israel in the Holy Land and the final establishment of the nation of Israel. **That is absolutely wrong!** This was just a *precursor*, a small *forerunner* of the gigantic regathering of the remnants of **all twelve tribes** of Israel that is yet to occur. Meanwhile, the hard-pressed Jewish people in Israel will be attacked and defeated once again. This is difficult to say, but the Bible makes it very, very clear.

“Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zechariah 14:1–2).

“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. They have cast lots for My people, have given a boy as payment for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink” (Joel 3:1–3).

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near” (Luke 21:20). Jerusalem has been partially surrounded by armies in recent years, but we will see Jerusalem completely surrounded by armies. Notice this prophecy: “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (v. 21). Those who trust in God,

those who believe in Christ, those who are true Christians *will understand* what to do when these things occur because they will have been studying these various signs as Jesus said. They will have been watching and praying. They will flee to the mountains: “Then... let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance” (vv. 21–22).

So in the future, Jerusalem, the political and emotional capital of Israel, will be overrun by her enemies, until Christ returns and fights the aggressor nations (Zechariah 14:3). Once again the city of prophets, kings, and the Messiah will be brought down and punished horribly. This major event in the prophetic end-time scenario will witness further outrage.

11. The Abomination of Desolation

When the city of Jerusalem is attacked and conquered, the foreign occupying power will begin what the Bible calls the “abomination of desolation.” What is that? Jesus Christ describes this abomination of desolation in Matthew 24:15–20. Start with verses 15–16: “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ [a loathsome contamination] spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place... then let those who are in Judea [today known as the modern state of Israel] flee to the mountains.” The people in Judea are instructed, when they see this terrible abomination of desolation, to flee to the mountains.

Prophecy foretells that Jerusalem is again to be surrounded by armies (Zechariah 12:2), and an idol will be set up in a holy place. Jesus warns those who are faithful to escape quickly when this desecration takes place. “Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes” (Matthew 24:17–18). In other words, you are to *get out* immediately when you see this happening, because if you wait, it will be too late to escape safely. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath [God’s people will be keeping the Sabbath]” (vv. 19–20).

There is a historical parallel to this end-time overthrow of Jerusalem and the erection of an idolatrous object on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. In the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, some 160 years before the First Coming of Christ, the pagan Seleucid Greeks sacrificed pigs

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

as offerings upon the altar of God. A statue of Zeus, the chief Greek god, was set up. Something similar will occur once again. We are living during a time that is like the calm before a menacing, destructive storm. If you had been a Jew in Germany in 1935, would you have been alert to your people's future destiny? Would you have taken appropriate action to save the lives of your family members? You need to be paying attention to what is happening in world events! The cost of ignorance, laxness, or a dilatory attitude will be extremely high.

Remarkably, an important implication of Matthew 24:15 is that there will once again be animal sacrifices on an altar at Jerusalem's Temple Mount dedicated to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel! Another scripture confirming this states, "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up..." (Daniel 12:11).

Since there is prophesied to be a place of sacrifice, many wonder if there will be a great *temple* raised up in Jerusalem. An alternative idea would be that there will be merely an *altar* set up, as happened when the Jews returned from their captivity in Babylon (Ezra 3:2). *Watch for this in your world news.* Prophecy clearly shows that the Jews will once again be sacrificing at Jerusalem. Whether in a temple or at a simple altar is not yet clear. The Jewish people—remember the Six Day War—*move swiftly and courageously* when they are urgent about something.

From the time that the daily sacrifices to God are stopped by a foreign aggressor (possibly by the coming "king of the North") and the abomination of desolation is set up, "*there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days*" (Daniel 12:11). This scripture discusses a certain period of time after the abomination of desolation until the end of this present civilization when Christ returns to this earth as King of kings to usher in a genuinely new world order, the Kingdom of God.

"Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But you," God told Daniel, "go your way till the end; for you shall rest" (Daniel 12:12–13). In other words, Daniel would not himself see the fulfillment of the prophecies God inspired through him. Daniel was to live out his days and die, *never having understood* the prophecy he was inspired to write down. But today, we can read Daniel's words and understand, *if we begin to walk with God and study these things thoroughly.* We need to realize that we are

living in momentous times when all these things are about to occur. Let that motivate us to *really study* the Bible. And most importantly of all, let us obey our God in all things!

