

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

What Christians Need To Know About the Coming Days

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WARS and RUMORS of WARS

First Edition

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Thanks also to my wife of almost fifty years, Linda, who provided me with encouragement and support to finish this important subject.

Jesus warned us about wars and rumors of wars, that these would be the beginning of birth pains; a world-wide struggle that would result in a new and transformed world. Many of the signs he cited correspond to the seven seals opened by the Lamb in the book of Revelation, and the destruction of Babylon the Great.

Are those all really linked together?

And there is a more troubling question: does the description of Babylon match the United States? If so, what does that mean for us today?

The end time pieces all seem to be falling into place like never before, and different events of Revelation are tied together in ways that will surprise and alarm you.

The secret things belong to the Lord our God

But the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever,

That we may learn to follow all the words of this law.

(Deuteronomy 29:29)

Contents

Acknowledgments	ii
Introduction	7
The Unimaginable Has Happened	11
Could America Be Babylon?	28
The Seals: Is This How It Plays Out?	34
And Then God... ..	45
Now We Make It Personal.....	51
The Clock Started Ticking In 1948	55
And In His Next Breath, Jesus Says.....	62
Conclusion.....	74
Further Thoughts	79
About the Author.....	91

Introduction

I never expected to live in a "time such as this."
I thought I'd walk with Jesus and my brothers and
sisters, then die peacefully in my sleep with my hands
folded and a smile on my face!

I'm starting to think differently. There seems to
be too much evidence that world events will take a
dramatic turn from the way things "always were." If
you think that nothing has changed or will change,
then read on.

In spite of reading Revelation probably a
hundred times in the past fifty-two years, I have never
tried to sort out the events described in that book. I
accepted the wise admonition—if I don't understand
something from the Bible, don't bend and twist it until
I'm comfortable with it, but wait for God to show me.

Is This Today?

So now I'm fascinated to see God give me what
I feel is some understanding of the first six seals
opened by the Lamb, as told in Revelation, Chapter 6
and possibly how America fits in. I have growing
confidence in what I'm sharing here, that it is a
warning that these events are upon us now. And there
are obvious parallels in Matthew, Chapter 24, when

Jesus answers his disciples' questions about the "end of the age," as well as with other scriptures.

In laying out the death, destruction and chaos that the world—and the Church will be experiencing, Jesus said in Matthew 24:6 "... Do not be alarmed." This is of supreme importance. We have important work to do and can't be stopped by fear. You are here because God chose you to be here for this time. God wants us to be like the men of Issachar, "...who understood the times and knew what Israel should do." (I Chron. 12:32). You need to understand the times and what you should do.

Are We in the Last Days?

Many people believe that we are in the last days, because God has brought the people of his promise back to geographic Israel. The Jews are home. But can we also say that, just as that end-time marker is now before our eyes, there are others which point to the fulfilling of prophecy? We see worldwide instantaneous communication and facial and biological recognition. Compared to the knowledge society needed pre-1900, today's world represents an entirely new universe of facts, data and knowledge. The prophet Daniel, writing specifically about the end times 530 years before Christ, spoke of this; "*Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.*" (Daniel 12:4).

Soon digital currency may replace all other forms of currency—and give governments control over people's individual finances. Hand implanted

scanning chips for buying and selling are already being tested. *"He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark..." (Rev.13:16,17).* The serious threat of nuclear holocaust in an unstable world keeps defense officials awake at night. One nation, the United States, has in many respects become the ruler of the world. The God of creation is being dismissed in favor of a man-centered society; *"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days..." (2 Tim. 3: 1-5),* where God and his followers are rejected and in much of the world, persecuted; *"...you will be hated by all nations because of me." (Mt. 24:9).* All of these are elements that are present in prophecies related to the end of this world that we know.

The Mark? It's Already Here

When we talk about a cashless society, we usually mean using contactless bank cards or smartphones to make everyday purchases. But what if you didn't need to carry a device at all?

This is the tantalizing prospect leading some employees in Europe to be voluntarily "microchipped" with a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag. And now Americans are getting in on the act of implanting microchips in humans.

32M, a Fall River, Wisconsin-based company invited its employees in August 2017 to voluntarily have their hands injected with an RFID chip the size of a

grain of rice. The chip uses electromagnetic fields to identify electronically stored information. It is the same technology used in contactless credit cards and mobile payments. A chip is implanted underneath the skin between the thumb and forefinger within seconds.

32M claims it is the first company in the U.S. to offer implanted chip technology to employees. CEO Todd Westby said he envisioned RFID implants being used for a range of activities and transactions in the workplace and beyond.

"Eventually, this technology will become standardized, allowing you to use this as your passport, public transit, all purchasing opportunities, etc."

The company stated that implanted chips were, "the next evolution in payment systems."

"Jobs and the Future of Work: These Workers Have Got a Microchip Implanted in Their Hand From Their Employer," World Economic Forum, Aug. 11, 2017, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2017/08/microchip-in-your-hand-rfid-32m/>.

Chapter 1

The Unimaginable Has Happened

Military leaders all over the world constantly examine potential war scenarios. The following is based on published scenarios of one possible war outcome.

Everyone is frantic: It is 3:45 p.m., on a late November day. All across the United States people are racing to turn on their radios, flip to TV channels, and more alarmingly, are staring wide-eyed at the message on their cell phones:

EMERGENCY ALERT
BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND
TO U.S. EAST COAST
SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER
THIS IS NOT A DRILL

The alert only lasts fifteen minutes before a brilliant flash, many times brighter than the sun,

explodes a thousand feet above New York City's tallest skyscraper, the One World Trade Center. There is silence for a millisecond, then with a tremendous, deep roar, a monster fireball appears. In ten seconds it has grown to a mile in diameter. Everything and everyone in its reach is instantly incinerated and blown to pieces by winds reaching 700 miles per hour. Buildings with workers at their desks, in elevators, in coffee shops, streets full of cars, buses and pedestrians, people in stores and restaurants; trees, animals and birds, airplanes and helicopters—everything is annihilated. In the space of ten more seconds, in a nine-mile-wide blast diameter, almost all buildings are leveled, asphalt streets turn molten, trapping vehicles and people. Everything is on fire. Within minutes, a mammoth mushroom cloud has reached into the sky 40,000 feet, but the eight million people who worked and lived in New York City won't see it: they died in the first minutes of the explosion.

The unimaginable has happened. A nuclear bomb has detonated in the United States.

Now, as radioactive dust and debris roll out for miles, millions more will be exposed to fatal radiation that will sicken and kill them in days with an agonizing death that, to the suffering victims, will seem to last years.

A second alert appears on cell phones and TV screens across the rest of the country:

EMERGENCY ALERT
U.S. UNDER NUCLEAR ATTACK
SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER
THIS IS NOT A DRILL

Washington D.C, with the White House, Congress and all of its senators, representatives and staffers; the Pentagon and its 27,000 employees, the Lincoln Memorial; Smithsonian Institute; the thousands of tourists who happened to visit the nation's capital on this day; cities like Pittsburg, St. Louis, Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas, Denver, Seattle and Los Angeles; Army, Navy and Air Force bases; harbors, dams, coal, gas and nuclear power plants; factories, airports, and universities, and everything else of importance in the country once known as the United States of America is obliterated. Not by one nuclear missile, but by a rain of hundreds of missiles, each one eighty times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. The fearful question that was on every American's mind, "It could never happen here, could it?" has been answered.

The Rider on the White Horse

At the same time, unseen by the eye of man, but in another world as real as ours, yet of a magnitude much more powerful, a rider on a white horse has been given a bow and a crown. It is the first episode of what Jesus described as the "beginning of

birth pains." It is the end of this age. Events, long hidden in the prophetic mystery of the book of Revelation, are now being translated from those pages to the soil and inhabitants of the earth. The Lamb has broken the first seal of the scroll that was given to him, and the rider is unleashed to go forth and conquer. As he crosses the earth, wars break out—everywhere.

This is just the beginning; more is to come.

Chapter 2

What or Where Is "Babylon"?

You should know that the death and destruction that is recorded in the first four seals in the book of Revelation, Chapter Six, are *not* the judgments of God. Rather, God is allowing man to follow his own destructive heart's desire. His judgments begin later, with the opening of the sixth seal.

We begin by looking at Babylon the Great and as we see her power, wealth and position in the world, we can't help but think that we recognize this country. Could it be the United States of America?

It all starts—not with the first seal, but in Revelation, Chapter 17. Here is revealed the life and destruction of Babylon the Great. Babylon is the name given to a country in the end times that has come to dominate the world, much like ancient Babylon which ruled a vast empire and took Judah captive.

Babel/Babylon

The first appearance above ground of the tender shoot that would become Babylon was after Noah and his family left the ark and began to repopulate the earth. It was mankind's post-flood realization that with unity of language and purpose, in God's words,

"If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." (Genesis 11:1-9).

Man had already drifted from God, and now his main focus was to "...make a name for ourselves." Divorced from God, man dedicated his energies to create a world of his own pleasing: Babylon the Great.

Babylon the Great, which is also called, "the great prostitute" is described:

"...O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!" (Rev. 18:16)

"...was there ever a city like this great city?"(ver. 18)

"...O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth!"(ver. 19)

The words and pictures used here are from the years before 100AD. We are familiar with today's wording and vernacular, so it may be a little difficult for us to relate to this—thinking that it must be about

some other era that doesn't use our style of speech. But the apostle John was speaking in the language of his time, talking about events in the future, and maybe, about our time.

