

Beginning With The End In Mind

What Do I Really Need To Know?

What do I really need to know?

- Do you know about blogging?
- Do you know the health risks of being overweight?
- Do you know what to do in case of fire?
- Do you know about God's Word?

The New Testament writers were either an eyewitness of Jesus or was an interviewer of eyewitnesses. Three writers that were Jesus' disciples—**Matthew, John, and Peter**.

- **New Testament:** over **24,000 handwritten copies or portions** of the New Testament have been found.
 - All of these manuscripts are copies or portions written **within 35 to 160 years after the originals**. One recent portion of a manuscript of the **Gospel of Matthew (the Magdalen text)** is considered to have been written in about **A.D. 50—a mere 17 years after the crucifixion** of Christ.
 - **Other ancient books:**
 - The **second most accumulated ancient manuscripts** are from **Homer's *Iliad***, for which there are **643 manuscript copies**
 - **Most ancient documents** have **fewer than 25 existing copies**.
 - The first account of **Buddha's** life was **written 700 years** after his death.
 - The earliest copy of **Caesar's works** is **950 years** after being written
 - The earliest available copy of **Plato's works** is dated **1250 years** after the original.
- **Old Testament:** An important observation about the accuracy of biblical prophecy is that there are over **2,000 accurately fulfilled predictions** in the Bible including over **200 specific details about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ**.
 - **Isaiah 53** describes the life of **Christ 700 years before** he walked in Jerusalem
 - **Micah 5:2** gives a prophecy of where Jesus' birth would be
 - **Over 25,000 sites** have now been **discovered** that pertain to the Bible. As Nelson Glueck, renowned Jewish archaeologist said, "It may be stated categorically that **no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.**"
- Throughout the Old Testament there are no prophetic failures.
- **Do you know what to know?**
- We all have **word association:** Let me say a word, "**Holocaust**", society and probably everyone here has a mental picture of what that word means. If I say, "Day of the Lord", there could be many who do not have a clear picture of what that means. But the biblical definition of that word is just as significant and powerful as the Holocaust.

- **Three Key Statements In This Chapter**
 1. **Destruction/Perish- 3X's**
 2. **The Day, Day of the Lord, Day of God- 3X's**
 3. **Destruction- 3X's**

“By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

II Peter 3:7

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

II Peter 3:9

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”

II Peter 3:10

What Do I Really Need To Know?

1. Know What To Know

“But the day of the Lord will come...”

II Peter 3:10a

The **Day of the Lord** will have a surprise arrival, sudden, unexpected, and disastrous to the unprepared. The phrase "**day of the LORD**" is found in 24 verses: Isaiah 3X's, Ezekiel 2X's, Joel 5X's, Amos 2X's, Obadiah 1X, Zephaniah 1X, Malachi 1X, Acts 1X, I Corinthians 1X, I & II Thessalonians 3X's, II Peter 2X's.

The biblical phrase “the day of the Lord” was a popular phrase among OT prophets in pointing out future events or eras. It was a common statement which signified that God would visit judgment on Israel and the world.

Prophet Joel

The prophet Joel talks about **two events** that will come **before the day of the Lord**:

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Joel 2:28-29

1. A pouring out of God's Spirit on all people: (Joel 2:28-29)

- Sons and daughters will **prophesy**
- Old men will dream **dreams**
- Young men will see **visions**
- On servants and men and women

*"I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood **before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.**"*

Joel 2:30-31

2. **God will show wonders:** (Joel 2:30-31)

- **In the heavens**
 - The sun will be turned to darkness
 - The moon to blood
- **On the earth**
 - Blood and fire and billows of smoke

Peter's Explanation

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.."

II Peter 3:10

- **"Thief" (kleptes)** (Mt24:42,43; Lu12:39; 1Th5:2; Rev3:3; 16:15) One who steals. Webster: A thief steals when you are not expecting him, suddenly without notice he strikes. A thief comes and aims to come when no one expects him.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."

