

# HOPE LOOKS UP BIBLE STUDY

## DO CURRENT EVENTS MATCH BIBLICAL PROPHECIES ?

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*As Believers, it is very important for us to take a measure of what is happening in our world today and see how that matches prophetic history. God has promised that He would not leave His people ignorant of what is to happen; but that still requires us to search the Bible and apply the current events of today to what the Bible has predicted. This study will do just that, and access scripturally if the current events of our life match what the Bible says will happen.*

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By *Dr. Thomas Haney*

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*Hope Looks Up Ministries*  
*HopeLooksUp.org*

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## DO CURRENT EVENTS MATCH BIBLE PROPHECIES ?

### Introduction:

Welcome to Hope Looks Up Bible Study. The 2023 Winter Session of the Hope Looks Up Bible Study, was a 10-week study on “**Do Current Events Match Biblical Prophecies,**” and was held In-Person, on Zoom and on YouTube. This document is a compilation of Dr. Haney’s detailed notes for all 10 weeks of the study.

For years I would teach a series every summer on “**Bible Prophecies Fulfilled this Past Year**” and this is a form of that series as we look at 2022 current events and Biblical prophecies. We will look at ten areas of current events and see how they compare to what the Bible has prophesied would happen. We will begin by asking, “How does climate change and, therefore, a need for climate control and ending global warming match the prophecies of the Bible.

### Lesson # 1: How Does Climate Control Match Bible Prophecy

Global warming and climate change are not mentioned in the Bible using those two specific phrases, but God has a lot to say about His earth; His providence; and His desire for humans to treat the earth with respect and dignity. Global warming has become a huge discussion point and area of dispute in our modern-day. Many people debate whether it is happening or not. I will make some references to that question; but the bigger prophetic question to me is: “What does God say about Climate Control and His Destiny for the Heavens and the Earth?”

Several Bible scholars feel that **II Peter 3:10** shows that God will use climate control in the last days. The Scripture says:

#### **II Peter 3:10**

*“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 done it will be laid bare.”*

From this, it can be concluded that the climate will get hotter and hotter until it results in the fiery destruction of the earth. The only problem with that logic is that the passage in Peter is speaking about what God has done and what He will do so **II Peter 3:5-7** contains a much clearer direction to answer the question that we are asking. It says,

#### **II Peter 3:5-7**

*“But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s words the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of the water and by the water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”*

God destroyed an ungodly and unwilling to repent civilization by something that I think was brand new. We never in the Bible see God using a different way of watering His earth, until after the flood, than how He watered the earth in the time of the Garden of Eden.

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### *Genesis 2:5-6*

*“Now the shrub had not yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.”*

Like many other creationists, I believe that rain was not ever seen until the great flood in the days of Noah that destroyed the earth and drowned all oxygen breathing life that was not on the boat with Noah. So, before the great flood of God destroyed the earth, there could not have been higher and higher floods and larger and larger amounts of rainfall; for most likely the earth had never experienced either until after the flood. It is not wise to speculate that the earth must get hotter and hotter until it bursts into flames and destroys the earth. This fire cleansing is something that the Lord will do and it could be through war, or through nuclear war, or even through global warming or any other means that the Divine hand of God would have to cleanse the earth with fire. I believe that it will be immediately after the final battles on this earth and before God is ready to set-up the New Heaven and the New Earth. I think this is part of the process of God creating an earth able to support eternal life.

### **What is the difference between Climate Change and Global Warming?**

NASA defines **Climate Change** as: “Climate Change encompasses global warming, but refers to the broader range of changes that are happening to our planet, including rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers, accelerating ice melt in Greenland, Antarctica and the Arctic, and shifts in flower/plant blooming times.”

NASA also defines **Global Warming** as: “The long-term heating of the Earth’s climate system observed since the pre-industrial period between 1850 and 1900 due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in the Earth’s atmosphere.”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration primarily is given the job of the space program of the United States and they said that Climate Change is a variety of items including the deeds of humans that affect the temperature of the earth and the result is the earth is warming and that Global Warming is a phenomenon created by humans.

Without a doubt all-natural calamities are a product of man’s sin. The original creation was perfect and God pronounced it “Good” or we would say, ‘without fault’. Natural calamities were a condition that God placed on creation in response to the sin of mankind and they will only be remedied when Jesus returns to set-up His 1,000-year kingdom and then and only then will all-natural calamities be back under control. Today we hear that each major snowstorm, each wind gust deviation past the average, each flood, each hurricane, each tornado, each above normal heat wave or below normal cold front has been caused by Global Warming that has produced Climate Change.