We begin to see the extent of Babylon's influence in the world when we read,

"Come, I will show you ... the great prostitute, who sits on many waters," (Rev. 17: 1), then, ver. 15, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."

Her reach is truly world-wide, including many different nations and peoples.

This is an incredibly wealthy country and Chapter 18, verses 12-13 list the cargoes that Babylon both bought and sold all around the world: gold, silver and wood; articles made of ivory, bronze, iron and marble; spices, wine, cattle, wheat, carriages, and so on. While not identifying the specific items you might buy today at Walmart, Target or wherever you shop, the list reveals general categories that certainly cover the entire industry and trade of mankind.

"The Bodies and Souls of Men."

But we see something else: Material goods aren't the only things that Babylon deals with. Rev. 18:13 includes trade in, "the bodies and souls of men." Over the brilliance of Babylon's prosperity and wealth, a dark shadow falls, showing that things aren't as wonderful as they appear. The "bodies" of men can mean anything from abortion to sexual slavery to

organ harvesting. The "souls" of men, points to the stealing of men's souls to serve a darker, evil purpose. Society has become filled with ungodly philosophies that give people permission to live the "works of the flesh" listed in Galatians 5:19-21. The rot of Babylon, hidden from sight, goes deeper than the material and includes the unseen spiritual realm:

With a mighty voice, he (the angel) shouted,

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries." (Rev. 18:2).

She has "become a home..." This indicates that the nation wasn't always like this but its descent into darkness was gradual. Great nations, like Babylon don't start out "great". Their beginnings are often propelled by the idealism of their founders and with energy and wisdom. Either through conquest or assimilation, they grow and as they become larger, stronger and more successful, they prosper. Every man-made society, once it has reached the pinnacle of success, has become decadent, self-absorbed and immoral. This has happened to Babylon.

It Gets Worse

Revelation 17:6, shows the prostitute/Babylon seated on the beast and the apostle John reports, *"I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus."* We see that the events of this period are not simply politically or economically driven. Babylon has become the place where every sinful lust and desire of mankind can be freely practiced. There is one group of citizens who stand in the way of all this—those who follow Jesus.

Revelation 18:24, continues, *"In her was found the blood of prophets and the saints and of all who have been killed on the earth."* (If we are talking about Babylon during a specific time in history, then how does this claim, which seems to include all of creation, apply? More on that later.)

So instead of the blessings, provisions and security of following God's laws, Babylon has amassed her own riches—without God—so that she can boast,

"I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn." (Ver. 18:7).

She sees herself as a queen, and this agrees with ver. 17:18, *"The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."*

That's interesting. She's a queen and she rules with authority and power. We know the ways of the world. No one likes to be ruled over—especially by foreigners. Based on what we have learned about Babylon, her rule dominates the rest of the world in economics, trade, and culture (the "souls" of men.)

When Revelation 18:19 says, "*...where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth,*" something is missing. No one else has prospered, only Babylon and those who do business at her shores. Because she is so rich and powerful, she can dictate the terms of business in her dealings with others and has become wealthy at their expense. And so resentment, envy and hate grow and consume the rest of the world over which the prostitute/Babylon has had virtual control. The "queen" doesn't see this hatred building—she is self-deceived: "I sit as a queen...I will never mourn." So, even though the richest, most powerful and successful country in the world is confident that all is well, it doesn't see what's really going on behind the scenes.

The Devil Isn't Happy

So understand this: Babylon is ungodly and is giving mankind what it wants of material pleasures, comfort and success. At the same time, it is eliminating the voice of godly morals in the world, the Christians. You would think that Satan would be happy with this. He's not. It's the nature of Satan to be jealous and acquisitive. He wants it all for himself. Babylon is man's ultimate effort to control his own world. He is taking God's creation, applying some godly principles and at the same time using the devil and his methods to feed his lusts and ego. The devil is jealous of Babylon's success and the dependence of the world on her, so he plots her overthrow; (Rev. 17:16,17).

This will be a totally unexpected and shocking turn of events that will take the world by surprise. The apostle Paul seems to be addressing this in, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3:

"Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying 'peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."

Note that Paul is using the same terminology as Jesus does in Mt. 24:8: "birth pains." Could he be referring to these last days?

"Peace and safety." Babylon has become extremely rich and trades with nations all around the world. This kind of economic activity can only happen when there is peace and safety. Ship owners and merchants will not send their goods if there is danger of losing everything because of war or unrest. We saw that recently when the Houthis brought Suez Canal shipping to a halt with rocket attacks. This prevented thousands of ships from using that shortcut from Asia to Europe, forcing them to make the much longer and costlier trip around the bottom of Africa. Babylon is not only rich, but militarily powerful and will have the ability to stop aggressors like the Houthis. So the world will be at peace—except for the undercurrents of destruction planned by the beast and the nations

who support him. Again, the motivation is the jealousy and resentment that every nation feels because of the success and "lordship" that Babylon exercises over them.

The Beast and the Ten Kings

Here we have Bible symbolism that is explained to us. The beast, who is Satan's agent, will attack Babylon with the help of "ten horns" which we are told are ten kings. This might mean that there are ten countries with borders and armies that will ally themselves with the beast, but it also may include a few rich, powerful and influential people. It is also possible that, while the ten kings are allies of the beast, they may not all take an active part in the attack but may withhold supplying Babylon with help. The alliance will include militarily powerful nations, but also others which are smaller and less important on the world stage.

The beast is also called a king, but he's not like the others because he:

"...once was, now is not and yet will come, is an eighth king." (Rev. 17:11).

Theories abound about the identity of the beast because Revelation gives descriptions in what seem to be different time frames and events.

The beast and Satan are not the same "being," but share some of the same characteristics since Satan gives the beast his power and authority. The beast becomes the physical agent of the devil on the earth

and in this role, can take actual possession of people. When Rev. 13:3 tells us that, *"One of the heads of the beast seem to have had a fatal wound, but that fatal wound had been healed,"* this would indicate a human.

The beast however, does not possess and control just one man, but is a spirit that has inhabited many men, and he has changed "addresses" throughout history as one host after another dies. Adolf Hitler who mesmerized the crowds he spoke to, would be one example. The beast's main focus will be to eliminate God's people, and he uses war and persecution, as well as dilution of scripture and the knowledge of Jesus to do that. Because the Holy Spirit dwells in His church, when the church is gone, all goodness in the earth will leave with it. Then the world will belong entirely to the devil and will be in his total control.

They launch their plan to finally destroy this city that they have come to hate.

*"The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked: they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire."
(Rev. 17: 16)*

The Bible makes the point that this destruction is sudden and quick:

"Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry, 'Woe! Woe, O great city, O

Babylon, city of power! In one hour, your doom has come!" (Rev. 18:10)

"...they will weep and mourn and cry out: '...In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" (Ver. 18: 15-17)

And again, "Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour, she has been brought to ruin!" (Ver. 18:19)

The destruction of Babylon—a powerful and wealthy country, is complete. From border to border there is virtually nothing left:

"With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again." (ver. 18: 21-23)

Although hyperbole is sometimes used in the Bible, and often with prophecy, this description of devastation is repeated so that the point won't be misunderstood: complete destruction. Then follows a partial list of the daily activities of a society that disappear in *one hour*:

Musicians and their music or, everything that entertains and gives pleasure; tradesmen, workers and contractors; every job, business or occupation; factories—the strong right arm of a country that builds the cities, highways and brings prosperity; weddings—the hopes and plans for a bright future that are the reasons for getting married.

Rev. 18: 23, states that even lights, or light sources, will be forever extinguished. In short, an entire country, with the kind of hustle and bustle that keeps all of us busy every day, is wiped out. It is returned to the Stone Age. When the Bible repeats certain points—it's for emphasis so that the reader won't skim over and discount what is being said. When it reads, "in one hour," it means literally in one hour. In one hour, this nation that ruled the economies and morals of the world—will cease to exist.

Chapter 3

Could America Be Babylon?



Lower Manhattan, New York City: Babylon the Great?

Certainly, the above descriptions of Babylon could easily fit the U.S. In the history of the world, there is no country with as diverse and multi-national a population as the U.S. In the past, different empires have dominated parts of the world: Asia, Europe, Africa, etc., but there has never been a country with a truly world-wide reach, where people from

everywhere can come and enjoy freedom and material success, like the U.S. And as far as dominating world trade? America is the number one desired market of all nations, because America is rich. In view of all the prophecies about the end times, beginning with the restoration of Israel, the U.S. seems to be the piece of the puzzle where Babylon fits.

America remains the strongest, most influential country in the world, both an economic and military superpower. With President Trump's vision and goals, the U.S. could become even more dominant. At the same time, we see that his manner and methods are resented by many in the world. But the world's resentment and envy of America go way back in time. The exciting, explosive growth from its beginning, and its success and freedoms, amazed the rest of the world. They felt like they should have the riches and respect, instead of the "new kid on the block." Trump's plan for the economic success of the U.S. depends on world peace. While smaller wars will undoubtedly continue, the world will also see the ending of conflicts that threaten another major war.