II Peter 3:10

Know that in the Day of the Lord three things will happen:

1. **The heavens will disappear with a roar-**

- What does he mean by the **heavens**? The physical, visible universe, the sky with all the things that are in it. Here Peter indicates that the whole universe will pass away.
- **"With a roar" (rhoizedon)** to make a whizzing or whistling noise, perhaps like the whistling of the wind in a storm. This could be considered an onomatopoeia (sound of the word is imitative of the sound of the noise or action designated, such as hiss, buzz)

2. **The elements will be destroyed by fire-**

- **"Elements" (stocheia)** Something orderly in arrangement like material things, substances that constitute matter, the basic elements that make up chemical composition of the universe, such as the atoms. All of these will be dissolved.
- **"Will be destroyed" (luo)** loose, release, dissolve. This word means to set free what is bound and possibly here pictures the world being set free from the corruption that exists because of sin (Romans 8:21).
- **"With intense heat" (kausoo)** denotes a violent consuming heat. This was medical term Greek physicians used to describe the burning heat of fever. Here **kausoo** describes how the destruction of the universe will occur -- it will be with intense, furious heat, beyond anything we can

imagine...all going up in flames one day in the future!

3. **The earth and everything in it will be laid bare-**

- The "**works**" (**ergon**) of men and their achievements will be burned up or laid bare in this present world.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Matthew 24:35

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

Revelation 21:1

2. **Know What To Be**

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?"

II Peter 3:11a

- **Destroyed** (3089) (**luo**) literally means to untie or loose from ropes or straps (after Lazarus had returned to life, Jesus instructed them to release him)
 - Peter uses luo three times in three verses describing the end of the old heavens and earth.

Peter asks a great question, the bottom line question:

"What kind of people ought you to be?"

- **Example: When I was raising my children**, Carol and I developed restaurant rules so they would know how I expected them to be. It was simple rules that our girls would have to follow so we could have a peaceful time together and so would all those around us. We would rehearse them two or three times before we ever went in any restaurant:
 - Eat all your food
 - Don't talk with your mouth full
 - Ask to be excused from the table
 - Do not talk loud
 - Never run

Peter answers that question with passage statements:

"You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."

II Peter 3:11b-12a

The Living Bible conveys the idea:

"And so since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives we should be living!" "How astoundingly excellent you ought to be!"

II Peter 3:11b-12a (LB)

Example: I really like Krispy Cream Donuts. I love to go in when the "free donut" light is on and get my free donut and buy some extras. I watch them come off of the conveyor belt and I want them so bad. My first free donut really has my attention, I'm

hooked and I want more. And I eat more. And after a few minutes, the sugar rush has gone to depression and I'm left with a half of pound of bread doe in my gut. And I question myself, "Why did you do that!"

That's what sin is. We look at it and it looks so good. We start off with just one bite and then we find out we bought a whole dozen and have finished the box, sitting, wondering, "why did I do that?"

I like Dr. Dee Rupp's statement, "You become what you behold."

*"Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.**"*

I Peter 2:11

How Do You Abstain From Sinful Desires? Stop looking forward to them and start looking forward to the Day of God!

What do I really need to know?

1. Know What To Know
2. Know What To Be

- **Through Reflective Living: Be Holy and Godly**
 - **Holy-** (40) (**hagios**) **Purity Before God:** to set apart, sanctified, consecrated. A life of practicing holiness.
 - **Godly- Godliness** (2150) (**eusebeia** from **eu** = good + **sebomai** = worship) **A Christian's actions toward men.** It literally means "good worship". It is a person who seeks to do only what is pleasing to God. A saint. **Holy conduct** refers to godly action.
- **Revelatory Looking: Be Excited Instead of Dread**
 - **Look Forward To The Day Of The Lord**
 - **Looking** (4328) (**prosdokao** from **prós** = unto, toward, for + **dokáo** = look for)
 - **The present tense of prosdokao calls for this to be a continual expectant looking, to give thought to something that is viewed as lying in the future. "expecting", "look eagerly for", "waiting for", "live expecting".**

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth

For I am God, and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:22

"Seek the LORD while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near."