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It is happening, yes, but what is the prophetic significance of global warming? It is vastly exaggerated and is not as simple as most climate changers would suggest. Jack Kinsella, wrote in the Omega Letter, “96% of the greenhouse gasses and other so-called global warming emissions originate naturally from the oceans that cover Five-Sixths of the earth’s surface. So, he concludes, “That leaves only 4% to divide up between human activity, volcanoes, rotting vegetables, cow flatulence, etc.” He estimates that the human portion of that 4% is 14% and 14% of 4% is 0.29%. So, the way our world is stopping global warming would only affect less than 1/3 of 1% of all global warming emissions.

Even many of the advocates of Global Warming have recognized the absurdity of the claim that humans are responsible for all the earth’s warming and over the last few years have shifted the discussion from ‘global warming’ to ‘climate change’. Harold Ambler writing in the Huffington Post wrote: “The term, Climate Change, is a redundancy because the climate has always changed and always will.”

Let me share with you some scientific studies that show the climate periods in world history.

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Warm Roman Optimum   | 200 BC to 400 AD   |
| 2. Cold Dark Ages       | 400 AD to 900 AD   |
| 3. Warm Medieval Period | 900 AD to 1300 AD  |
| 4. Little Ice Age       | 1300 AD to 1850 AD |
| 5. Modern Warm Age      | 1850 AD to 2023 AD |

I quote from the New Yorker, March 25, 2019, in an article written by John Lanchester. I do not agree with his dating but it shows that even the world of science realizes the earth is not constant in the area of climate: “A world entirely covered with ice, from pole to pole, the so-called snowball earth, is something we find hard to get our heads around, even though the longest and oldest period of total or near-total glaciation, the Huronian glaciation lasted for millions of years. A world without ice is also hard to visualize, though it is by comparison a much more recent phenomenon. There was a time when crocodiles swam in a freshwater area we know as the North Pole, and palm trees grew in Antarctica. The reality is that our planet oscillates between phases with no ice, phases with all ice, and phases in the middle. The middle is where we happen to be right now, a fact that is responsible for our faulty perception of the earth’s climate as accommodating and stable.” I quote what he wrote about the last major disruption of the earth with climate change, it was the time of the Little Ice Age where temperatures dropped by as much as two degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. This may not sound like much but for the people who lived through it the change was extremely dramatic. It was the period between the end of the Middle Ages and the birth of the modern world. In a new book, “Nature’s Mutiny: How the Little Ice Age of the Long Seventeenth Century Transformed the West and Shaped the Present,” the German born Vienna-based historian Philipp Blom argues that this is not coincidence, that there is a complex relationship between the social, economic, and intellectual disruption caused by the changed climate and the emerging era of

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markets, exploration, and intellectual freedom which constituted the beginning of the Enlightenment. We know for sure that the earth became cooler; the evidence can be found through a variety of techniques for assessing historical temperatures, such as the study of ice cones and tree rings. There are also extensive written accounts of the cold in the forms of letters and diaries, sermons, the records of wine growers, and other agricultural producers. In fact, the final cold drop of 1570 that lasted for 110 years changed the world. The most disruptive change was the disruption of the grain harvest all over the world. It would be 180 years before the grain harvests reached the amount produced before the 1570 cold drop that lasted until 1680; in other words, it would be 1760 AD before the grain harvests reached the yearly grain output of 1570.

### **Why has Climate Change Become such an Issue in Our Time, if it has been the Pattern of History?**

A history of 10,000 years for evangelical Christians and a history of billions of years for non-believing scientists? We may be looking in the wrong places. Perhaps it is not climate change after all, we realize the Bible never gives climate change or any thoughts connected with it much press in the Bible; perhaps mankind has been the reason that it has become such a focal point of planet preservation at this time.

The Bible does say that the End-Times will bring a host of scoffers:

#### **Scoffers - II Peter 3:3-4**

*“Above 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 ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”*

#### **False Prophets and Teachers - II Peter 2:1-2**

*“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies even denying the sovereign Lord, who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.”*

#### **Many Antichrists - I John 2:18-19**

*“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we will know it is the last hour. They went from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”*

#### **Deceivers who Teach that Jesus did not Come in the Flesh - II John 7**

*“I say this because many deceivers who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.”*

#### **False Prophets and False Spirits - I John 4:1**

*“Dear friends, do not accept every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

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### *Teachers Who Say What People Want to Hear - II Timothy 4:3-4*

*“For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”*

I would remind us of the great goal of humanism: “It is a system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters.” Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems. What greater way to show that humanists are right than taking something that the world has believed for centuries, that Divine hands direct the weather and control the climate, and instead declare that mankind can tame the weather and control it from deviating out of the normal ranges. The solution the humanists will say is not God or prayer but the solution is that mankind needs to take certain actions and then the climate and weather will become normal again.

