

Beginning With The End In Mind

“Why Should I Care?” Part 3

Last Week We Discussed Why Peter Wrote This Chapter:

“Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.”

II Peter 3:1

Last Week We Discussed Who Peter Wrote This Chapter To:

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as our...”

II Peter 1:1

Intro: Squirrel

- End Times: “Why should I care?”

Why people haven't cared because:

- Turn or Burn: .
- Controversy:
 - IF it will happen.
 - The controversy of **WHEN** it will happen
- Bad Teaching or No Teaching:

Why Should I Care?

1. Because The Word Of God Commands Us To

What Does Peter Want Us To Do?

*“I want you to **recall** the words spoken in the past by the **holy prophets, (OT), and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles, (NT).**”*

II Peter 3:2

- I recommend “The Middle East in Bible Prophecy”, (www.gnmagazine.org; www.cbn.com;))

Old Testament Prophets:

- Daniel: 600 years before Christ more than 2500 years ago God revealed to the prophet Daniel. It would have been impossible for Daniel to have understood the astounding changes that would lead up to today's complex Middle East situation.

See, even a century ago no one could have understood many of the prophecies of Daniel and others relating to this part of the world because the Ottoman Empire ruled over the places now occupied by the chief adversaries in the Middle-east conflict, namely Israel and the Arab world.

Ottoman Empire History: (www.allaboutturkey.com/selcuk.htm)

- **Muhammed** was born in Mecca in about 570 AD. He preached that there is only one God and that he, Muhammed, was God's messenger.
- **Muslims** are those that accept him as God's Messenger, which means "one who submits to God."
- **The Koran** (Kuran, Qur'an) is the Islamic Bible, believed to be an exact record of the words revealed by God through the Angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammed.
- Basically Mongolian and Turkish nomadic tribes converted to Islam during the eighth and ninth centuries. By the tenth century, one of the Turkish tribes, the **Seljuk**, settled down and became significant power in the Islamic world.
- **Other Turkish groups** remained nomadic and pursued the **gazi**, well trained and highly skilled warriors who fought to conquer the infidel. The **Seljuk** Turks struck a bargain directing them the **Byzantine Empire & Anatolia**.
- **The Byzantine Empire** is also known as the Eastern Roman Empire, southern and eastern Europe, the Middle East, and northern Africa.
- **Anatolia** is a broad peninsula that lies between the Black and Mediterranean seas. Called **Asia Minor (Lesser Asia)** by the Romans, the land is the Asian part of modern Turkey
- The tribe known as the **Ottomans** arose from one of the smaller emirates established in **northwestern Anatolia** after 1071. These Turks subsequently established an empire in Anatolia and southeastern Europe which lasted until the twentieth century. There were **crusades** mounted by the Europeans against the Ottomans in 1366, 1396, and 1444, but to no avail. The Ottomans continued to conquer new territories.
- **Sultans** were rewarded for their loyalty with grants of newly acquired land.

Muslim World Today

For almost 2,000 years there was no Jewish nation in the Middle East. Without the restoration of the Jews to their homeland, end-time prophecy would be impossible.

- The restoration of the **Jewish state in 1948**
- In the **1970's and 1980's** there was a mass exodus of Russian Jews out of Communist Russia. In 1999 the Associated Press reported a dramatic increase in the number of Jewish immigrants from Russia, bringing the largest number of Russian Jews to Israel since the early 1990's.
- Just as the modern states of Israel didn't exist a century ago, neither did Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

The Ummah: Arab world unite, only in the last 50 years have they even been independent of foreign control and have continued to pursue the dream

- In **1952 revolution in Egypt**, President Nasser was the inspiration for Arab unity.
- Recently **Iraq's Saddam Hussein** picked up where President Nasser left off.

- The dream of the **Ummah, the united Arab world**, countries like **Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan**, and even participants from **India** (with the **second-largest Muslim population in the world, after Indonesia**, though most of its citizens are Hindus, would rise against the United States and Israel.