Isaiah 55:6

- The Gk. Word found in 1Cor 16:22 is Maranatha is Lord come quickly with great expectation.
- **What you are looking at will reflect on what you are doing.** How you live down here determines whether or not you are really looking for the Lord to come or you are looking at something else.
- **III. One stupid decision can cost you,** sometimes your whole life. What you refuse to turn your eyes from, you will eventually

worship.

- It is not as much a sin issue as it is a son issue.
- C.S. Lewis: No one ever goes to heaven deservedly and no one ever goes to heaven unwillingly.
- In reality, people who end up in hell will be those who refused repeatedly the grace of God that urged them to LOOK TO THE DAY OF GOD, and in essence established their own way. A way Solomon says that seems right to them.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
Proverbs 14:12

*Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.*
Psalm 25:4-5

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.
Revelation 20:11

What do I really need to know?

1. Know What To Know

- **the Day of the Lord**
 - The heavens will disappear with a roar
 - The elements will be destroyed by fire
 - The earth and everything in it will be laid bare

2. Know What To Be

- **Through Reflective Living: Be Holy and Godly**
- **Through Revelatory Looking: Be Excited Instead of Dread**

“You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

II Peter 3:11b-12a

● **Through Responsible Laboring: Be A Part of The Solution**

- **Speed His Return**
- **Hastening** (4692) (**speudo**) can have two meanings, both work here. One conveys the idea of making something happen, quickly and the other is the idea the obtaining of one thing by special effort of another, holy lives encourage people to give their hearts to Christ which eventually brings Christ back to this world.
 - **Acts 1:7** teaches that **God is control of the times and seasons**
 - **Mark 13:22** says that **God knows the hour of the Son's return.**
 - **But can we have any influence on Christ's return?** We can by fulfilling basically two pre-conditions of Christ's return:
 - **The preaching of the gospel to all the nations (Mk 13:10)**
 - **The repentance of the full number of the Gentiles who must come in before the end (Romans 11:25)**

- Peter believes that lives filled with holiness and godliness will fulfill these conditions to encourage the Day of God."

**"You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."
II Peter 3:11b-12a**

- **Coming** (3952) (**parousia**) means not just the coming but conveys more of a sense of the presence of this glorious day.
 - **Christ's Coming:** We have been longing for over 4000 years to enter new heavens and new earth in the presence of God. Everywhere you find "parousia", you also find that it emphasizes a personal bodily presence of Jesus Christ. **Parousia then is not the presence of an event or of a place but the presence of a Person.**

What do I really need to know?

1. **Know What To Know: the Day of the Lord**
2. **Know What To Be**
 - **Through Reflective Living: Be Holy and Godly**
 - **Through Revelatory Looking: Be Excited Instead of Dread**
 - **Through Responsible Laboring: Be A Part of The Solution**
3. **Know What To See**

**"That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."
II Peter 3:12b-13**

- **LOOK BEYOND THE DESTRUCTION TO SEE THE PROMISE- THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH**
- **That day, the day of the Lord,** will not be the result of any of our causes, our nuclear weapons or human cause. This day will be a day divine and final judgment on this earth by God. It is the work of God...Man's day is over. That's why it's the **day of God**.
- **Destruction:** Review of II Peter 3:10
- **Promise** (1862) (**epaggelma**) is a declaration to do something, to carry out what is stated and here it represents God's Word to bring into being a new heavens and a new earth.
- **Know that what one is "looking" for should have a direct relationship to what one is "living" for.**

David's Prophecy in Psalm 102:25-26

**"In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded."
Psalm 102:25-26**

Isaiah's Prophecy in Isaiah 65:17

"Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

Isaiah 65:17

"As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure."