### **Should Global Warming Matter to Believers?**

Yes, we are responsible for the management of the earth and all that it contains. When I was a young man, we would look at pictures of the Holy Land in our Sunday School classes and it was often of shepherds, usually Bedouin shepherds with small flocks, tufts of grass and vast areas of desolate desert. Any pictures of the Holy Land mountains in the 1950’s when I was a child in Sunday School, showed bleak, stark rock mountains with no trees or plants. It was very hard to see how the Old Testament description of this land as a land flowing with milk and honey could be accurate. But after Israel has become a free nation in 1948, the conservation practices of that nation have produced: a reforestation of the mountains, even I have paid for several trees to be planted on the mountains of Israel; the best aquifer system of irrigation in the world that brings fruit, vegetables, and flowers to all the countries of Europe and the Middle East; and a land that again is flowing with milk and honey. God intends for His people to conserve and thoughtfully cultivate and land.

A study of climate control teaches us we need to trust the focus God puts on the End Times. The Bible focuses on several principles that God outlined in Genesis.

1. **God Values Humans Over the Environment** - God values humans over the environment. It was humans that God told to:

#### ***Genesis 1:26***

*“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

2. **Floods will Never Again Destroy the Earth** - No matter what global warming activists say there will not be massive flooding and a dramatic disruption of the atmosphere. God promised Noah after the destruction of the earth by a massive flood that He would never again destroy the earth by water, **Genesis 9:11-17**, especially verses 15-16.

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### **Genesis 9:15-16**

*"I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*

3. **God Will Never Again Curse the Ground** - God had made another binding covenant or promise with Noah and the earth after Noah had made a great sacrifice to the Lord,

### **Genesis 8: 20-22**

*"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offering on it. The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart— 'Never again will I curse the ground because of humans even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

This last sentence is especially relevant to the theory of global warming and climate change. God's Word states that Earth's atmosphere will continue to function according to God's design as long as the earth remains. This simply means that God has already established a time when the earth will be destroyed, not by water but by a cleansing of fire to remake the earth in newness and eternal perfection.

### **Revelation 21:1-3 NIV**

*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. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."*



## Lesson # 2: Does God Still Use Weather Prophetically?

In this lesson, we address the question: 'Does God Still Use the Weather Prophetically?' It can be answered very easily. "Yes", God still uses weather prophetically and the Old Testament, New Testament and even our Lord Jesus Christ told us that weather would be a strong indicator of the end times.

You might ask, then why have this lesson? The answer is, because we have problems trying to explain the signs of nature to doubtful people. The conceptual problem is that there have always been signs of nature. So, when confronted with the prophesied signs of nature, many people shrug their shoulder and ask, "What else is new? We have always had tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods. After all, if man would just cut back on carbon emissions, these weather disasters would all disappear!"

What they overlook is that Jesus said these signs would be like "birth pangs" **Matthew 24:8**. That means, they will increase in frequency and intensity the closer we get to the Lord's return. And that is exactly what appears to be happening today.

But the bigger problem is to get people to see that the increase of weather disasters is a sign from God and of the coming of the End-Times and that many people have been brainwashed by Western rationalism into believing that for something to exist, you must be able to see it, measure, weigh it and dissect it. This is not the direction of the Bible. The Bible teaches that there is a whole realm of the supernatural that cannot normally be perceived by the senses. This realm includes angels, demons, the operation of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the promises of God and other non-earthly realms.

I had a chance recently to share that with a group I was teaching. We looked at the familiar five Senses: **Sense #1 Sight, Sense #2 Feel, Sense #3 Touch, Sense #4 Hear** and **Sense #5 Smell**, then we referred to:

### **Hebrews 11:1**

*"Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see."*

I said, "I think the Christian has the advantage of two more senses that the non-Christian does not have:

**Sense # 6:** The believer has learned the promises of God and these promises do not always follow what you can study by the five senses.

**Sense # 7:** The believer can act with confidence on every promise God has given.

There is a very distinct advantage in knowing the prophecies and promises of God and letting them direct your life.

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### Bible Teaching Shows How God Uses the Weather

I want to trace some of the teaching of the Bible that show God using weather to publish His message.

#### 1. Super Natural Manifestations & Natural Disasters

God from time to time has intervened in history through supernatural manifestations and natural disaster. God has shown the manifestations of His Shekinah glory often. When Jesus was crucified, the earth experienced three hours of darkness and a major earthquake. The Bible says that when Jesus returns, the world will experience the greatest earthquake in its history. Every island will be moved, valleys will be lifted, mountains will be lowered, and the city of Jerusalem will be lifted up like a jewel and become the highest place on earth.