12. The Great Tribulation—The Collapse of the English-Speaking Nations

Before the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom, watch for the decline and eventual conquest of the English-speaking nations by their enemies! The biblical terminology for this event is “the great tribulation.”

Your Bible reveals that the worst, most indescribably terrifying time in the entire history of this planet is soon to occur. This terrifying time (the Great Tribulation) is also spoken of as the time of “Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). It will be such an awful time that the destruction and genocide of World War II will seem like a picnic in comparison!

Let us, therefore, examine the scriptures dealing with this dramatic alteration in the world’s power structure—which, like a powerful steel trap, will suddenly spring upon an unsuspecting world! Most of us will live to see these cataclysmic times, whether we realize it or not. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people” (Luke 21:23). When you really understand this prophecy, you can see that Jesus was speaking nationally of not only the Jews, but also of the other modern-day descendants of the ancient nation of Israel—among whom are the American and British-descended peoples.

Notice this same prophecy in a parallel account in Matthew: “For then there will be *great tribulation*, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive];** but for the *elect’s* sake [for the sake of God’s people] those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).

In the past, it was not possible to *exterminate* all human life from this earth. You might have had a devastating war in Europe, or in the Middle East, but you would still have millions of people untouched elsewhere in the world in Africa, Asia, or Australia, or in North and South America. But Jesus prophesied of a unique time in the history

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

of humanity. No nation can feel secure from the utter annihilation that is now possible by thermonuclear warfare!

In the 1950s, it finally became possible to blast all human life off this planet. During the last half-century, we have now multiplied our ability to assure our destruction many times over. Scientists tell us today that we now can erase all human life from this earth at least *20 times over!* Christ is describing our time today! No Roman army of Jesus' day could ever boast of such murderous power.

Here is what the prophet Jeremiah said about this same time: "Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning *Israel* [whose modern descendants include the United States, Great Britain, and other nations of northwestern Europe] and *Judah*.... 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of *fear*, and not of *peace*. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great [Jeremiah prophesied under inspiration], so that *none* is like it'" (Jeremiah 30:4-7). There has never been a time of trouble in human history like this one. Whose time of trouble does this terrible tribulation pertain to? It is the time of "*Jacob's trouble*" (v. 7).

It will be a time of trouble so great that *none* is like it. There cannot be *two times* of trouble like this. This is the same time of trouble described in Matthew 24:21, the same time described in Mark 13 and Luke 21, the same time of trouble described back in Ezekiel 36, Daniel 12, and elsewhere as the "great tribulation." It is the time of *God's intervention* to chastise His chosen people. Nevertheless, speaking of that woeful time of trouble, God says, "I will not make a complete end of you" (Jeremiah 30:11). So he will not utterly *destroy* us, but He will punish us severely—to shake us to the roots of our very being in order to wake us up. He will correct and humble His people in order to wake them up before it is too late!

This unprecedented time of trouble will be directed primarily against the American and British-descended Commonwealth peoples, though the other modern-day descendants of Israel will also have troubles. But *why* against these nations? Because the American and British-descended peoples have been recipients of God's *tremendous birthright promises as the descendants of the patriarch Joseph* (Genesis 49:22-26). For more information, please request our booklet on this subject, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. In

God's eyes, blessings also impart responsibilities. We are *not a favorite or pet* people, but we have been chosen *by God for a very special purpose*. Regrettably, we have failed to fulfill that purpose. Let us understand *why* and *what* will happen.

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30)! May God Almighty speed that great day!

The Americans and British-descended Commonwealth peoples have been materially blessed above all nations on the earth for the last 200 years. Beginning a little more than 200 years ago, the English-speaking peoples wielded power that thwarted the belligerent, aggressive nations—the Central Powers in World War I and the Axis Powers in World War II. Twice in the twentieth century, the English-speaking peoples have restored a warring world to a measure of peace and security. Yet in spite of that, most Americans and Britons, individually, have turned away from the true God. At most, they continue to praise the LORD hypocritically. “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines” (Mark 7:6–7, *NRSV*).

There are numerous end-time prophecies that reveal to the American and British-descended peoples exactly what God Almighty says will happen to them—if they do not turn from their present wayward course of disobedience to Him and His commandments.