Going Nuclear



In 1946, the U.S. military tested atomic bombs over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

How could the beast and its allies—the ten horns/kings—attack Babylon/the U.S. and destroy it in one hour? The answer would be a nuclear holocaust like the world has never seen before. The "average" nuclear bomb today is eighty times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. An attack on America by determined enemies would comprise more than a few bombs of this size. There could be hundreds, or more than a thousand, aimed at every population center, power plant, dam, military base and so on. America and her 347 million people would cease to exist in, "one hour." Nuclear blast and the resulting radiation would make the United States, and much of Canada and Mexico, uninhabitable for hundreds or even

thousands of years. That means that those who survive the blasts won't live longer than a few more months.

"...They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire." (Rev. 17:16).

Is this possible? Can't the world's greatest military power defend itself? Currently, the U.S. has forty-four anti-ballistic-missile missiles. And they only have a fifty percent interception success rate.

Yeah, But...

Everything seems to describe the U.S., except for one thing: in Rev. 18:24, the charge is made,

"In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

We can relate to all the descriptions of Babylon/U.S. because we are living in the time when those things seem to fit. But the U.S. being guilty of the blood of the prophets and saints? No—up to now, America has been a haven for those who follow Jesus; there has been no persecution.

This will change, because the entire world system has been dying since the sin of Adam, which brought death to the world. The world is daily spiraling deeper and deeper toward destruction.

The sacrifice of babies for personal or financial gain and protection, was one reason God commanded the Israelites to exterminate the earlier inhabitants of

the Promised Land. America has aborted over 60 million babies since 1973.

The Jesus People Revival of the 1960's and 70's resulted in the greatest number of Christian conversions in the history of the U.S., but it failed to stop the downward fall of society. The signs are all there: America has become a culture that allows boys and men in girls' locker rooms and sports, widespread pornography among the youth, radical anti-social philosophy being taught in the schools, and youth being taught that there are no absolute truths (no God). Indeed it couldn't be stopped—the world was and is cursed. Some of those things have been resisted and repealed, but that won't last for long. The core of the country has become rotten. And so sin and death will eventually take full control in the U.S. putting the followers of Jesus at great risk.

And that America would be responsible for the blood of all who have been killed on the earth? How could that be when America has only been a country since 1776?

It seems that the roots of Babylon the Great go much farther back than 1776, or even 1492.

This is the Heart of the Matter:

The last verse (Rev.18:24) about Babylon's doom reveals that it's more than just a country at a specific point in time which is being punished. It's the spiritual root of rebellion, sin and murder that go back, deep into the creation, all the way to Eden. It has

taken possession of human nature and has found its ultimate expression in America.

Chapter 4

The Seals: Is This How It Plays Out?

"I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, 'Come!'" (Rev. 6:1).

We now come to the first seal. The motivation and jealousy of the beast and its allies, and the size of their target, the U.S., seem to fit the scale of the disasters unleashed in the first four seals. It all starts with the spirit of conquest charging through the world, starting wars in various places. But when the beast and his allies attack America unexpectedly, what follows is world-wide devastation and suffering of both non-believers and Christians. Again, these are not the judgments of God, but the doings of man. God's judgments are still to come.

The First Seal: (Rev. 6:2): *"I looked and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown and rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest."*

Parallel to Matthew 24: ver. 6-7:

"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things

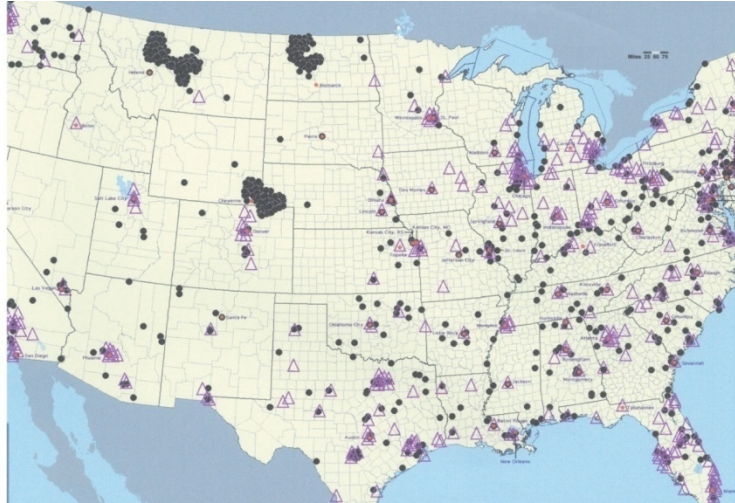
*must happen, but the end is still to come.
Nation will rise against nation and kingdom
against kingdom."*

A crown signifies the ruler of a country but rather than one ruler, or one conquering country, I think this indicates a spirit of conquest loose in the world. Here we see symbolism like that used in Rev. chapter 17—crowns/horns/kings, which signify the rulers of countries. And just as those verses show the conquering spirit of the beast and the ten kings, this opened seal reveals the spirit which will reach every corner of the earth. *The Geneva Academy of International Law and Human Rights* reports that there are currently 110 armed conflicts in the world, ranging from Russia/Ukraine and Israel/Hamas to rebels in Africa, Afghanistan and the Philippines.

Currently, we think of Russia, China or North Korea which are nuclear equipped. But who knows? In the future, they may be joined by countries which today are friendly to the U.S., but tomorrow may not be. These are presently the countries with the ability to assist in the destruction of the United States and the intention to expand their borders by assaulting their enemies. This does not necessarily mean they will conquer and dominate the whole earth, just that several countries or areas will be invaded. A bow is a weapon which delivers death from a distance. This implies the cross-border or world-wide aspect of these conflicts as well as the use of intercontinental ballistic missiles, as compared to the second seal.

The First Target: The most important country at which the arrows are shot, will be the U.S.

Below are some potential U.S. nuclear targets.



(Photo:Modernsurvivalblog.com)

At present, the United States is the world's guarantor of peace. As we have seen, the world's merchants trade with Babylon and peace and safety are necessary for that to happen. But the beast and his allies (the ten horns, or countries) attack Babylon/the U.S. and destroy her totally in one hour. Suddenly, the power that enforced world peace is gone and countries which never lost their greed, jealousy and hatred for their neighbors are now free to attack each other. We have seen that Russia wants to redraw the old borders of the Russian empire and these include Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Georgia (the European one), parts of Asia and maybe even Poland.

China covets Taiwan, North Korea wants South Korea and the Muslims plan to destroy Israel. Iran wants to dominate the Middle East both militarily and politically, as well as destroy both Israel and the U.S. India and Pakistan will be ready to fight over Kashmir—and they both possess nuclear weapons. The destructive plans of all these countries will be put into motion, once the U.S. is removed from the world stage.

The Second Seal:(Rev. 6: 3-4)

"Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth, and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword."

Parallel to Matthew 24: 12: *"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold."*
Also: 2 Timothy 3:1-5: *"...There will be terrible times in the last days...People will be lovers of themselves...without self-control, brutal...,"*

This destruction can take two forms. First, the killing and death caused by the world-wide warfare unleashed by the first seal. Second, through murderous anarchy. The many wars will destabilize law and order in most countries. Theft, murder, and physical violence of all kinds will increase greatly.

The peace treaties that ended World War II did not initially bring peace to a destroyed Europe or China. People were desperate for food and safety. Murders, violence, theft, starvation and disease were widespread—literally millions died up to four years

after the armies stopped fighting. The many conflicts around the world are mostly directed at the civilian populations of those countries and usually, there are no trustworthy government police forces to protect them. Society will still exist and function but the world won't be nearly as safe as before. To provide personal protection, tribalism will no doubt return.

Some European countries are already experiencing civil unrest, usually as the result of immigration from the Middle East. There, the source of the friction is the Muslim religion which, at its heart, is militantly anti-Christian and anti-Jewish, and which now demands to be allowed to influence the seedbed of modern evangelism; Europe. It is underreported in the U.S., but there have been many riots between Muslims and the locals of different European countries. Every Western country has experienced the breakdown of peace and civility at different times in their histories. The potential for violence is everywhere and won't be tempered by "human kindness."

I think it's also noteworthy that the rider is not just given a sword, but a "large" sword. This means that the results of his actions will be wide-spread, probably throughout the entire world. Also, a sword is used to show the individual nature of these killings. When fighting with a sword, the adversaries are physically facing each other.

The Third Seal:(Rev. 6: 5-6) *"...I looked and there before me was a rider on a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard*

what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a day's wages and three quarts of barley for a day's wages and do not damage the oil or the wine.'"

Parallel to Matthew 24: 7 *"There will be famines in various places."*

This points to inflation and the collapse of the world's financial system, daily business transactions and starvation. Inflation, the creation/printing of money (which is called "fiat" money, which means, its value is simply what a government says it is), is a tool that governments use to wipe out their debt. The German government did that in the early 1920's and I possess a 100 million Mark currency note from August 1923, worth at that time in the U.S., 25 cents—and it's only printed on one side!



People's savings become worthless. In 1945, at the end of World War II in Europe, the most used currency was cigarettes. German money was almost worthless, and people bartered for life's essentials with anything available, from family heirlooms to

extra clothing, cans of food and women selling their bodies. Anything to survive. The verse states that the pay for one day's labor will be one quart of wheat (which equals one loaf of bread). You would be paid with another quart the next day—if you got the work.

Famine can also be a direct result of the disruption caused by war. The famine experienced in the Henan Province of China during World War II shows the many causes of a catastrophe which can rock a society to its foundations.