**Revelation 16:18-21** says:

*“Then there shall come flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake.” No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake, The great city split into three parts and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away, and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.”*

We think Revelation is often covering new ground with its prophecies but almost every prophecy in Revelation has come from one very similar in the Old Testament. God through Isaiah had already said in:

**Isaiah 40:3-5**

*“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

The same passage in all four gospels spoke of John preparing the way for Jesus morally and spiritually; but it also spoke of physically preparing the way of the Lord and says all of nature would be changed to accommodate the new Kingdom of Jesus.

#### 2. Judgement to Call Nations or People to Repentance

But the greatest use of nature is God using weather as a judgment to call nations or people to repentance. Both the Bible and history attest to the fact that God has a pattern of dealing with nations. When a nation rebels against God, He responds first by raising up prophetic voices to call the nation to repentance. These are not necessarily people with

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supernatural knowledge of the future. They simply have the gift of discernment to see where a nation is missing God's mark. They simply know how to apply the Scriptures to current events. If a nation or a person refuses to listen to the prophetic voices, then God will send these judgments. They can take many forms: Deuteronomy 28 mentions several: economic failure, rebellion of youth, an epidemic of divorce, confusion in government, foreign domination, and even military defeat. The chapter also mentions natural disasters like drought, crop failure and pestilence.

### How Does God Handle the Rebellious

The Bible goes further telling us how God handles the rebellious: if a nation digs in against God and sets its jaw against His calls of repentance, it can reach a point of no return. This has often been referred to as "when the wound becomes incurable."

#### ***Nahum 3:19***

*"Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you clap their hands as you fail, for who has not felt your endless cruelty."*

#### ***Jeremiah 30:12-13***

*"This is what the Lord says; 'Your wound is incurable, your injury beyond healing. There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you.'"*

#### ***Micah 1:9***

*"For Samaria's plague is incurable, it has spread to Judah, it has reached the very gate of my people, even to Jerusalem itself."*

The examples are many:

1. God sending the plagues on Egypt in order to convince Pharaoh that he should release the children of Israel from slavery, ***Exodus Chapters 7-11.***
2. King Ahab led the Israelites to worship a pagan God and God raised up Elijah to call them to repent. When they refused, God put a great judgment on the land in the form of a severe three and a half-year drought, ***1 Kings 17, 18.***
3. Joel called the people of Judah to repent and told them if they would not repent, God would send something more severe. They did not repent, and God sent locust on their land. He said if they would not repent, He would send something even worse, they did not repent and an enemy army, the Babylonians conquered them, destroyed the Temple and ransacked all of Jerusalem.
4. Seventy years after the Babylonian captivity was over and a group of Jews had returned to Judah to rebuild the temple, all they did was lay the foundation for a new temple and then quickly lost interest in the project and focused on building houses and businesses. For 14-years the temple foundation stood with no building of the walls. Finally, God

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raised up a tough-talking prophet named Haggai. He told the people some straight facts through a question:

### **Haggai 1:3-6**

*“Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai. Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin? Now this is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it. He said, “God is speaking to you! He is calling you to repent of your misplaced priorities and give attention to the rebuilding of His temple.”*

They did listen, paid attention, repented and obeyed the Word of God and were exceedingly blessed.

## The Nature of God

Let’s look at the Nature of God. God has continued throughout history to use signs of nature to call nations to repentance. I hear people say, “Oh no. God doesn’t do that anymore because this is the ‘Age of Grace.’” I find two problems with that statement:

1. It implies that there was a previous time of no grace. The fact of the matter is that there is only one way of salvation that has ever existed, that is, grace through faith.

### **Joel 2:32**

*“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors, whom the Lord calls.”*

2. The Bible says God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

**Hebrews 13:8** *“the same yesterday, today and forever.”*

There is no such thing as the Old Testament God of wrath and the New Testament God of grace, God does not change.

### **Malachi 3:6**

*“I the Lord do not change. So, you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ‘Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,’ says the Lord Almighty.”*

The supposed God of wrath of the Old Testament spared the city of Nineveh by grace when they responded to the preaching of Jonah, while the New Testament God of grace warned the church at Thyatira, that if it continued to tolerate a false prophetess, He would cast her on a bed of suffering and those who follow her would suffer intensely and unless they repent of their ways, God would strike their children with a great pestilence. Our God is a God of grace, mercy and

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love. But He is also a God of holiness, righteousness and justice. Nahum records both when he writes.