The Pivotal Old Testament Prophecy

The pivotal scripture for understanding end-time prophecy is found in the Old Testament, in chapter 26 of the book of Leviticus. When we rightly understand our *national identity*, this prophetic chapter takes on new, urgent meaning. Here is basic, foundational information for *modern Israel*—among whom are to be counted the American people and British-descended peoples of the Commonwealth nations. Those peoples are among the descendants of the so-called “Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.” This prophecy is talking about ancient Israel, and it is also speaking of their children and grandchildren at the end of this age!

We should watch for the fulfillment of those prophecies that foretell the downfall of the United States and Great Britain, insofar as their

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

national prestige and power are concerned, even *before* their cities are totally demolished in a future round of world war—World War III—which will be the most deadly time humanity will ever experience.

Speaking of the coming end-time Great Tribulation, God says that “if you do *not* obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you” (Leviticus 26:14–17). God Almighty says He will bring us down very low. If we continue transgressing His commandments, He will discipline us in more ways than we can begin to imagine. He goes on to say, “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you *seven times more* [or “sevenfold more” as many versions render it] for your sins. **I will break the pride of your power**” (vv. 18–19).

Our competitors for global power and influence are looking down on us with increasing glee as we stumble in resolving domestic and international problems. These things are happening to us because we have turned aside from God. We have not obeyed the God of our fathers.

In Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are powerful prophetic warnings for us today, because God does not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). God promised that *if* we would *obey Him*, He would set us “high above all nations of the earth” (Deuteronomy 28:1). However, *if* we do *not obey* God and keep His commandments, “Cursed shall you be in the *city*” (v. 16). Are we cursed in our cities? Think about it. Millions of Americans are afraid to go out of their own homes at night. Elderly people and women and others all over this land are afraid to venture out in the evening—in this “land of the free, and the home of the brave.” We are locked in our homes like prisoners! No, we are *not* blessed in our towns and cities.

Further, our disobedience would bring upon us curses in our food supply, curses in sexual relations, and curses in whatever policies or programs that we nationally attempt because we have turned aside from the Great God.

The growing *effect* of our national sins *includes* escalating crime, violence, marital infidelities, sexual perversions of all sorts, lying, cheating, stealing, and every foul thing imaginable that is disgusting in the sight of a just and holy God. The selfishness and decadence of our “modern lifestyle”—which is based on egotistical pride and vanity—are gnawing like voracious termites at the structural frame that holds in place the edifice of our national greatness. How long before our house collapses? Look around you and consider.

In spite of our great material blessings, the American and British-descended peoples have turned away from God. These once-great nations have plummeted in their moral standards and become nations of perverts, liars, thieves, and murderers. And God will chastise these nations for their own good, as He rebukes and chastens every son He loves (Hebrews 12:6).

God says that “therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness” (Deuteronomy 28:48). In other words, these English-speaking nations (including the Jews and others residing in them) will be taken into a terrible *captivity*. God says we will be “in need of everything; and He will put a *yoke of iron* on your neck until He has destroyed you” (same verse). Is that plain enough? God will take us into *national slavery*. The Holocaust of World War II will seem mild in comparison. The English-speaking peoples will not *all* die, but they will no longer exist as *nations*, not as the United States of America and the British-descended nations of the Commonwealth, after an awful punishment from God Himself. “The LORD will bring a nation from far away, from the end of the earth, to swoop down on you like an eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, a grim-faced nation showing no respect to the old or favor to the young” (Deuteronomy 28:49–50, *NRSV*). This aggressor will not be Mexico or some other nation nearby, but one from “afar”—from the end of the earth—from way over *in Europe*. This enemy will be “as swift as the *eagle* flies” (Deuteronomy 28:49). It is interesting that *three* major nations on earth use an eagle as their symbol. One is the *United States*, another is *Russia*, and the third is *Germany*. This aggressor will be “a nation whose language you will not understand” (v. 49), “a nation of fierce countenance” (v. 50)—meaning a very warlike nation.

God reveals that the American and British-descended peoples will be besieged in their own gates (v. 52), and will be so desperately

hungry that they will resort to horrific measures in the times to come—even turning to hideous *cannibalism* (v. 53).