Isaiah 66:22

- **I Am Looking Forward To...Looking for** (4328) (**prosdokao**) is used in 2Peter 3:12,13, 14. The message Peter is attempting to get into our heads is that we should look for the Lord's coming with great excitement and expectation.

What do I really need to know?

1. **Know What To Know: the Day of the Lord**
2. **Know What To Be**
3. **Know What To See**

4. **Know What To Do**

*"So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.**"*

II Peter 3:14

- **So then/Therefore** (**dio**) Apostles always link the truth about faith with conduct with *dio*, therefore.
- **Look** (4328) (**prosdokao**) This word is used in the preceding two verses to emphasize in earnest, expectant **looking** that motivates us to make the pure and righteous life choices in a world gone wild.
- **Make every effort/Be diligent** (4704) (**spoudazo**) do something immediately with intense effort. Do your greatest work in life pleasing God as if you were carrying out the greatest mission of a war. Make serving God your business.
 - used only 11 times in the NT and three uses are in this short epistle
- **To be found** (2147) (**heurisko**) (Lu 2:29; 12:43; 1 Co 1:8; 15:58; Php 1:10; 1Th 3:13; 5:23) means to find after searching.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

I Thessalonians 5:23

1. **Peace** (**eirene** from **eiro** = to join) pictures the binding or joining together (what is broken or divided). **Peace** implies health, well-being, and prosperity.
2. **Spotless** (784) (**aspilos** from **a** = without + **spílos** = spot) means without blemish or defect (outward condition) and figuratively in a moral sense, pure (inward character). Peter is calling believers to manifest integrity and holiness.
3. **Blameless** (298) (**amometos** from **a** = without + **momáomai** = censure, blame) means irreproachable and describes one who cannot even be be blamed because he is **amomos** (without blemish and free of defect which was a requirement the OT sacrificial animal) and without blame (Philippians 2:15).
 - **Spotless** means my **character. What I really am.**

- **Blameless** is my **reputation**. **What people think I am.**

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”

Revelation 19:7-8

What do I really need to know?

1. **Know What To Know: the *Day of the Lord***
2. **Know What To Be**
3. **Know What To See**
4. **Know What To Do**
5. **Know What To Believe**

*"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them **of these matters**. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which **ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**"*

II Peter 3:15-16

- **Bear in mind/Regard** (2233) (**hegeomai** from **ágo** = to lead) Lead and then lead out before the mind, to consider or to think about and come to a conclusion.
- **Patience** (**makrothumia** from **makrós** = long + **thumos** = temper) describes the ability to endure injuries inflicted by others or the willingness to accept irritating or painful situations.
- **Salvation** (4991) (**soteria**) describes rescue or deliverance from danger, destruction, peril and slavery to and consequences of sin and unto restoration to a former state of safety, health, well being and preservation from danger of destruction.
- **Untaught** (261) (**amathes** amathes from **a** = without + **mantháno** = learn) means those who are unlearned, uninstructed, uneducated or ignorant. It is used in secular Greek writings to describe "**incompetent**" **interpreters**. This word is used only here in the NT.
 - **Amathes** points **not so much to their lack of knowledge as to lack of training, but a mind untrained and undisciplined in habits of thought, lacking in the moral qualities of a balanced judgment.**
- **Unstable** (793) (**asteriktos** asteriktos from **a** = without + **sterizo**= confirm, establish) means unsettled or unsteady, describing those whose habits are not fully trained and established.
- **Distort** (4761) (**strebloo** strebloo from **strephe** = twisted) means to wrench, to torment, to twist or to distort.
 - A **stréble** was a winch, an instrument that produced torture by twisting or pulling one's limbs out of joint. Thus one meaning of the verb **strebloo** was to put to the rack.