Many young Chinese men had been conscripted into the army to face invading Japanese troops and weren't available to plant or harvest crops. Then the area was occupied by the Japanese army and it caused great destruction. Both they and the Chinese forces confiscated crops to feed their armies and to prevent the enemy from taking anything for themselves.

Civilians were left with from little food, to none at all. In 1942, the spring and summer rains failed, causing drought, and this was followed by a locust invasion. Weakened men, women and children, more like skeletons than living humans, unable to go further, dropped dead in the streets. An estimated 700,000 died. Cannibalism was rife.

That was "yesterday," or eighty years ago. The problem is no different in countries today that are experiencing death, destruction and the disappearance of food supplies.

The organization, "Africanews" reports that because of fighting between Sudanese government forces and a strong rebel force:

The humanitarian crisis in Sudan is escalating rapidly, with famine spreading across the country. Catherine Russell (UNICEF) added, "Famine is occurring in hotspots in at least five locations in Sudan, with an estimated 1.3 million children under five living in these areas. Over 3 million children under five are at imminent risk of deadly disease outbreaks, including cholera, malaria, and dengue, due to a failing health system." The dire situation is exacerbated by the collapse of infrastructure, with 16.5 million school-aged children out of school, and nearly an entire generation at risk. "This is not just a crisis, it is a poly-crisis affecting every sector, from health and nutrition to water, education, and protection," Russell said." *Africanews& AP Mar.14, 2025*

With the wars, conflicts and widespread famine in other areas of Africa and elsewhere, World Concern, a Christian relief organization, reports that in 2024, around 782 million people worldwide faced hunger, malnutrition or starvation. Things are already bad and we can expect that the conflicts of the future will be no kinder to mankind. This world will change, and we will no longer be able to recognize it.

The Fourth Seal: (Rev. 6: 7-8) *"...I looked, and there before me was a rider on a pale horse! Its rider was named Death and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the*

earth to kill by sword, famine and plague and by the wild beasts of the earth."

It seems the effects of all these seals overlap. There is a primary cause—the wars initiated by the conquering spirit of the first seal, and it could be the reason why Jesus listed "wars and rumors of wars" as the first sign of the end of the age. This fourth seal sums up the death and destruction caused by the first three, then reveals their shocking harvest.

2 Billion—Gone?

Death and Hades will reap the four-fold harvest of death: war, famine, plague, and wild animals. The result is that one-fourth of the earth's population will die. This won't happen overnight, but in a cascading process of the seals being opened that still may happen faster than we'd expect.

In 2025, there are approximately 8 billion people living on the earth. One quarter of the world's population represents the *entire* populations of North America, Europe and South America. Or the *total* populations of both China and India.

Population estimates for 2025:

World	8 billion $>1/4 = 2$ billion
North America	387 million
South America	443 million
Europe	742 million

So, these three areas only account for a little more than 1.5 billion!

CHAPTER 5

And Then God...

The Fifth Seal: (Rev. 6: 9-11) *I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They ask God when he will judge the people who killed them. God answers, "...wait a little longer until...the number who were to be killed as they had been was completed."*

Parallel to Matthew 24: 9: Jesus then states that *"... you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*

This is sobering. God knows that more followers of Christ will be murdered, and he is going to wait until it happens. God surely doesn't like to see us suffer, but he sees this as necessary. Of course, he will be there to comfort—and to suffer with them, ("Saul, Saul, why do you persecute *me*?" Acts 9:4.) and I think that part of the reason is to "fill up the sin" of the world, so that its judgment and condemnation will be unquestioned and absolute.

Here is something that we need to seriously consider: You, your family and the people in your church or Bible study, may suffer a violent death at

the hands of people who hate you. This is already happening to thousands of Christians in different places in the world. Revelation indicates that this will be the fate of many Christians who live through the death and destruction of the first four seals.

Also, God is showing us that there will be a turning point in world history—the persecution of the church will cease at a predetermined time and that may be when the sixth seal is opened.

There will be great distress, (famine, plague and murder) and suffering over the whole earth because of the first four seals and believers in Christ will be blamed for it all. This is unreasonable but the wave of anti-Semitism we have seen, especially after Oct. 7, 2023, is a foretaste of what is to come and what Christians will experience all over the world.

"At that time, many will turn away from the faith."(Matthew. 24:10).

There will be a steep decline in the number of those who identify with Jesus and the Church, and as a matter of self-preservation, many who are now sitting in churches on Sunday, will turn against the faith, hate other Christians and aid in their persecution. Note: Jesus didn't say "a few," he said "many." Because of the unparalleled distress and fear of the times, false prophets will appear to offer salvation from the present troubles and "deceive many." Jesus repeats this warning several times—they will come saying that they are Christ.

"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold."(Mt. 24: 12).

Instead of getting their strength from the Lord, and loving their enemies as Jesus described in the Beatitudes, a significant number of Christians will despair because of their present circumstances and harden their hearts. Ver. 13 *"But he who stands firm to the end will be saved."* I think the "firm" he is talking about is to continue to love the world and our persecutors the way the Lord does, encourage and help fellow Christians, remain obedient to Jesus and not deny the faith. He will continue to love the unsaved through the church/us to the end, offering salvation. This will be the call that many will hear to get saved. But it will leave the rest of the world with no excuse when they stand before the Lord in judgment. He loved them to the end and they rejected him.

The Sixth Seal: (Rev. 6:12-17) *"...a great earthquake...and every mountain and island was removed from its place."*

Parallel to Matthew 24: 8: *"...earthquakes in various places..."*

Now God steps in and begins His judgment. All mankind on earth is shaken to the core by this enormous earthquake: a great many people will die, and everyone knows that it is caused by God. I don't think this means that the mountains and islands literally disappear, but the landscape is drastically reshaped. Note: this doesn't kill off mankind or

destroy the earth, because the survivors hide themselves in fear of the "*...wrath of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.*" (Rev. 7:16). They fear God and His power, but there is no mention of repentance. Undoubtedly, man's murderous and sinful ways won't stop.

Where's the Church?

In Revelation, Chapter 7, the apostle John describes four angels who will hold back the four winds from blowing on the earth, but before that happens, another angel tells them to wait until a seal is put on the foreheads of God's servants on earth. Then it lists the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel. But not the church? The church is also the servant of God, but they don't get the seal? I think that's because the church is no longer present on the earth. The number of Christians who were to be killed (Rev. 6:11), has been reached, and before (or during) the great earthquake of the sixth seal, God removed the church. The entire world will be shaken, and undoubtedly, many, many, people will die. (What if the Lord were to take the surviving believers home—the rapture—at the same time? Not that God would worry about it, but with the widespread death, the world would barely notice.)

When God punished the ungodly, like with the plagues of Egypt or with Sodom and Gomorrah, he spared his people. He has left the 144,000 believing Jews as his witnesses and they too will be untouched by the plagues that follow. I believe that after this point, no one else will be saved. The Gospel has been

preached and no one else on earth will humble themselves and accept Jesus. When you read further, you see that in spite of God's acts of judgment, there is no repentance. (Rev. 9:20-21).

2000 Miles Away

We already have good examples of the destruction that this world-wide earthquake will cause. The countries that rim the Pacific Ocean occupy what is called the "Ring of Fire." They are all subject to both earthquakes and volcanoes.

Earthquakes rupture the surface of the earth, and can release built up volcanic pressure. In 1883, the island/volcano Krakatau in Indonesia blew up and over eleven square miles—two thirds of the island—disappeared. The explosion was heard 2,000 miles away; this would be like an explosion in Los Angeles being heard by every person living within an arc stretching from New Orleans to Chicago. The resulting tsunamis killed over 30,000 people. The dust and debris cloud released by the volcano circled the earth for years, and resulted in the world's temperature dropping by an estimated 2.5° Fahrenheit for the next five years. In 1816, Mt. Tambor in Indonesia had a similar eruption and blew even more dust into the atmosphere, resulting in a "year without summer." Worldwide, there were no crops to harvest and very little food left for the lucky. The dust cloud that results from the earthquake of the sixth seal will block the sun's rays and heat to a great extent. This will cause world-wide crop failure, starvation, death and social upheaval. People get violent when they are starving.

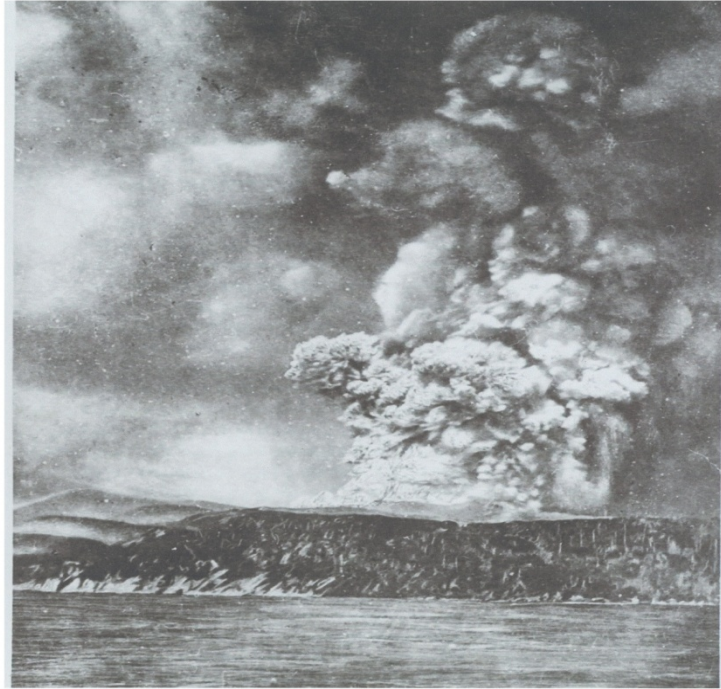


Photo from the 1883 eruption and destruction of the Indonesian Island of Krakatau. The explosion of the volcano was heard 2000 miles away.