Finally, these peoples will be taken into *slavery* by a coming great power that is now beginning to rise up in Europe!

God Promises to Deliver His People!

God says He will humble us and correct us, but He also promises to deliver us from all our troubles—when we truly learn our lesson and *turn from our many abominations!*

“And at that time your people [all the descendants of the patriarch Israel] shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:1–2).

The time setting is unmistakable. Daniel is talking about the resurrection to immortality of the saints of God, which shall occur at the seventh or “last trump” when Jesus returns to this earth with all His mighty angels, to establish the Kingdom of God to rule for 1,000 years (1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4; Revelation 20:4). Daniel is *not* writing of something that happened way back in the Middle Ages. This prophecy concerning the Great Tribulation period leads right up to the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the very end of this present evil world (Matthew 24:21–30).

As the foregoing prophecy reveals, God Almighty Himself will order one of His mighty angels, Michael, to stand “watch over” the *people of Israel*, who at that time will have had their power broken, and will have been scattered into many nations as captive slaves.

God’s miraculous deliverance of His people is clearly revealed: *“Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob, says the LORD, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. For I am with you... to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished”* (Jeremiah 30:10–11).

God goes on to explain how He will greatly *bless His people* once they have truly learned their lesson: *“Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply*

them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small” (v. 19).

What will be the final state of the peoples of Israel, after God delivers them from their captivity at the hands of a cruel oppressor?

“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the *isles* afar off [includes the British peoples], and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.’ For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the LORD—for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all.

“Then shall the *virgin rejoice in the dance*, and the young men and the old, together; for I will turn their mourning to *joy*, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow. I will satiate the soul of the priests [God’s servants] with abundance, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD” (Jeremiah 31:10–14).

However, the *bad news* prophesied in Scripture—of a terrifying time of trouble that will soon spring upon an unsuspecting, heedless world—*must come first!* What a tragedy that we will not hear and return to our God! That time will be the worst time of trouble this earth will ever experience (Matthew 24:21; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1)!

But the *ultimate in good news* is that Scripture also predicts the imminent return of Jesus Christ to this earth. He will deliver the modern-day descendants of Israel (of whom the nations of north-western Europe, and also the Jewish people, are part) from a horrible time of *captivity* and trouble. God says He will sweep aside all human governments (Revelation 11:15–18; 19:11–21). Christ will then banish Satan so that he will no longer be able to mislead the nations (Revelation 20:1–3), and after removing Satan from power over the nations, the Great God will establish the Kingdom of God upon this sin-cursed, war-torn earth (Isaiah 11:1–9; Revelation 20:4).

The prophet Daniel also wrote the good news of the establishment of the glorious Kingdom of God: “And in the days of these kings *the God*

of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and *it shall stand forever*" (Daniel 2:44).

Furthermore, Daniel says, "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the *saints* of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him" (Daniel 7:27).

Finally, the nations shall have passed through the Great Tribulation, and will have arrived at the time the prophets foretold—the establishment of the Kingdom of God to rule all nations—bringing peace, prosperity, health, and happiness to all the earth!

13. Heavenly Signs and the Day of the Lord

Next—*after* the Great Tribulation—there are to be dramatic astronomical signs in the heavens visible to everyone on earth. "Immediately *after* the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Matthew 24:29).

God really will intervene in human affairs! And He will even intervene with nature and show *this* generation that there is a *real God*. Even after the modern nations of Israel go into captivity, God will not be through yet. Though our nations have professed to being "Christian," they are in fact filled with deceit, vanity, avarice, and violence.

Notice: "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind" (Revelation 6:12–13).

Here are incredible parts of a crescendo leading up to Christ's return. Almost like a vast fireworks display in the evening sky, we will literally see the transition from the Great Tribulation to intensified punishments directly from God on any who are still unrepentant in defiant rebellion against their Creator. Notice verse 17: "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

The six seals outlined here describe the same events that Jesus had told His disciples would occur at the end. As the seals are opened we first find *false prophets*; second, *wars*; third, *famines*; fourth, *disease epidemics*; fifth, a *Great Tribulation* (including the martyrdom of the saints).