John Wesley wrote in the preface of his Standard Sermons: "I am a spirit come from God and returning to God; just hovering over a great gulf; 'til a few

moments hence I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity! I want to know one thing -- the way to heaven ... He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be homo unius libri (a man of one book)." O that we might be a people of the book. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners nor sits in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night (Ps 1). The apostles are united with each other and with the Old Testament in one great inspired book of God. The more you read it the more you will see with the eyes of God."

- **Destruction** (684) (**apoleia**) (see study of related word apollumi) refers not to their "annihilation" as some so-called evangelicals are teaching but in fact specifies the eternal, utter, hopeless loss of well-being and all that gives worth to existence. In context, **apoleia** is the ultimate "destruction"! Some twist the **law** into a way of salvation rather than a revealer of sin while still others make **water baptism** the door to heaven. They do this not only with Paul's writings but with other Scriptures as well. And those who blindly twist the Scriptures do it "**to their own destruction.**"

What do I really need to know?

1. **Know What To Know: the Day of the Lord**
 - The heavens will disappear with a roar
 - The elements will be destroyed by fire
 - The earth and everything in it will be laid bare
2. **Know What To Be**
 - Through Reflective Living: Be Holy and Godly
 - Through Revelatory Looking: Be Excited Instead of Dread
 - Through Responsible Laboring: Be A Part of The Solution
3. **Know What To See**
 - LOOK BEYOND THE DESTRUCTION TO SEE THE PROMISE- THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH
4. **Know What To Do**
 - Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him
5. **Know What To Believe**
 - Don't let ignorant and unstable people distort this truth!
6. **Know What To Guard**

"Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position."

II Peter 3:17

- Don't let lawless/unprincipled men carry you away and fall from your secure position. What you believe sustains you, what you guard establishes you.

- **"Be on guard"** (5442) (**phulasso** from **phulax** = watchman) A military term that denotes the activity or office of a watchman whose job it was "to protect" those who are asleep from harm during the night and prevent loss or theft.
- **"Be carried away"** (4879) (**sunapago** from **sun** = together + **apágo** = lead or carry away by a thing) means literally to carry away together with and is used mostly in a bad sense meaning to be **led astray or be seduced**.
- **"Unprincipled"** (113) (**athesmos** from **a** = without + **thesmós** = law, custom referring not to a law enacted by lawmakers but that which became prevalent by custom and was expected to be observed as if law) refusing to be subjected to legal requirements and thus refers to men who are lawless, unruly, unprincipled, not complying with law.
- **"Fall"** (**ekpipto** from **ek** = from + **pípto** = to fall.) depicts an act of falling away from or out of a desired position and into a less desired position or condition (cf Gal5:4).

- **Preterism**

A theory that argues all Bible prophecy has been fulfilled; it states that nothing remains on the prophetic calendar. According to preterism, events like the rise of the Antichrist, the tribulation, the rapture, and the Day of the Lord all took place around 70 AD, the year the Romans invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the second Temple.

As in many cases, pride is one of the most common reasons people begin following doctrinal error. **They believe that they are part of a special group that has discovered a hidden truth, (Deception to their own destruction).**

The heart of this error is based on Jesus' statement that **"this generation shall not pass, till all things be fulfilled"** (Mat 24:34). It seems easy enough to claim Jesus was speaking about a first-century generation; however, logic ends there when one contemplates the fulfillment of all Bible prophecy.

In order to make 70 AD the magic year, we would have to delete dozens of prophecies that were never fulfilled.

- When was the Gospel preached to all the nations?
- When was the Mark of the Beast implemented?
- What about China's 200-million-man army?
- When did 100-pound hailstones fall from the sky?
- What date was it when the Euphrates River dried up?
- Why did we have the rebirth of Israel? Why has it now returned to that status?
- They say that although the "resurrection" happened in 70 AD, the bodies of Christians were left in the grave.