Three Messiah's

- **The Christians claim Jesus Christ as their coming King**
- **The Jews believe the Messiah is coming**
- **Muslim believe in the Mahdi, or the 12th Imam.**
 - **The Mahdi or he 12th Imam** is supposed to be a **descendant of the Prophet Mohammed** who mysteriously **vanished at the age of 9 in the middle of the 9th century** with a promise that **he would return and bring Islam to its total fruition, as the world's last standing religion**. No one knows what he really looks like.
 - **Self proclaimed Islamic messiah, the mahdi** (“divinely guided one”) by the name of **Muhammad Ahmed Ibn el Sayed (1844-1885)** from Sudan who **intended to unite the Muslims and defeat the infidels but failed**.
 - **Osama bin Laden** became the spiritual **successor. Where ever you go in the Islamic world, Bin Laden is the peoples' hero, giving them hope of a final triumph**.
 - **Osama bin Laden and his followers desired to bring down the two superpowers of our era. Soviet Union, which dissolved in 1991- After the fall of the Soviet Union, six new Islamic nations came into existence. The second world power is the United States.**
 - **July 28, 2006 a CBN report** covered the story of **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**, the president of Iran. **He has become the most devout believer and supporter of the Mahdi. He has stated that his mandate is to pave the way for the coming of this Islamic messiah! Just before ending a speech at the United Nations in September 2006 he prayed,**

“Oh mighty lord, I pray to you to hasten the emergence of your last repository, the promised one, that perfect and pure human being, the one that will fill this world with justice and peace.”



The president of Iran is tied to a radical Islamic society that believes man can hasten the appearance of the Mahdi by creating chaos in the world. The Shiite Muslim belief, the Madhi's second coming will be marked by apocalyptic times and Ahmadinejad believes he's the one to make it happen. Wars, famines, and floods will ravage the Earth- followed by Judgment Day and a battle between good and evil. (www.worldnetdaily.com, Corsi begins 'Prophecy Tour')

JamKaran: Thousands come from across Iran to pray

Oddly enough, there is also the belief that when the Mahdi comes back, he will be accompanied by Jesus Christ, who is referred to as the prophet Isa. The Mahdi will take Jesus to Mecca where he will teach Jesus to pray, and at that time Jesus will then replace the Gospel with the Koran, and then all the Christians- wherever you are on the face of the Earth, will convert to Islam because Islam will be deemed the one lasting pure religion.

"Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end"
Daniel 12:9

Old Testament Prophecies

- In **Daniel 11:1-40** is an accurate, **detailed account of what will happen to the people of Israel.**
 - **Verse 40: Describes the "time of the end"**
- **Zechariah: (Zech. 12 & 14)** Tells us that Jerusalem and Judah will be at the **center of world conflict**

New Testament Apostle:

- **Revelation 9:13-16-** tells us when the **sixth trumpet**, (second woe) **200-million-man army** will be released to **"kill a third of mankind"**. **China**, with its population of **1.3 billion**, Muslim followers estimated at 1.3 Billion.
- **Revelation 13:11-** A **religious leader** is described as having **"two horns like a lamb"** but who **speaks "like a dragon"**. We know that Jesus Christ is the true Lamb of God (John 1:29,36; Revelation 5:8-9; 19:7-9), but this religious leader apparently will claim to be a Christian or will have the support of deceived Christians, but he is really of Satan or is Satan, described as, **"the dragon who...deceives the whole world"** (Revelation 12:9)
- **Revelation 13 also talks about Angels On Assignment:** The Bible says that God will send **angels** proclaiming to people not to take the **mark of the beast**.

"And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name."

Revelation 13:16-17

Example: NEW YORK (Reuters) A recent article, (March? 2006) explained how computer chip implants have now been developed and are being utilized in Canada.



"Amal Graafstra, a 29-year-old entrepreneur based in Vancouver, Canada, opens his front door and logs onto his computer with a wave of his hand. Tiny radio frequency identification (RFID) computer chips inserted into Graafstra's hands make it all possible.