### ***Nahum 1: 2,3,7***

*“The Lord is a jealous and avenging God. . .The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. . .The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”*

Some counter by trying to argue that natural calamities come from Satan and not God. But the Bible teaches that God is sovereign. Satan is not free to do anything he pleases. The Bible says God does not tempt, **James 1:13**; and yet Jesus taught us to pray, *“Lead us not into temptation”*, **Matthew 6:13**. How can these two statements be reconciled? The answer is *“Although Satan is the tempter, he cannot tempt us unless God allows it!”* God is sovereign, and nothing happens that He does not allow, either in His perfect will or His permissive will. That is the reason the Bible attributes all-natural disasters to God.

### **Are Natural Calamities a Product of Man’s Sin**

That leads to one very crucial question: Are all natural calamities a product of man’s sin? Yes, the original creation was perfect, so natural calamities are a product of man’s sin. When Jesus returns, this curse will be lifted, and natural calamities will stop. Which leads to one more crucial question: Do all natural calamities represent a judgment from God? The answer is No, most weather calamities are products of the natural processes of our weather systems.

So, how do we know the difference between a natural disaster caused by a sinful world and when God uses nature as a remedial judgment? Three points will help clarify this for us:

1. The timing of the event as it relates to the sins of the nation.
2. The magnitude of the event reveals whether God is speaking or not because remedial judgments are designed to produce great shock in order to capture people’ attention and force them to think with an eternal perspective.
3. The declaration of those speaking with prophetic voices. The prophets of the Bible would say, *“God is doing this to get you to repent.”* We need to listen to the prophetic voices in America and throughout the world today and see what they are warning the nations to do.

When Jesus told of the End Times, **Luke 21**, **Matthew 24** and **Mark 13**, He provided ten signs that would point to His soon return. He said they would increase like birth pangs; **Matthew 24:8**, meaning they will increase in frequency and intensity and that is exactly what has been happening. The signs of nature included, earthquakes, famine, pestilence, fearful events, i.e. floods, fires, tornados, hurricanes, windstorms, dust storms. Finally, in a final warning to the earth, there will be great signs from the heavens, the sun darkened, the moon becoming dark and the stars falling from the sky. Obviously, the last three have not occurred; but let’s take the other five signs of nature and see if we are in the ‘birth pang’ times.

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Take earthquakes for an example, in the decade of the 1980's there were a total of 1,085 earthquakes worldwide that measured 6.0 or greater in magnitude. In 1990, 1,492; but in the first ten years of this century, the number jumped to 1,591. A study of the monster earthquakes of 8.0 or greater; in the 1980's there were 4; in the 1990's there were 6 and in the first ten years of this century there were 13. There is a much better way to look at natural disasters than to consider them by category, because they vary so much from year to year and also because one type of natural disaster can limit others, such as excessive rain and floods will curtail forest fires. So, when we study all natural disasters grouped together it shows that they are rapidly increasing. There was an average of 300 per year in the 1980's; 490 a year in the 1990's and almost 900 a year in the first ten years of this century. I have taken these statistics from the 2010 study by Ron Fraser, "Why Have Natural Disasters Increased". He did this study for the Borgen Project, a non-profit organization focusing on world poverty and called the increase in natural disasters skyrocketing. It has only increased since that time. The severity and cost of the disasters have been rapidly increasing and 'record disasters are becoming commonplace.'" The Wall Street Journal just last week had an article that said the United States lost over 165 billion dollars in damages to natural disasters during 2022.

But at least our damage could be repaired. In September 2017, a Category 5 Hurricane Irma struck Barbuda, forcing residents to evacuate to the neighboring island of Antigua and rendering Barbuda uninhabitable. Only ten days later, another Category 5 Hurricane struck the island, and it is still not all inhabitable. They pray for their island and other nations of the world that they be spared such a disaster. God has often used such natural disasters to change the way society thinks and to give God more direction and leadership in the lives of people.

A life-giving climate was one of the great gifts that God gave to the earth but we know that weather has been influenced by the sin of mankind. Jesus then says that in the last days the signs of the heavens will be pointing to the increase of natural disasters and the eventual collapse of the support system on the earth. At that time, right before the coming of the Lord the sun will no longer function as it needs to function to preserve life as we know it; the moon will cease to shine, after all it is a reflection of the heat and light of the sun, and the stars will begin to fall from the sky. We can see that the birth pangs have started in nature and are increasing at an alarming rate, but have not reached the final signs which show the very support of climate on earth from the heavens will be altered and changed. No wonder, it says:

### **Matthew 24:30**

*"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth, people who follow some other god than God Jehovah/Jesus, will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."*

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### Hope of Christ's Return

But haven't Christians been longing for Christ's return? Jesus adds great hope because He says:

#### **Luke 21:28**

*"When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*

The Apostle Paul states that Christians are meant to be able to discern the signs that point to Jesus' soon return so they will not be surprised and upset by the return. He wrote:

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 7-9**

*"Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write 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. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober." Paul goes on to define why he is using darkness and light and writes, "For those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

For each of us who know Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are a son or daughter of the light and son or daughter of the day. We can most certainly recognize the signs of the times that Jesus has provided that foretell His return to this earth. We will know that God does continue to use weather prophetically.