The sixth seal is the *heavenly signs*. In Joel 2, we also see that the heavenly signs occur *before* the great and terrible Day of the Lord. “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, *before* the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD” (v. 31). We already saw in Matthew 24 that the heavenly signs come *after* the Great Tribulation. What yet remains before the Kingdom of God can be fully established?

14. The Seven Last Plagues

What will happen after the first six seals of Revelation 6 are opened? “For the great day of His *wrath* has come, and who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:17).

Revelation 7 then describes the protection of the 144,000 and the great multitude. Revelation 8 describes the opening of the seventh seal—God’s *direct punishment on a rebellious world*. This consists of the six trumpet plagues described in chapters 8–9 of Revelation.

Finally, in Revelation 11:15, the Seventh Trumpet—the famous “last trumpet”—is sounded. Christ returns in *power* and *glory*. But even as He returns, the deceived nations of mankind will *fight* and *curse* Him who is their very Creator (Revelation 16:21; 17:14)!

So, as He comes, Christ pours out the awesome seven last plagues described in Revelation 15:1 and 16:1–21. *Study* these passages. These plagues will be indescribably *horrible!*

But even here, God—who rebukes and chastens every son He loves (Hebrews 12:5–6)—is doing this to bring men and nations to their senses! As you read the passages in Revelation, you see that *every* mountain and *every* island on earth will be *shaken*. There will be virtually *nothing* left of their former world for hard-headed, vile, rebellious men to hang on to. Everything around them will be removed or *destroyed*. Proud men will come to realize that they are *nothing* compared with the Creator God of the universe.

Hundreds of millions of men and women will finally acknowledge, as did Job, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:5–6). In a way they have *never done before*, human beings will truly *repent* and be willing to *listen* to the truth—to *listen* to God’s true ministers and teachers and *obey* their Maker.

Then they will truly *understand* these statements of God in Isaiah: “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity,

whose name *is* Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would fail before Me, and the souls which I have made'" (Isaiah 57:15–16).

Finally, then, humanity as a whole will have been made *humble* and *teachable*. It will yield to the Living Christ and the resurrected saints who will join Him in *ruling this entire earth* in tomorrow's world. This world government established by Christ will be known as the Kingdom of God and it will be the active, hands-on, *governing leadership* of God on this earth!

What Lies Just Ahead?

So, what *will* happen? Unless we, as nations, *fully repent* of transgressing God's laws, the future of America and the British-descended Commonwealth countries looks grim indeed, for every great nation and empire in history that has descended into the depths of immorality, like we are now experiencing, has come to an end.

Will America's or Britain's *preachers* wake up and begin to preach *obedience* to the laws of God? Will our *political leaders* turn to their Creator in true godly fear, making God and His ways a vital part of our national life? Will the *educators*, psychologists, and sociologists begin to build their concepts on the foundations of Scripture? What do you think?

The answer seems obvious. We, along with most of our fellow English-speaking nations around the world, are in for a time of national calamity—actually, *national punishment*—unprecedented in the annals of modern human history. Month by month, year by year, more and more things will somehow go wrong for us. Our national debt will increase. Our immorality and crime rate will increase. Our cities will become even less safe, increasingly being racked by lawless hoodlums, *gang warfare*, and *race riots*—and, finally, *food riots*, because of the impending drought and famine prophesied to strike our nations.

Describing this very situation that will occur in the "latter days," God states, "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. But

from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. **When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days**, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them” (Deuteronomy 4:27–31).

Yes, if we do not heed—nationally or individually—the *warning* going out now and over the months and years just ahead, we will have to absorb the **full brunt of God's corrective punishment**.

At the same time, you can be certain there will be *other voices* of lying deception saying not to worry, that everything will be fine. “For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously with Me,” says the LORD... and said, ‘It is not He’” (Jeremiah 5:11–12).

In other words, people will say, “These prophecies are not real, God is not speaking; this is just some doom and gloom preacher talking nonsense.” The skeptics will say, “Neither will evil come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine” (v. 12). Yes, even false ministers will speak evil of God's true ministry. “And the prophets become wind, for the word is not in them.” In modern jargon, they are saying that God's servants are a bunch of “windbags” to whom they should not pay attention, “for the word [of God] is not in them” (v. 13).