May 10, 2006, three members of a family in Florida became the first people to

receive the biochip implant in the United States. The computer chips, which cost about \$2, interact with a device installed in computers and other electronics. The chips are activated when they come within 3 inches of a so-called reader, which scans the data on the chips. The "reader" devices are available for as little as \$50. The radio frequency identification computer chip, (RFID), is smaller than a grain of rice and can last up to 100 years, can be injected by any surgeon. Tattoo artists and veterinarians also could insert the chips into people. (<http://tagged.kaos.gen.nz/>)

- This is an incredible time. **There will be thousands upon thousands who will not take the mark and will trust their future to God. But also during this time there will be those who will still not believe.** With all the incredible evidence, they will refuse to trust on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Revelation 16:14-16: "Armageddon".** About **55 miles north of Jerusalem and 15 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea.**

- **North Korea:** The world is rushing toward incredible opportunities and tragedy. Recently Tony Karon did a story for **Time Magazine**, it stated that the world is on the brink of a nuclear end. (Feb. 12, 2005), "North Korea has unexpectedly declared itself a nuclear state — although the fact that they have made the announcement verbally rather than through the more traditional route of actually testing a bomb leaves room for a measure of skepticism over just how nuclear they are."



- **The New York Times:** Recently had an article which was titled, "Who Scares The Rest?"

"Maybe North Korea is preparing to make the ground shake to prove that it's 50 year quest to acquire a nuclear arsenal has succeeded. Or maybe Kim Jong Il, son of the countries founder, is just playing with the rest of the worlds heads, either way, North Korea demonstrates the truth of the second nuclear age. The political power of atomic weapons no longer rest on the size of your stockpile, which was the measure during the cold war, instead it is linked to your ability to convince the world you might just be crazy enough to use, sell or detonate whatever you've got. For these purposes a dozen weapons are as good as 5,200, the current, yet shrinking size of America's operational arsenal."

- **A Great Mountain Burning:** Some of the descriptions found in the Book of Revelation talk about **global destruction** that will happen **during the tribulation period**, you can read about a **great mountain burning with fire and a third part of the sea becoming blood.**
- **Babylon is rebuilt and then destroyed in one hour** and the kings of the earth stand at a distance for fear of her torment. Are these descriptions the descriptions of **nuclear warfare?** And is the fear of fall out the fear of radiation? We really don't know that fact, but what we do know, according to the Word of God there will be a war on the scale that our world has never seen.

OT And NT Link up: Revelations 17- John parallels with Daniel in that another **super power** will arise at the end of this age. Just as Daniel saw various beasts that represented the powers to come, so the apostle John saw a vision of another beast that would dominate the world at the very time of the end.

- Both Speak of an End Time Events
- Both Speak of a literal re-establishment of Israel and organized Middle East
- Both Speak of Super Powers that will develop
- Both Speak of a restored European alignment that Rome first achieved more than 2,000 years ago. Today it appears that the European Union is in the beginning stages of it's formulation, this prophecy is being fulfilled.
- Both Speak of a Messiah's Return and establishment of His Kingdom on this Earth. (Daniel 7; Revelation 17:9-14)

Why Should I Care?

1. **Because The Word Of God Commands Us To**
2. **Because Through It All, Many Will Still Be Saved**

Many Will Be Saved: During this time, through God's grace He will still call people to come into His Kingdom, to come into His relationship. **Millions and Millions of people will come to the Lord during the tribulation period.**

- **Many will believe right after the rapture of the church.** They will know that they missed the opportunity to have faith in God and miss the chaos that will reek havoc on the world.
- **144,000:** During the tribulation period God will raise up **144,000 Jewish** converts who will go throughout the world proclaiming the gospel, evangelizing
- **Two Witnesses:** Will have a global ministry and will be telecast throughout the world. **Those two witnesses seem to be Moses and Elijah, possibly Enoch.** Whoever they are they are **killed by the anti-Christ, laid in the street of Jerusalem** and the Bible says that all **the world is watching**. That would have never been possible until **satellite technology**.
 - Any time a world event happens today there is immediate breaking news with cameras and pictures being taken no matter where you go in the world. There are no camera or production crew shortages in Jerusalem. All of a sudden, CBS, CNN and Fox network are filming these two men laying in the streets and right before their eyes, right before the worlds eyes, the Bible says, these two men will come back to life, God resurrects them death and they ascend into heaven. People will believe after that.