## Lesson # 3: Will Pandemics & Plagues Increase in Intensity?

In this lesson I will continue to look at current events to see how they match with Biblical prophecies. This study is: Will Pandemics and Plagues only increase in intensity and how does that match Biblical Prophecy.

Our study of **Matthew 24**; **Mark 13** and **Luke 21** show that of the signs of nature Jesus listed that will be a part of the End-Times, plagues were one of the ones that Jesus listed.

### **Luke 21: 11**

*“There will be great earthquakes, famines, and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.”*

The word translated pestilences encompasses both disease plagues and crop/food plagues. So, Jesus tells us that diseases in the forms of pandemics and plagues will be a sign of the End-Times. Jesus told us that in the last days leading to the End-Times there will be an increase in intensity and frequency of all the signs and pandemics and plagues fit into this category.

In Matthew 24, Jesus lists the ten signs that will increase:

### **Matthew 24:8** *“All these are the beginning of birth pangs.”*

With this winter sending a three-pronged attack on the health of our world: COVID 19; Flu; and RSV we see that the intensity and frequency are obvious. I would say that the signs of the times are so plentiful and obvious that it would be impossible for anyone spiritually adept and trained to not see them. In fact, we might say we should be listening more for sounds now than looking for signs. The signs are here but the sounds, the sound of the command of Jesus, the sound of a trumpet blast and the shout of the archangel will be coming soon.

### **I Thessalonians 4:16**

*“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”*

The sign of plagues and pandemics is just one of the signs, but it is one that captures our attention. Our world, including the United States, was ready to be over the Pandemic two years ago, but it did not just go away. Just this week, two Phoenix Valley hospitals have set-up ER tents to help with the overflow of COVID patients. All you have to do is listen, watch and observe what people are doing and saying and contrast that to the parallel rise in the amount of COVID cases and you realize that what people want and what people are getting are not the same. It is great that we have not had the flu cases that were predicted over the holidays but the RSV cases and the effect that they have had on our children have only increased.

We continue to see posturing on all sides of the question. Conservatives often label anything that a person gets sick from or even dies from as caused by the Coronavirus vaccines, as though the vaccine is more deadly than the virus. Liberals have used the pandemic and its continuing growth to effectively tighten control over areas that were very independent and have moved their humanistic



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agenda along with more government control and more government hand-outs. I'm sure we all remember that the opiate that will finally destroy a democracy is to get a nation that will vote for people to run the country that draw more money out of the government treasury than is put into it.

I for one am tired of the labels and charges and wonder why we do not see more people praying to God in repentance to lift this plague off of our land. We have become very reluctant in the United States to see the sovereignty of God in our lives. When 9/11 decimated our country and showed our vulnerability we had a two-pronged reaction to the event: Churches were full for a few weeks and patriotism rose; but quickly the nation turned to patriotism and the flexing of our military muscles as the way we should react. Three wars later with a host of money, lives, and decimated people, families and countries what do we have; we now have two countries that hate us even more than ever: Iran and Afghanistan and one country that is almost rendered incapable of making any impact in the world at all, Iraq.

But when the Pandemic decimated our peace and security and showed us that our health was in a precarious situation; we turned to man (just trust the science), finger pointing (arguing over almost every government statement) and ended with an economy, Church attendance, GNP and life expectancy rate that is sadly way below anything that was a part of 2019, before the Pandemic.

This week the Wall Street Journal carried a review of a new book written by, Mark Oppenheimer called, "America Forgot the 1918 Flu. Will We also Forget COVID?" He wrote about the fact that bird flu or Spanish Flu decimated the area where his grandparents lived in Philadelphia. His grandparents were children and they still had one living parent in each family. Mr. John Barry wrote almost the only historical book about the Influenza outbreak and called it, "The Great Influenza." He wrote, "The Bureau of Child Hygiene publicly begged for neighbors to take in, at least temporarily, children whose parents were dying or dead. The response was almost nil." Bodies decomposed in their beds, with no one to remove them. But the flu which killed thousands in America was left out of the history books and most of us did not even study anything about the Bird Flu in our American history classes. It was as though the world wanted to focus on the war, WWI, and how that played out in the lives of many powerful leaders and an act of nature was not easy to explain, analyze or understand, so it got ignored. He said something that got my attention, Mr. Oppenheimer wrote, "The War seemed like something mankind could, with diligence, prevent from recurring. Acts of God are, think, more forgettable than our own acts, remember The League of Nations grew out of the ashes of World War I. Even though we can mount a response to pandemics, immunologists working overtime, made great strides in response to the pandemic of 1918-1919, even if they did not have the tools that COVID scientists had a century later. There is an inherent futility in the face of disease. It will always be with us, in a way that, we dare to dream, war and human cruelty might not."