God clearly forewarned us that there will be cynics and doubters who will contradict and ridicule God's warning through His true servants: “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle... that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets... knowing this first: that *scoffers will come in the last days*, walking according to their own lusts, 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 creation’” (2 Peter 3:1–4).

What Should You Do?

Now, *you* should realize that our nations are in mortal peril. Everything you have ever known will be changed over the next decade or two. Your future, and the future of your children and grandchildren, is really at stake.

There is a *real* God in charge. He rules over men, and over the nations of men, perhaps more directly and more profoundly than many

of you have realized. Turn to Daniel 4:25 where Daniel, talking to King Nebuchadnezzar, said, "They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, **till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men**, and gives it to whomever He chooses." God, speaking through Daniel, said, "The Most High rules in the kingdom of men." God gives office and authority to those whom He chooses. "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings" (Daniel 2:20–21). God is in charge of governments and He often determines the outcome of elections and the rise of literal kings, monarchs, and dictators in the nations throughout this earth.

We need to have faith in God's power. The Eternal God is the true God who *rules over all*, and He does *intervene* in this world's rotten, misguided society in order to accomplish His purpose.

So, notice what God says about these societies and about your near future: "But take heed to yourselves," Jesus said, "lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing" (Luke 21:34). Perhaps you might say, "Well, there are a few years yet to go." Yes, there are a few—maybe very few. But do not let your heart be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the cares of this life and that day come upon you *unexpectedly*. For it will come "as a snare"—like a deadly trap that catches an animal before it realizes what hit it. *Do not let that happen to you*. Christ is coming and His coming will be "as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth" (v. 35) who are unprepared or deceived.

Even if our nations as a whole will not repent, you can certainly change—and you can be forgiven and protected during the coming Great Tribulation. Jesus Himself gave this assurance. Write to the regional office nearest you to request our free booklet *Restoring Original Christianity*. You can also read it online or order a copy at our website, TomorrowsWorld.org. This informative booklet will tell you in much greater detail what *you* should do.

Jesus commands us to "watch." Prove the things in this booklet from the very word of God. Look these things up so you will understand. Let the Bible talk to you. Those who trust in God—those who believe in Christ, those who are *bona fide* Christians—will understand when these things occur, because they will have been studying these many *signs* as Jesus said.

So, we are to watch these events, *praying* that God would help us surrender our lives to Him and His Son Jesus Christ, and that we will accept Him as our Savior, our Boss, our Lord, our Master, our High Priest, and our coming King. Then, through His Spirit within us, we must keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (1 John 3:22). Thus, we can begin to walk with the God who gives us life and breath and truly prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Personally, you can awaken yourself to an intense awareness of what is happening. You can begin to diligently *study* the Bible and see what it really says. **Cry out to God in earnest prayer!** Ask Him for guidance and strength to do what is right! Seek Him for deliverance for you and your family in the turbulent years ahead! Then you can turn to Him with all your heart and start obeying His laws. You can accept the true Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and surrender to let Him *live His life in you*.

As you sincerely seek God and believe in the true Gospel—which Jesus Christ Himself taught—you will learn what the Lord requires of you. Do it and He will enrich your life with understanding and purpose. He will grant you the gift of eternal life in His soon-coming Kingdom (John 3:16; Romans 6:23). And He will deliver you from the coming worldwide catastrophe Jesus so vividly predicted.

As Jesus Christ Himself instructed, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to *escape* all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36)!

Regional Offices

United States

PO Box 3810
Charlotte, NC 28227-8010
Phone: +1 (704) 844-1970

Australasia

PO Box 300
Clarendon, SA 5157, Australia
Phone: +61 8 8383 6266

Canada

PO Box 409
Mississauga, ON L5M 0P6
Phone: +1 (905) 814-1094

New Zealand

PO Box 2767
Shortland Street
Auckland 1140
Phone: +64 9-268 8985

Philippines

PO Box 492
Araneta Center Post Office
1135 Quezon City, Metro Manila
Phone: +63 2 8573-7594

South Africa

Private Bag X3016
Harrismith, FS 9880
Phone: +27 58 622 1424

United Kingdom

Box 111
43 Berkeley Square
London, W1J 5FJ
Phone/Fax: +44 844 800 9322