"First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

II Peter 3:3-4

Why Should I Care?

We can take on the attitude that God work it all out in His own way and in His own time?

Aren't there more important issues to discuss about in the Bible?" These are good questions, and every believer should be able to answer them. The return of Christ is often a doctrine that is misunderstood or simply ignored. Here are some points to consider when asking "Why should I Care?":

1. Because The Word Of God Commands Us To

2. Because Through It All, Many Will Still Be Saved

3. Because It Will Be Public and Well Known

"So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather."

Matthew 24:26-28

When Jesus came the first time they cried "Hosanna" wanting him to overthrow the rule of Rome. They did not understand that He was coming to die for the sin of the world. **But now He is coming again, very loudly to establish His Kingdom on earth.**

Scoffers

There are many people today that **ignore the fact that approximately 25% of Scripture is prophetic or predictive in nature.** Why should I care to study the entire truth of God's word? If we ignore prophecy, we are ignoring an important part of God's word. We should study "the whole counsel of God."

"But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed."

II Peter 3:5-6

The Things That Will Go One: Miracles?

- The **Two Prophets** will have the **power to call down fire from heaven and stop the rain and bring it back again.** Wouldn't that be convincing? **But people will not still believe, why?**
- **Because conversion, or the belief on the Lord Jesus Christ is not based upon the observation of a miracle and your believe there is a higher power, though it helps, but conversion is when the Gospel is proclaimed and one puts their faith in the Word of God. It is not enough to believe on a higher power. According to the Word of God, you must believe and confess His Word and Gospel.**
- **People will see the miraculous and power of God and will still not put their faith in God through His son Jesus Christ. Why?**

"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

John 3:19

Why People Say They Don't Believe

1. Bible is full of contradiction:
2. Too many hypocrites in the church:
3. I believe that all religions lead to God:

John 3:19 tells us why they don't believe, they love darkness!

"Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

John 3:20-21

Why Should I Care?

1. **Because The Word Of God Commands Us To**
 2. **Because Through It All, Many Will Still Be Saved**
 3. **Because It Will Be Public and Well Known**
 4. **Because It Is For All Who Believe**
- **Revelation 19:11-16-** The heavens open and a white horse appears ...

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war."

Revelation 19:11

"His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God."

Revelation 19:12-13

"The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:14-16

They don't realize that the only peace that will cover the whole world is when Jesus Christ comes back.

- **In the rapture He comes for His church and in His second coming he come with his church.**
- **In the rapture He comes before Judgment and when He comes again He comes with Judgment.**
- **In the rapture he will come as a thief in the night and in His second coming everyone will see Him.**
- **Christ comes on a white horse, Rev. 19, The antichrist comes on a white horse in Rev. 6**
 - **When the antichrist comes he takes peace from the earth and he wears a crown.**

- **When Christ returns the second time he brings peace to the earth and wears many crowns.**
- **He's Called the Faithful and True Witness**
- **God is faithful with His promises!**

Think of all the things man has done for peace:

- Peace movements
- Peace marches
- Awards for peace
- Wars for peace
- Arrest people for disturbing the peace
- REAL PEACE comes when Christ repossess what is rightfully His! Under New Management.

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4. **Because It Is For All Who Believe**
5. **Because We Will All Stand Before Him**

"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. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened."

Revelation 20:11-12

"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

Conclusion:

- **Review Your Heart**
- **Get Things Right**
- **Make Every Effort To Communicate With Others**