I was reminded, as I read this story, of an incident from my own childhood. My father decided to build his own new farmhouse and found an abandoned farmhouse that he could rent and move his family into while this project was being constructed. The neighborhood farmhouse that we rented, two miles south of where we lived, had an abandoned farmhouse near it. My brother and I walked

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down to it one day to see what was there and stopped when we saw signs nailed to each door and over each window: 'Scarlet Fever-Do not enter.' When you looked through the old dusty windows you could see that the furniture was still in the house and although it had been decades since this happened, no one had wanted to enter the house, tear it down, or even sort through the household belongings. It was as though this house was off the radar since the time the scarlet fever signs had been posted and the occupants had passed. It seemed easier for the community to just ignore the Scarlet Fever Plague that had struck their neighborhood.

Because the entire discussion of pandemics and plagues has become such a political football, the focus on truth has not been the primary goal; but instead, it has become control of the discussion and getting the most votes possible out of the situation.

Let's review the Scriptures: in several places in the Bible, there is mention of plagues, pestilence and pandemics killing people. In **Leviticus 26** when Israel falls into covenant violations, God says,

### **Leviticus 26:25**

*"I will send pestilence among you".*

In **II Chronicles 6**, Solomon says,

### **Chronicles 6:28**

*"If there is pestilence, famine or blight, may God hear from the temple the prayers of the people."*

In the next chapter **Chronicles 7**, God says that if He sends pestilence, the people can pray and humble themselves and it will be gone.

### **II Chronicles 7:13-14**

*"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

In **II Samuel 24:15**, God sends a pestilence that kills 70,000 Israelites because of David's ill-conceived and ego-puffing census. Jesus says there will be plagues in abundance, **Luke 21:11**. Both Ezekiel and Jeremiah speak of God sending plagues, and in **Revelation 6:8**, the 'Pale Ride' kills a fourth of the earth with the sword, famine, and pestilence.

That great Psalm of protection, Psalm 91 says,

### **Psalms 91:5-6 NIV**

*"You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday."*

Did God send this pandemic, and will He send others? Sometimes in the Bible, plagues are directly sent by God for a specific purpose of punishment, **Leviticus 26:25, 36:25**; but other times they just come as **II Chronicles 7:13** shows. They are a part of a world where death has a strong role. We do

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not have a prophetic word one way or the other in the current situation to be dogmatic about the answer to this question.

How should the people of God respond? At a base level, there is the “*God will be with you, even in times of trouble*” approach. Going a little deeper, is the approach, “*Here are the skills you need to navigate this.*” Both are limited because of the collateral damage, such as job loss, economic collapse, or even the collapse of certain industries. For the person grounded in the Bible, and “*rooted and grounded in Christ*”, the next step is clear.

### **Colossians 2:6-7**

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as lord, continue to live our lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

This presupposes some things already built into our lives:

1. First, we know that we all go back to dust in this life or are changed as we fly to Christ.

*Genesis 3:19 “From dust you are, and to dust you shall return”,*

2. Life is uncertain in the best or worst of times.

### **Ecclesiastes 9:2**

*“All share a common destiny, the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not, As it is with the good, so with the sinful, as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them. . .”*

### **Proverbs 16: 9**

*“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”*

When did people first realize that they were in WW I or WW II? No one knew for sure how things would unfold until they happened. The same is true of the COVID Pandemic and other pandemics and plagues of the future. Life is very uncertain.

3. Our days are ordained by God. There is a time to be born and a time to die, and our days are written in God’s Book,

### **Psalms 139:16**

*“Your eyes saw my unformed body, all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”*

4. Christians in other generations lived without anxiety medicine, sleeping aids, antidepressants, health insurance, or a pension. They had to trust God, cling to the Word, and be a part of God’s faithful people. They knew that life was hard and then you died.

So how do we approach this crisis of pandemics, plagues and pestilences? Perhaps a bit like Paul in the dark, dank, wet cell in Colossae; with gratitude he thanked God the gospel was advancing while he was in prison; prayed with thanks; stayed firm in the faith; asked God for more opportunities;

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made the most of his time, and above all lived a Christ-centered, Christ-exalting, Christ-informed life. ***Colossians 1:15-20***

If we believe that God allowed the virus to penetrate our world, then the question becomes why? Our world is a place of adversity and affliction which has caused worldwide panic and fear. God is constantly witnessing our behaviors and our actions as many of us are in a state of rebellion against Him. I believe that God has allowed this calamity to happen as a way of moving His people back to Him and standing on His truth. If part of the reason for COVID being allowed to continue is until America moves back following God and not worshipping at the feet of the intelligentsia and the superiority of mankind over all problems, humanism; then it will just continue. It is difficult for people who worship humanity to see how the solution will not be thought up by the next human who works on the project, whatever that project will be.