Preterists take the dangerous step of spiritualizing all passages of Scripture that relate to the nation of Israel, and claim that these refer to the church, the "New Israel." They teach that the "old earth," which Scripture says will pass away, is the Old Covenant. The new heaven and new earth, they say, is the New Covenant, and the "elements," which Scripture says will burn with fervent heat when this happens, are the "elements of the law." (www.contenderministries.org/articles/likeathief.php)

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."



SIX SIGNS GIVEN BY JESUS TO INDICATE HIS COMING AND THE END OF THE AGE

In Matthew 24:3 Jesus was asked, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus told his apostles to look for the following signs prior to his second coming and the end of the age.

1. FALSE PROPHETS AND CHRISTS

- Matthew 24:5 *"For many will come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and will mislead many."*
- Matthew 24:11 *"And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many."*
- In the last several years many have claimed to be the Messiah. Jim Jones and David Koresh are examples of these false christs as well as countless others who are not as newsworthy. These false prophets are a prelude to the ultimate false christ, the antichrist. Many New Age groups, some even NGO's working for the United Nations, are anxiously awaiting the antichrist, preparing the way for his acceptance as the head of the hierarchy of gods and the one who will usher in world peace.

2. WARS

- Matthew 24:6 *"And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end."*
- Rumors of wars in all areas of the world now occur frequently thanks to instant media coverage and the availability of a multitude of 24-hour news sources.
- Matthew 24:7 *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes."*
- More people have been killed in warfare in this century than at any other time in history. As the death toll rises in the Middle East, more and more countries work feverishly to develop devastating weapons of mass destruction. Add to that the expanding threat of terrorism and unpredictable dictators such as Saddam Hussein, and the potential for the outbreak of war exists in nations, kingdoms and places across the globe.

3. FAMINES

- Matthew 24:7 *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes."*
- As white, Christian farmers are driven out of Zimbabwe in increasing numbers, and

foreigners move in to replace life-sustaining crops with poppies that now supply 25% of the world's drugs, famine spreads across the African continent. The undernourished are not limited to Africa, however. A large portion of the world's 5 billion people suffers from a shortage of food.

4. EARTHQUAKES

- Matthew 24:7 *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes."*
- The number and intensity of earthquakes this century is at a level higher than any other time in history. A staggering number of seismic events occur around the world daily. The earthquake seismic monitor [IRIS](#) shows all major earthquakes for the last year. Indicated by yellow and red circles, the seismic events of the last 15 days provides strong evidence of the fulfillment of Matthew 24:7 in our day. By contrast, in the years from 1890 to 1900 there was only one major earthquake in the world.

5. TRIBULATIONS

- Matthew 24:8-9 *"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of my name."*
- Christians are under attack throughout the world today. In the United States Christians still enjoy freedom to worship God without suffering much more than ridicule, hatred, or discrimination at work and school. However in many other countries such as China, Sudan, Africa, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Russia, and many Muslim nations, Christians suffer much greater persecution and often times death for their faith. During the tribulation this suffering will be worldwide and will continue even to the point of martyrdom. These first 5 signs will increase in intensity and severity as the tribulation approaches, much like the birth pangs or contractions of a pregnant woman worsen as the delivery time approaches.

6. THE GOSPEL WILL BE PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

- Matthew 24:14 *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."*
- This prophecy has already been fulfilled through television, radio, missionaries, the translation of the Bible into many languages, and the Internet. People all over the world now hear the message of Christ from missionaries who have the means to travel the globe, and via technology that allows us to communicate with people on the other side of the world right from our own homes, churches and offices.

ELEVEN FULFILLMENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY REQUIRED FOR THE END OF THE AGE

1. EXISTENCE OF A 200,000,000 MAN ARMY IN THE EAST

- Revelation 9:16 *"And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them."*
- An army of that size had never existed until China's army reached that number in the 1960's.

2. REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (EUROPEAN COMMUNITY)

- Daniel 2:32-33 *"The head of the statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay."*
- Daniel 2:40-43 *"Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have the toughness of iron, and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery."*
- The fourth kingdom of iron is the Roman empire according to Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The two legs are the division of the Roman empire into an eastern portion called the Byzantine empire which ended in the 1400's and a western portion based in Rome which ended in the 400's. The nations of Europe since the Roman empire dissolved have never adhered or formed one empire but continue as separate nations, however, the European Union now has 15 Member States and is preparing for the accession of 13 eastern and southern European countries.

3. RETURN OF THE ONE PURE LANGUAGE, HEBREW, TO ISRAEL

- Zephaniah 3:9 *"For then I will return to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent."*
- Prior to the restoration of Israel in 1948, Hebrew was a dead language. Now Hebrew is spoken throughout Israel.

4. REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE, RESTORATION OF TEMPLE WORSHIP AND ANIMAL SACRIFICES IN JERUSALEM

- For several end time prophecies to be fulfilled, the temple will have to be rebuilt.
- Revelation 11:2 *"Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months."*
- Daniel 9:27 *"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolation, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*
- Daniel 9:26 *"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary."*
- Some archeologists believe that the temple mount is actually 340 feet south of the Dome of the Rock site, putting the Dome of the Rock within the Court of the Gentiles. This may be the court outside the temple that is left out.

There are many groups already working on preparations for the new temple. The blueprints are already done, the temple garments have been made, and there have already been attempts to lay the cornerstone of the temple. The only thing standing in the way of the construction of the new temple is Islam's third holiest site, the Dome of the Rock and government support for such an undertaking. Some possible scenarios for the rebuilding of the temple are as follows:

1. The persuasion and performing of miracles by the Antichrist and False Prophet convinces the Islamic world to approve the rebuilding.
2. The United Nations will negotiate the rebuilding of the temple following a war with the armies from the North (Russia and Islamic forces). This assumes that the war with the armies from the North is not the battle of Armageddon as some feel and that this attack occurs before the rapture or tribulation period begins. The supernatural destruction of the Russian army and Islamic forces will cause an outpouring of Christian worship and zeal amongst the Jewish people who will reconstruct the temple.
3. It is determined that the site of the first two temples is actually south of the Dome of the Rock, and the court of the gentiles (Dome of the Rock) will be left out of the 3rd temple.

A group in Israel called the Temple Mount Faithful have obtained most of the clothing, instruments and other equipment required for temple worship and are actively preparing for the laying of the third temple's cornerstone.

5. APPEARANCE OF THE RED HEIFER AFTER 2000 YEARS

- Numbers 19:2-7 *"This is the statute of the law which the Lord has commanded, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel that they bring you an unblemished red heifer in which is no defect and on which a yoke has never been placed. "You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be brought outside the camp and be slaughtered in his presence. Next Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle some of its blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times. "Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight; its hide and its flesh and its blood, with its refuse, shall be burned. "The priest shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward come into the camp, but the priest shall be unclean until evening."*

A red heifer will be required to be used in the process of purification described in the book of Numbers. In May 1997 the first Red Heifer was born in 2000 years. Another red Heifer was born in Israel in March of 2002.

6. INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE AND TRAVEL

- Daniel 12:4 "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."
- Billy Graham was quoted as saying, "ninety percent of all the engineers and scientists who have ever lived are alive today." Air travel, space travel, DNA research and human cloning are all examples of the rapid increase in knowledge in our generation.

7. RETURN OF THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL

- Zephaniah 3:10-11 *"From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings. In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain."*

In 1984, Operation Moses saw the airlift of 15,000 Jews who had already fled to refugee camps in Sudan to escape starvation. In 1991, Operation Solomon flew 20,000 Jews to Israel from Ethiopia itself. A further airlift began in June of 1999, aimed at transporting the last 3,000 members of the Quara Jewish community from northeastern Ethiopia to Israel.