Chapter 6

Now We Make It Personal

If these things happen in your life time: war, famine, plague, inflation—what will it look like?

The Church will be around when the first five seals are opened. Remember, these aren't the judgments of God, but the unleashing of man's brutality, greed and hate. That means we will experience the wars, famine, plagues, and murders included in those seals. You and your loved ones who love and follow Jesus, may die violently. They might become living skeletons or waste away painfully from sickness, with no food or medicine available.

Our faith will be tested. Those who today equate God's goodness and blessings with favorable circumstances and the "good life," will have it the hardest. Those who trust God and are already submitted to him in every aspect of their lives, will be strong enough to endure until he delivers them from their trials.

And so, we have a situation where first, wars and rumors of war begin taking place all over the world. With war being the first seal, then the other disasters would fall into place as natural and predictable consequences:

War causes death. In World War I, 20 million people died. In World War II about 70 million died in Europe, Asia, Africa and on the oceans of the world. The majority of these were civilian/non-combatants. The total deaths from World War II would represent only 4 percent of the two billion which will die from the seals. Today, in the U.S., our conversations center around our kids, schools, politics, food, the weather, etc. When these seals are opened, death will become a part of everyone's thoughts, fears and experience. Christians will not be spared.

War causes destruction of crops and industry so; not enough food for every mouth, not enough fuel for every home, car or truck transporting food, for farm equipment to plant or harvest it, or for ships carrying goods. Over 83 percent of the American population live in cities—far from the farms that produce the food they need to survive. Trucks won't be able to deliver food to stores, and people couldn't drive to the store to pick it up anyway. You might live near a grocery store, but you are probably miles from a farm. So famine and death by starvation are the results. Substandard nutrition, or no food at all, opens the door for diseases of every kind, including plagues.

All these factors will cause the collapse of social order—it will be "every man for himself."

EMP= NO 911...Ever Again

Scientists and military leaders talk of the kind of destruction caused by an intentional high altitude (appx. 200 miles) nuclear blast over North America.

Called an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), it wouldn't cause physical destruction but instead, would melt the circuits of most electrical devices in the country. China, Russia and North Korea presently have the ability to carry out such an attack. Iran will soon. And, in the event of war with any of those countries, who's to say they would only detonate one? Actually, God can and has done the same with solar flares, and one in 1989 shut off power in Quebec for nine hours.

With an EMP, your cell phone and car, home electricity, refrigerators, freezers, trucks, farm tractors, dams and other power generating equipment, gasoline pumps, GPS, computers, cash machines, water systems, hospitals, streetlights, etc. could all burn out and stop working.

You might try calling 911 for help but no one will answer. No police or fire departments. In fact, the only help you could get would be from your neighbors who are within walking distance. The food in your pantry might be the last you will ever eat. The vast amount of damage will take years to repair, if there is the peace and stability that will allow that to happen and if the plants that make that equipment can still get what they need or—if they still exist.

Every war in history has seen the eventual use of the most destructive technology available, from the cross bow of the medieval ages, to poisonous gas, biological weapons and the atomic bomb. We can only assume that these weapons will be used on a scale never before seen and barely imagined, which will

lead to the deaths of one-fourth of the earth's population.

No Power, No Peace

In the summer of 1977, New York City experienced a 25 hour electrical blackout which, when combined with other social stresses like a heat wave, high unemployment and bad economy (not enough money to buy food, housing, etc.), resulted in a huge crime wave. The outcome was millions of dollars of theft, damage, assaults and murder.

Chapter 7

The Clock Started Ticking In 1948

Of course, all these events—wars, famine, plague, etc. have been happening since the dawn of time. What makes our day different is that after 2,000 years, the Jews are back in the land that God promised to Abraham 4,000 years ago, fulfilling numerous prophecies from the Old Testament that point to the end times: Eze. 37:21, Deut. 30:3-5, Amos 9:14-15, etc. The technologies and circumstances that would produce the results described in Revelation—nuclear bombs, instant personal identification by authorities, government control of personal bank accounts, the vast, explosive growth of knowledge and the world dominance of one country, the U.S.A.—are now present.

Europe is no longer Christian, and America is heading that way.

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive..." (2 Tim. 3:1-5)

Morals in the West, once based on God's Word, the Bible, have slipped away from that anchor and guide. For many years, school teachers have taught their young students that there are no absolutes; each

child could "find" the truth that they felt best about. Even Harvard president Claudine Gay admitted before Congress in December of 2024, that she had a version of truth that only applied to her.

There is worldwide condemnation of Israel for defending itself from enemies who are trying to completely destroy it.

The world's finances are about to crash. With governments borrowing more than they can pay back, they begin to "print" money to meet their obligations, resulting in inflation. People's savings accounts, investments, etc., all crash.

For the first time in history, the entire world succumbed, amazingly, in fear to one narrative, Covid. Everyone was required to blindly obey their leaders, follow their directives or risk jail, job loss and social shunning. *The whole world*. Later, the suspicions of many were confirmed when original claims about vaccination were disproven, and it became clear that a great number of the world's leaders as one, lied to everyone.

For the first time in history, technology exists for governments to track the daily location and activity of everyone that lives on this planet. It is already being implemented in countries like China and Singapore and to a somewhat lesser degree in places like Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. The advent of computing by artificial intelligence presents a huge increase in the ability of governments to collect and control information about

you and me. Of course, businesses have already spent billions of dollars to develop software that identifies your personal likes, dislikes, habits, social circles, opinions and activities. They know you, who is with you, where you are and what you're doing.

Jesus said that the advent of the end times—the "beginning of birth pains," will see many coming in "my name" claiming that they are the Christ. The world will have experienced the devastations of the first five seals. People everywhere will be starving and sick, anarchy will reign, and people will look for some kind of powerful help that goes beyond the human. They will look for a messiah.

Does this mean that they will say literally that Jesus Christ has sent them? Some probably will, others not. But they will promise to help people get what they need: food, clothing, a roof over their heads, as well as happiness, safety and prosperity. These are the things that people of this world want help with, not eternal life. Still, they will say that they have authority to teach and lead that is not based on a purely human foundation, but a spiritual one of some kind. These people will offer in this life the things that God promises to those who obey him, without the requirement to submit to God. There isn't one individual who can claim to be all that Jesus was or did while here on earth the first time, but they will offer salvation in different areas. All that these messiahs will require is the blind submission of their followers (and their money.)

"I Speak the Truth! Follow Me!"

A good current example would be Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He, the medical industry, the government and the media all sang the same song that we were doomed to die of covid, unless we followed their commands. Fauci presented himself as the final authority; a type of savior/Christ whose instructions were to be followed as if they were gospel. According to him, only by obeying his dictates were people safe. Several points are stunning about all this: First, their message was preached in the whole world, and the whole world more or less obeyed. The only way to deal with the "threat" was to do what they were told and many who disagreed were silenced, including numerous eminent scientists, doctors, and others. Second, the whole thing was a lie. Covid was like a very contagious flu that could kill, but not an unstoppable killer. Their promised solutions didn't work as advertised, and in fact they prevented people from getting timely help with proven drugs, resulting in the deaths of many.

What Christians everywhere need to grasp is that the tool Fauci and our leaders used was *fear*. To see what a powerful tool fear can be, read below.

"Promise Me You'll Shoot Yourself"

This is the shocking title of a book about the reaction of German civilians when the Russian Army approached the border of Germany in March, 1945. The advance was preceded by horror stories of rape, torture

and murder by the Russian hordes, who were motivated by revenge. They were paying Germany back for the unrestrained rape and murder their troops had committed when they invaded Russia.

There was an appalling epidemic of suicide. By the thousands, German women, men and in some cases whole families, took their lives because of fear of what the Russians would do to them. Terrified women, children and the elderly tried to flee, but not all could. Those caught suffered the same fate as others already victimized. One father who, despite his advanced age, was called to fight on the front, handed his service pistol to his daughter and told her that, when the Russians arrived, "Promise me you'll shoot yourself."

Here is something disturbing to think about: The Germany that struck the world with war and death in 1939 was, before the war, the most educated, hardest working, advanced country in Europe. So how did Hitler and the Nazi's gain control of this people?

As one survivor admitted, "Fear." Fear was the tool used by those in authority to force people to submit to policies and practices that they normally would have abhorred, but now felt a pressing need to go along with.
 Florian Huber, New York 2014

These are the things which you and I—your kids, grand kids, co-workers and neighbors, the people in the town or state next to you—may very well experience. And these are exactly the things that Jesus meant when he said, "Let not your heart be troubled." We can and should make physical

preparations: food, medicine, water storage, warm clothing, matches, etc. But of much greater importance is that we be spiritually and emotionally prepared. Because when these things happen, if you're still alive, your job is to comfort others and share the Gospel. You need to be sure of your relationship with Jesus, because the time is coming when that may be all that you have.

Christianity? Gone.

It is perhaps hard for Christians to fully grasp the fact that knowledge of Jesus is disappearing from our world. Europe, which was once the heart of evangelism was deep into the post-Christian era in the 1970's when I was a missionary in Germany. Some English church leaders considered England to already be post-Christian. While a few denominations and movements in the U.S. are still doing relatively well, total church attendance is down, and polls show a marked decline in the number of people who say that they are Christians or believe that they need Jesus' salvation. More and more Americans have never heard the Gospel.

If our characterization of the U.S. as Babylon the Great holds, then the country will experience growing wealth. When people have everything they need, fewer and fewer will see the need for the Savior. A society that once could be characterized as primarily Christian in experience has become one that lost the experience but still has Christian traditions. Now even those traditions are being replaced by

ungodly, government-imposed morality and self serving attitudes toward life.

If we think that our society can head back to an earlier, glorious time when the knowledge of, and obedience to Jesus were commonplace, I would say that there are two things which indicate otherwise:

- 1) The return of Jews to the Promised Land which was supposed to happen in the last days.
- 2) The "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). When sin entered the creation through Adam, the creation began to die. I might be myopic, but if you trace the path of Christianity/revival in the world, we have seen it move from the early Church in Israel, through the Middle East, moving west to Europe, moving further west to North and South America, and to Asia and Africa.

I believe that in a general sense, the Gospel has been preached, "in the whole world," especially if you compare its spread from AD 33 to today. Of course, the Father honors the sacrifice of His Son, so we know that there isn't one person on the planet who won't in some way hear the Gospel, even if they don't hear it from the lips of a Christian. We are experiencing the approaching death of this present world system. Jesus' death on the cross redeemed us, and he will redeem the creation too (John saw a "new heaven and a new earth.") But the death of this world will be caused by the world rejecting Jesus, who is Life.

Chapter 8

And In His Next Breath, Jesus Says...

What is remarkable to me is that after Jesus warns us about the things you and I will be experiencing, he gives a further stern warning about our relationship with him. And pay attention: he does this in his next breath, so if you accept what he is saying about the last days, then know that he is placing even greater emphasis on what he says after that. He draws a clear line between Christians who follow him with their whole hearts, and those for whom God and being a Christian are only a part of their lives. He says very plainly that many who believe that they are saved—aren't. He shows this through the parables in Matthew 24: 45-25: 46, about:

The wise servant
The ten virgins with oil
The talents
The sheep and the goats.

The message for all Christians is this: If you haven't lived as a disciple of Jesus, if you don't have the relationship with him that he desires, if you haven't followed him with all your heart, soul and

strength, you'd better start now, because things are about to get real bad.

So, up to now, it's been as if you were standing next to Jesus, and he was pointing and showing you the terrible wars, murders, disease and death that are about to take place. Then, he turns to you, puts his hands on your shoulders, looks you in the eye and starts to share examples that show how you are to prepare.

As important as it is for us to know about the "wars and rumors of wars" and the awful things that follow, Jesus spends *even more time* giving us vital information about how we are to prepare for what you and I and our world may be experiencing soon. God doesn't want our focus to be on events, but on Him.

The message of each of these parables is pretty much the same: Jesus isn't talking about non-Christians; he's talking about people who see themselves as followers of him; Christians just like you and me. He separates them into two groups—the ones who are obedient, wise, loving and have a relationship with him, and others who, while identifying themselves as followers and servants of the Lord, are in reality, servants of their own self-image, comfort and security.

The Wise and Foolish Servants.(Matthew 24: 45-51)

These two are servants who are over other servants. In other words, they are church leaders. They both have a job to do and the story includes

other servants who also have important jobs that the Master has assigned them. The head servant's job is to train, encourage and assist the other servants in their duties and he does this in the Spirit of the Lord, using his Word and according to the talents/abilities the Lord has given him.

The Wise Servant

The first servant does this, doing his best to, "*seek the good of another*," (1 Cor. 10:24), and being a shepherd, "*knows the state of his flock*," (Pr. 27:23). He is working to see the Church grow in Christ and in service to the Lord. He is rewarded for doing his job by receiving even greater responsibilities and honor from the Master. (In this world, greater responsibility means greater head/heart aches and trials. In God's eternal kingdom, it will mean greater honor and fulfillment and working closer with Jesus and the brethren.)

The Foolish Servant

In contrast, this servant is like a leader whose focus changes from serving the Lord and the brethren to looking at his day-to-day life. He doesn't see the point of all the hard work and the seemingly small rewards he gets for this. Leading his fellow servants has become an ordeal, and he starts to abuse and beat them. He begins allowing himself some compensating rewards, seeking pleasure and hanging out with like-minded people.

What Jesus, who gave us the Beatitudes, says here is startling. When his master returns and finds how he has been acting,

"He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Mt. 24: 51).

Jesus seems to be indicating that this church leader will suffer the same judgment as those who rebel against God. This calls the idea of "always saved" into question. Read on.

"...If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning." (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

(Probably of note: The Beatitudes were addressed to all mankind, how we are to treat each other and relate to God. These parables are directed toward Christians, and Jesus was always much harder on his "chosen people" who used their anointing and his grace to serve their own selfish purposes.)

The Ten Virgins (Matthew 25: 1-13)

These are Christians but not leaders, like those mentioned above. Jesus doesn't differentiate one from the other and the same description is used for them all. They all attend church. They have smiles on their

faces, bring their Bibles with them, and worship with the rest. They are there most every Sunday.

All ten are assigned the same duty: to greet the Bridegroom when he arrives. The analogy here is simple. It's the church, those people are in the pews on Sunday and are getting ready to meet Jesus when he comes.

They arrive at the place of the wedding, but the Bridegroom isn't there yet, so they have to wait. His arrival is at night. Does that have special meaning for us today? During a time of tribulation? Night is certainly inconvenient; daytime or the afternoon would be better. Everyone is awake, you have the light of day, etc.

It's taking so long, no one really knows when he will arrive and they all fall asleep while waiting. Their lamps are still burning, because relighting them might have been difficult in the dark .

The result was that when the Bridegroom arrived, the oil in the lamps was almost gone. Five of the virgins brought extra oil, five didn't. They begged the other five to share theirs, which was refused, so they had to leave and get more. When they returned, everyone had already gone into the festivities, the door was locked and when they pleaded to be allowed in, Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, I don't know you."* (Mt. 25:12).

The conclusion from this? There are people in our churches (hopefully not you) who appear to be followers of Jesus, but they only have enough oil for

their present needs. They live and participate in Christian activities on a level that they are comfortable with. They don't want to be, or identify with "fanatics," but feel that they want to show the world a "nicer" side to Christianity. In short, their focus isn't on Jesus, but on their own self-image. They only have enough spirituality to look good and feel satisfied with themselves. Jesus warns us in ver. 13, *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."* The Lord seems to be saying, *don't wait for some time in the future to accept and fulfill your calling, deal with sin or turn your entire life over to the Lord. Because it may be too late.*

The five with the extra oil? They are Christians who know God's mission for them and the Church. They understand they have been given gifts with which to serve others, and they realize without a doubt that they can't do it on their own. In order to love those who treat them poorly, give from their own finances, accept others who have differing views of scripture, share the gospel with the lost, be honest at all times, help the sick, encourage the discouraged, etc.—they will need the Holy Spirit's strength and presence in their lives. In the Bible, "oil" is often used as an analogy to the Holy Spirit. Walking with God to the point that they are filled with the Spirit is the additional oil that they brought with them.

The Talents(Matthew 25: 14-30)

It is again notable that Jesus is talking about servants. Who in this world does God call servants? Everyone he has saved. No non-believer is a servant of

the Lord. God can and does use the unsaved for his purposes, but they aren't his servants in the same way believers are. What do we know about these three?

1) They are trusted—ver. 14. That means that they have been in his service for awhile—long enough to earn his trust. These are not new Christians, but people who have followed the Lord for some time, and have proved themselves to be faithful. 2) They have different abilities. This is from God. He gives us our talents—those unique skills that are not shared by everyone—and also different levels of ability to do those things. I don't think I could ever build beautiful furniture like a finish carpenter but I'm pretty good with foreign languages. We supply the will, which opens the door for the Holy Spirit to move through us, and bring forth fruit from our labors that points the world to Jesus.

And so the Master gives each talents. One gets five; the next receives three; the last, one. Obviously, God knows our abilities and gives us what we can handle.

The Master leaves, returns, then sees what the servants did with their talents. Of course the one who received five earned five more, the one with three, three more but the one with only one talent buried his, and did not put it out to earn anything.

The first two servants took what the Master—God—gave them and labored to invest them and make the investments grow. This required faith, commitment, risk taking, knowledge and hard work.

Jesus tells us in John 15:8, *"Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit."*

The servant with one talent did none of this. He accused his Master of several negative things like dishonesty and stealing—none of which were true. They were the Master's talents to begin with, the servant worked for the Master and the Master had given him a job to do, for which he would be paid. And the Master rewarded the other servants by honoring them and giving them more. So where did the servant get these ideas?

"The soul of the lazy man desires, and has nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich." (Prov. 13:4).

The Master called the third servant "lazy and wicked." This servant's focus was on his own life, what he had and what he didn't have. Also, he wanted to be called a servant of the Master, but he didn't want to do the work. He was lazy. He liked being with other Christians, but didn't want to put the effort into really becoming what the Lord wanted him to be. So, the question to ask is: are there really Christians like him who have a calling from God and the ability to fulfill that calling—but will suffer the same fate as unbelievers?

"Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Ver. 24:30).

The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25: 31-45)

This occurs when all mankind is off the earth and standing before the throne. Jesus might be talking to everyone who ever lived, or maybe just to those who see themselves as Christians. He separates them into two groups—the blessed sheep and the cursed goats.

I think that the two groups Jesus refers to belong to the Church because he tells the "sheep" and the "goats" that, when they helped *"the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."* He keeps on saying, that "he" was in some sort of need. Here he is identifying Christians and their sufferings with himself. See Acts 9:4-8, *"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute ME?"*, or, 1 Cor.12:27, *"you are the body of Christ..."*, etc. And Jesus only calls believers, "brothers." And so, when we help fellow believers ("the least of these brothers of mine...") who are in need, we are also directly helping Jesus.

Neither the sheep nor the goats realize that some of the people who needed their help were in some way, Jesus himself. For the sheep, this means that their help was extended to anyone who needed it, especially their brothers and sisters in Christ. On the other hand, the goats did not do any of these things. They didn't have God's heart toward Jesus' brothers—their fellow Christians. Their lives as Christians were shallow and they didn't allow God to make the sometimes painful changes that are needed to make us Christ-like.

The sheep are an encouragement for the Church and they are the ones who will receive eternal

life. Are the goats a warning? If so, then again, those who led self-focused lives were not there to help the needy. They ignored their brothers and sisters who had real needs for the basics of life, not recognizing Christ in them, and they were condemned to eternal punishment.

Probably most Christians will see themselves as the faithful servants, the prepared virgins, the responsible steward and the lambs. Here's a piece of advice: *don't only trust your own understanding but seek the Lord and have him show you where you stand.* The Apostle Paul, who understood the depth and broad reach of God's grace, still found it important to warn us to, *"...work out your salvation with fear and trembling."* (Phil. 2:12). Our relationship with the Lord, his Holy Spirit and the Bible is the key to understanding these things.

What's interesting, and disturbing, is that Jesus seems to be saying—*he is saying*—that some people who profess to be followers of his, but don't do it with their whole hearts, will receive the same fate as nonbelievers: The servant left in charge of other servants and who ignores his responsibility, but instead lives for himself, *"He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* The five virgins who weren't prepared for the Bridegroom, *"I never knew you."* The servant who buried the talent given him by his Master, *"And throw that worthless servant outside into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* The goats: they professed to

know Jesus, but he said they didn't and, they will go away to *"eternal punishment but the righteous to eternal life."*

All these people were identified as servants of the Lord. Jesus does not differentiate between them, giving us a clue that the unfaithful ones were not "really saved." They would have identified themselves as Christians and as leaders, but because they didn't do the work of the Lord, he "casts" them out. Jesus is basically saying to them, "You're fooling yourselves." With eternally deadly results.

Once Saved, Always Saved?

Paul prays in Ephesians that we may know how, "wide and long and high and deep," is the love of Christ. With such an incomprehensible, endless love, won't God's love include those who reject him, and result in their eventual salvation?

Maybe, I can't say for sure. But while you can find scriptures that seem to say that, it's just as easy to find scriptures like,

*"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."
(Hebrews 10: 26).*

or, *"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy*

Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss, they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace." (Heb. 6: 4-6).

The writer of Hebrews then compares Christians to land in verses 6:7-8. *Productive land, "receives the blessing of God. But land (again, he's talking about Christians) that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned."*

Paul states in 2 Tim. 2:12, *"...if we disown him, he will also disown us."*

Jesus called not just the Twelve, but all of his followers, "disciples." That word means, a "whole-hearted follower." He called them that, because in Jesus' mind—in God's mind—that is the only kind of follower of Christ there is. As the end-time parables show, there is no other.

You need to have the habits and lifestyle of a whole-hearted follower of Jesus—a disciple. It's the best and safest life that you can live.

CHAPTER 9

Conclusion

Did you realize that there is a direct line connecting the "beginning of birth pains" to these parables? Of course they have always been important lessons for the Church, but the Lord has told us that as things get worse, "the love of most will grow cold." That means that as we see this world falling apart, we are not to be "alarmed" but be, or become, like the wise servant, the prepared virgins, the faithful servants and the sheep to the right of the Son of Man.

Here's something else that you may have never considered before. Being a real follower of Jesus is hard. God requires you to allow him to remove all sorts of wrong, useless attitudes and habits that have made their home in your life. That doesn't happen by accident, it will only come about when you make the effort. If you can learn to not defend those things but admit that they have no place in a child of God, the Lord will bring you to a higher level of knowing him. Paul tells us in Rom. 12:2, "*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" You will experience more joy, freedom and a deeper understanding of His Word and workings.

But know this also: you will experience more opposition from the devil. The reason? He's afraid of you. He's afraid of people who have turned their lives over to God, because God uses them to share his love and truth with the world and "set the captives free." As you grow closer to Jesus and are transformed, you will find that, rather than always needing counsel, you'll be giving counsel. (Of course, we need and value the counsel that others give us.) What I mean is: when you live as a disciple, your life will take on an obvious quality, and people will want what you have. It's sometimes hard, because in Jesus' words, you must "deny yourself." But the alternative—being the unfaithful servants, the foolish virgins, the goats at Jesus' left, and being "cast out into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth," is far, far, far worse.

Be Comforted!

If you've read this far, congratulations and I hope you're not depressed! It should be of some comfort to realize that all these things were bound to come to pass, because from the time of Adam, man has separated himself and the creation from God. The coming crises are the natural, unavoidable and expected result of that separation, and there is nothing that we, as Christians, can do to stop it. We need to accept that God is much wiser than we are and has always had a plan. He is not and won't be surprised or discouraged by what has occurred or will occur.

This should help us to put our lives in context: there are world events already in motion that very well may end your plans for your future, your family and friends, and America. We are forced to see that our lives here, on this earth, are subject to powers beyond our control or wishes. *God knew this all along* and that's why he sent Jesus to save us. His Word is full of exhortations and encouragements to see that,

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor. 5:17)

"Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

"...And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them." (Heb. 11: 14-16)

You have surrendered yourself in obedience to the Creator of the heavens and earth. He began with a perfect plan and nothing—nothing will prevent him from making it happen. Your submission and service to him assures you of the place he reserved for you.

We began with Jesus' forewarning of "wars and rumors of wars." We now end with the message he emphasized again and again while on earth:

"The Beginning of Birth Pains?"

Jesus says it in Matthew 24:8, Paul says it in Romans 8:22 and again in 1Thessalonians 5:3—"the beginning of birth pains"—what is this birth to which they are referring?

The first clue was with Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:3, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God." The Apostle John then witnessed the second part of the mystery of rebirth: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away..." (Rev. 21:1).

God has not abandoned His plan for the world and the people he created to live in it. Just as Jesus told us that we must die to receive his life, in the same way, the heavens and this earth must die. That will make way for the new beginning, the rebirth of God's creation and the people made in his image, in their final, eternal form. We *and* the heavens and the earth will have been truly "reborn."

You have the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. He is working in you right now to encourage and strengthen you to do what the Lord wants you to do. You will receive an eternal, everlasting reward with

Jesus and your brothers and sisters in God's New
Heaven and New Earth!

Further Thoughts

1) Am I a Target?

If the U.S. is Babylon the Great, and the opening of the seals foretell the attack and destruction of Babylon—that means that the U.S. is the main target and will probably be destroyed. This, for American Christians, is a very sobering thought because, admit it: we thought we were the center of God's attention! It also means that American Christians (and very possibly Christians in Europe and the northern hemisphere) won't be around for the rest of the events of Revelation. But then the Bible wasn't written just for you in the American or European Church. It's for Christians of every country and every era. It will be just as important for them to learn the lessons, see where they are in God's plan, and do the work that he's called them to do. And here's a thought: your help to missionaries in the far corners of the earth may still be bearing fruit when you are gone, and the rest of the world is in ruins.

2) MAD

The 1st seal, that starts with the destruction of the United States, will not be a one-sided event. While the U.S. has limited ability to defend itself against attack, it would still have time to strike back. In the early 1960's as the Cold War was heating up, the U.S. and the Soviet Union both adopted the "defensive" doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction—MAD. This

said that an aggressor would be insane—mad—to launch a first-strike nuclear attack, because the nuclear response would be instantaneous and massive, before the aggressor's nukes would arrive. So the destruction of the country that started the war would be guaranteed. And with a nuclear war involving the U.S., American and allied (NATO) nuclear equipped bases in European and Asian countries would also be targeted. This would assure the same devastation and death in Europe and Asia as in the U.S.

Mutually Assured Destruction—which would contribute substantially to "1/4 of mankind dying."

3) A Conqueror from Today

As I write this, Russia's Putin is continuing his attack against Ukraine. I was watching news reports and commentary and one of the speakers used a word that caught my attention (and made me wonder why I hadn't thought of it before.) She spoke of Putin's attempt to "conquer" Ukraine.

I thought, "There it is. The conquering spirit." This may not be the conflict that catches the rest of the world on fire, but it portends more to come. What's also interesting, is that this is the first attempt by a major world military power to conquer a neighbor since the end of World War II, eighty years ago.