8. THE RISE OF RUSSIA

- Ezekiel 38:2,4,8 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him. I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords. After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them."

In order for some end time events to occur Russia will have to be a strong nation with a strong military.

9. RETURN OF RUSSIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL

- Jeremiah 23:7-8 "Therefore behold, the days are coming declares the Lord, when they will no longer say, as the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt, but as the Lord lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I have driven them. Then they will live on their own soil."

10. TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MARK OF THE BEAST

11. PLANS FOR THE ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

- The United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Criminal Court, UN peacekeeping/police force, numerous UN NGO's, and other agencies are preliminary steps to the formation of a one world government. We now have the communications technology, transportation, and the pro-globalization media necessary to usher in the one world government headed by the Antichrist. The increasing terrorist threat and the middle east conflict will only speed up the formation of this governing body as fear and promises of better security make more people willing to give up their national sovereignty for global governance.

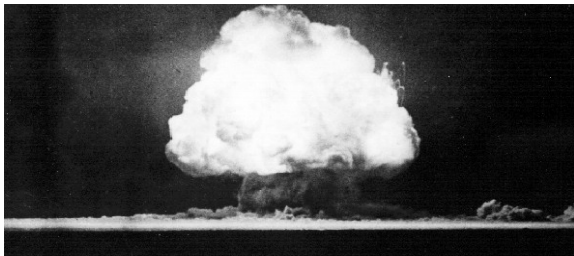
12. INSTANT COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

- Revelation 11:3, 7-10 *"And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophecy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth."*
- Television and the 24-hour news networks make it possible for people around the world to see the dead prophets and rejoice at their deaths.
- Luke 21:28 *"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*
- Luke 21:32 *"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place."*

(Prophetic Signs that we are in the End Times, Jennifer Rast, Contender Ministries)

- A few years ago, Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani—a man considered "moderate" by the standards of the Iranian regime—boasted that "a single atomic bomb has the power to completely destroy Israel." **In case you don't think they're serious, Iran's religious establishment recently released a fatwa sanctioning the use of nuclear weapons.** (**Capitalism Magazine**, Time to Fight the Real War, by Robert W. Tracinski, April 16, 2006)
- Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has challenged the reality of the Holocaust and said that Israel must be "wiped off the map." Bush and others in the White House view him as a potential Adolf Hitler, a former senior intelligence official said. "That's the name they're using. They say, 'Will Iran get a strategic weapon and threaten another world war?'"

A government consultant with close ties to the civilian leadership in the Pentagon said that Bush was "absolutely convinced that Iran is going to get the bomb" if it is not stopped. He said that the President believes that he must do "what no Democrat or Republican, if elected in the future, would have the courage to do," and "that saving Iran is going to be his legacy." (The New Yorker, Annals of National Security, by Seymore M. Hersh, *The Iran Plans*, 4-17-06)



The U.S., Russia, China, France and Britain possess missiles capable of delivering a nuclear warhead thousands of miles away. Emerging nuclear states such as North Korea, India and Pakistan have shorter range missiles.



Al-Zawahiri urges attacks on Israel

Thursday 27 July 2006, 14:31 Makka Time, 11:31 GMT

Al-Qaeda's deputy leader has urged Muslims to attack Israel and its allies over the violence in the Middle East.



In a taped message broadcast on Aljazeera, Ayman al-Zawahiri said al-Qaeda would not stand by while "these [Israeli] shells burn our brothers" in Lebanon and Gaza. He called on Muslims to join forces and fight what he called the "Zionist-crusader war" against Muslim nations.

"Oh Muslims everywhere, I call on you to fight and become martyrs in the war against the Zionists and the crusaders," the Egyptian born former doctor said. "The war with Israel does not depend on ceasefires... It is a jihad for God's sake and will last until religion prevails ... from Spain to Iraq," al-Zawahiri said.