President Trump's focus was always on "Making America Great Again." The plan to achieve this required creating world peace and making the

U.S. even more dominant in world trade and finances. That's why the Ukraine war needed to be stopped, and all the other "conquerors" to give up their plans for conquest.

And that, in my opinion, is what will complete the creation of Babylon the Great and the circumstances that will eventually lead to her destruction.

4) City or Country?

I made the point that, when Revelation tells us that Babylon the Great is completely destroyed in one hour, that we are to take that literally. So...why am I saying that the repeated reference to the "city of Babylon" doesn't mean a city, but really the "country" of the U.S.?

Well, the presence of the U.S. in what appears to be the end times certainly fits but what if by "city", it really does refer only to a city? If so, and we stick with the America scenario, which I think is correct, then maybe "city" refers to New York or Washington D.C. If that's true and either of those cities are destroyed in one hour, then it's no great leap of logic to think that war—nuclear war—will break out in response to that attack. So it still works.

5) God's Witnesses from the Beginning to the End

With the removal of the rest of the world's Christians during the earthquake of the 6th Seal, God has left 144,000 Jewish believers as his final witnesses. I don't think this means that they will be

the only Jews left in the world, just the believing Jews. Throughout the Bible, we see God showing the perfect completeness of his design and here it is again: God's covenant plan of man's salvation began with Abraham and ends with 144,000 Hebrews from the twelve tribes. They will be present for the rest of the events—God's judgments—but they won't suffer like the rest of mankind. They will understand parts of Revelation better than we can because it was written for them, and they will actually be experiencing it. For them also, Revelation has been written for their comfort, and I think that the two witnesses in Rev. 11: 3-14 will be the last of God's people on earth. Then it's "lights out."

6) "But I Thought Babylon Was..."

I should probably address some of the other theories about the opening of the seals and Babylon the Great. I won't ("can't"—see the next point) get deep into those because my purpose in this book is to share what the Lord has shown me from his Word, not to give a thorough study on what others have thought and written.

Christians at different times in history, including today, have seen their own experiences as the end-times, and have "identified" Babylon or the anti-Christ in their world. We feel deep sympathy for the persecuted churches when believers were tortured, starved, burned at the stake or cast into dark dungeons until they died. To them, it looked like the end of everything and surely, they prayed for deliverance and the soon return of Christ. While their

lives and deaths at the hands of the ungodly showed the evil that has always tried to destroy God's people and creation, the conditions that would point to the time of the Lamb opening the seals weren't present.

One common opinion is that the Roman Catholic Church is the Babylon that John the apostle witnessed in Revelation. I don't think that works for all the reasons I listed about America/Babylon. The world doesn't trade with Rome (and Rome has no seaport of its own), and the Pope exerts no influence on world leaders. He is mostly a moral force which leaders will listen to—if it's to their advantage.

7) ORGANIZE!

There is a large group of Christians who believe that the church is called to change the laws and morals of society and to create a semblance of God's righteousness in our world.

Then, there's an equally large group that thinks that is a waste of time, and that the church should be solely devoted to sharing the Gospel.

This book is not an attempt to sway readers one way or the other. I personally believe that if God has given some of His people the vision and desire to work in the political arena, then, God bless them! *"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."* (Ecclesiastes 9:10) That includes politics, and we should be very careful to not judge what other Christians feel is God's calling on their lives.

By the same token, if Christians have the burden to take the Good News to the lost, wherever they may be, then God bless them! We are the Body of Christ, and there are many, many functions in the Body, and no two are exactly alike. We are called to "plant and water" in the area of life where God has put us. He's responsible for the increase.

8) And About the Rest...

As you may have noticed, this is not an exhaustive academic or theological survey of Revelation, and I haven't tried to answer every question. I go back to my introduction: I am only sharing what I believe the Lord has shown me, and have tried to stay away from thoughts that can't be defended logically or, more importantly, scripturally. I think that the only Bible prophecies that have been fully and literally fulfilled are those the Psalms, Isaiah, Zechariah and others declare about Jesus. We read those prophecies and can point to the events that actually happened and are recorded. With most other prophecies, there are always some grey areas that can be interpreted one way or the other, with no clear or obvious application. We need to accept that we, "see through a glass darkly" (1Cor.13:12 KJV) and can't expect to have the perfect interpretation of everything. So, we work with what the Lord has chosen, in his wisdom, to show us and warn us about.

9) Is This You?

It's possible that you see yourself as a Christian but now realize that it's only been a superficial

experience. You haven't lived as a disciple. Or you are very conscious that you have never made any commitment to God and Jesus. In either case, you're on the outside and in great danger of eternal separation from God and everything that is good. That will be a fate horrible beyond words.

It doesn't have to happen. God has provided a way, a "supernatural" way, to save you from that fate. Someone has stepped in front of you and declared that he will accept the punishment that you are due because of your separation from God, and for the sins you have committed. And that someone? It is Jesus and it works, because he was never separated from God, and never sinned. So the guiltless has stepped in for the guilty and has received their punishment so that they can be set free. Jesus died for you so that you can be set free. So how do you "get" free, and what happens when you are free?

Belief—faith. Do you believe what the Bible tells us about Jesus? Do you *want* to believe it? Faith seems like such an intangible thing; how does it work? It's not complicated, though not always easy. I would describe faith as important and natural as the air we breathe. Your relationship with God/Jesus can start now, if you will ask Him to help your faith. God loves you and He wants you to come to Him. He is willing to help you, because He doesn't want you to die, but have eternal life with Him. All you have to do is ask. If you don't get an immediate response, keep asking until you do. God is there and he will answer at the right time.

Then, in faith, pray this simple prayer: "God, I've lived my life without you and I have sinned. (Go ahead and confess what you've done to the Lord. He already knows, but you need to know that you have shared these things with God.) I ask you to forgive me of my sins. Jesus, please remove my sinful nature, and send your Holy Spirit to come and live in me."

Now, become a disciple of Jesus. Read the Bible and do what it says, especially the New Testament. Talk to Jesus about what you've read and what you think and do. Find other Christians who are also disciples.

And really, the best is yet to come.

Suggested Reading

1) The Book of Revelation; Matthew: Chapters 24 & 25
(with prayer!)

2) *The End of Everything* by Victor Davis Hanson
(Basic Books 2024)

Review from H.R.McMaster

"In recent years, we have witnessed man's inhumanity toward man that many thought had been consigned to the distant past. In *The End of Everything*, Hanson tells compelling and harrowing stories of how great civilizations perished. He helps us consider contemporary affairs in light of that history, think about the unthinkable, and recognize the urgency of trying to prevent our own demise."

Victor Davis Hanson is a senior fellow in military history and classics at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and a professor emeritus of classics at California State University, Fresno.

3) *Nuclear War--A Scenario* by Annie Jacobsen
(Penguin Random House LLC 2024)

What if the terribly unthinkable were to happen? Annie Jacobsen "has looked deep into the heart of the nuclear military establishment: the technologies, the safeguards, the plans and the risks."

Based on interviews with dozens of high ranking military and civilian leaders and nuclear scientists,

Ms. Jacobsen lays out a sober picture of an America which has been attacked and destroyed in a nuclear holocaust. She has done excellent, deep research and it's believable.

Annie Jacobsen is an award-winning author and Pulitzer Prize finalist in history. Her books have been named Best of the Year and Most Anticipated by outlets like the Washington Post, USA Today, The Boston Globe, Amazon, etc.

4) *Seven Gray Swans* by Chuck Bentley (Crown Financial Ministries, Inc. 2020)

A gray swan is a potential danger that you shouldn't ignore. While the possibility may appear slight, if/when it does happen, it could shake the world to its core. This booklet does a Biblical analysis of seven key trends such as democratic socialism, social scoring, biometric ID's, etc. and what you can do to recognize a gray swan event and prepare for it.

Chuck Bentley is the CEO of Crown Financial Ministries, a global Christian organization focused on helping individuals and families apply Bible based principals in dealing with their finances. He is the founder and executive director of the Christian Economic Forum, a global community of Christian leaders who are dedicated to advancing God inspired solutions to the world's challenges.

5) *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn (Tyndale House, 2004)

Randy has put together a thorough and well researched book about what the Old and New Testaments reveal about the home that God has planned for those who follow Jesus. It is very encouraging to clearly see that the end of this present world is only the beginning of the life that God promised us.

Randy has also produced a shorter devotional, based on Heaven, titled, "*50 Days of Heaven.*"

About the Author



Marc Allan brings a long held interest to the subjects he addresses in "Wars and Rumors of Wars." Fascinated with history and current events, he has always looked for links between today's happenings and the past actions of countries, leaders and the people they govern.

Focusing on Political Science, History and Foreign Languages during a brief college career, he decided that "doing was better than studying," so after two years, he volunteered for the military draft. Orders sending him to Viet Nam were changed at the last minute to West Berlin and after serving in the

shadow of the Berlin Wall, he was discharged honorably.

That was 1973, and as God's Spirit was sweeping through the land, Marc was caught up in the Jesus People Revival. With thousands of other new believers, he learned to become a disciple through a group called, *Gospel Outreach of Humboldt County* (California). As missionaries, Marc and his wife, Linda, moved to West Germany and spent the next twelve years helping to build two churches, teaching and training young Christians in discipleship and in self-supporting businesses. Since then, Marc has traveled to thirty-three different countries, both in ministry and business. Marc and Linda have three grown children and live in Seabeck, Washington.

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