As a rebellious nation, we are now, more than ever, needing to hear the Word of God.

### ***Isaiah 30:21-22***

*“And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore. But your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’”*

I love the fact that many have gotten closer to God, renewed their faith and are living a life for Jesus Christ; but I feel the pandemic has also been a major set-back for America. In a nation that has been moving rapidly towards embracing “Humanism” as our national religion. We have made several strides in the wrong direction.

1. The motto that many remember from this crisis is: “Just trust the science.” This is not something to pray about, it is something that man must figure out a solution and implement it. They feel enlightened and that frees them from any belief in God or anything resembling a god. They assert their rejection of any belief in God. This is because they say they are enlightened and that frees them for belief in any God-like deity. Calling themselves humanists, they believe that mankind will elevate its collective conscious power, leading to a utopia without suffering, want or war. They have used the pandemic to further these humanistic goals.
2. This crisis is not wanting God or spiritual people to solve it. Their solution is to let man figure out what needs to be done and implement it.

Since believers are living through this crisis as well, what should we do:

1. We need to follow the direction of the medical field and take precautions through vaccines and boosters.
2. We need to be careful and prudent in avoiding the virus.
3. We need to help those who have it in every way that we can. The early Church ran towards the plagues to help, today the Church seems more intent on running away from giving any help or comfort.

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4. We need to pray and repent of any way we have failed to let God lead our lives and repent for our nation so God and His Word will be put in the proper place in our nation.

God alone can lift this pestilence off the earth.

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### Lesson # 4: Does the Russian-Ukraine War Fit Any Prophecies?

One thing is certain as we study wars and the Bible. Jesus clearly said that the “Rumors of wars and wars themselves” would continue to increase. Our study of **Matthew 24; Mark 13** and **Luke 21** tells us two great end-time items:

1. Wars and rumors of wars (uprisings) will come and be plentiful, but this is not the sign of the true End-Times. Jesus says, *“Do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”* **Luke 21:9b**
2. The true sign will be *“Nations will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.”* **Luke 21:10** Both ethnic and civil wars will become the norm.

We need to see that one other factor about wars is very key in understanding Biblical prophecy about wars: The world will begin to isolate and oppose Israel as the nation of Israel gains prosperity and influence.

1. Arabs will become increasingly hostile, **Ezekiel 35:1-36:7, Psalms 83:3-12**, and the Arab nations surrounding Israel will attack Israel.
2. Russian will become a menacing power to Israel, **Ezekiel 38:1-39:16**.
3. The other nations of the world, Reunified Europe **Daniel 7:8, 24-25** and even the allies of Israel like the United States will take an ever-increasing isolation of Israel as their policy.

These factors will explode in the first great War of Magog (the controlling nation) and Gog (the ruler of that nation and the war effort) as they attack Israel to gain their riches. **Ezekiel 39**.

You might think, I don't see the Ukraine in these passages of Scripture, but you need to realize that all the neighbors of Ukraine are listed as those who oppose Israel: Turkey, Russia, Iran, Bosnia / Albania, as well as several northern African nations, but it is true no areas of the Ukraine are listed in these Biblical lists of nations opposing and fighting Israel.

#### Historical Perspective on Russia, Ukraine and Israel

Let's put a little historical perspective to what is happening now between the three nations of: Russia, Ukraine, and Israel. While Hitler had a very organized extermination of the Jews that was exposed at the end of WW II, a series of extermination camps; Stalin had a very similar organized extermination of the Jews in Russia. Many historians think that Stalin was responsible for at least as many Jewish deaths as Hitler. Although, Stalin never paid a price for his war crimes against the Jews in Russia, he did plant a terrible dislike for Russia among many of the Ukrainians.

The United States was the major source for the first wave of immigrants to Israel, but by the 1990's after the fall of the Soviet Union, the nation of the Ukraine has been the major source of immigrants to Israel. Their number is large and the tie between the two nations is strong. So strong, that the night of the reelection of Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, he received a call of congratulations from Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Jewish president of the Ukraine. President Zelenskyy first congratulated

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Prime Minister Netanyahu on his election and then asked him for military armaments to help in their battle against Russia. Prime Minister Netanyahu in an interview with the New York Times said I told President Zelensky, "I need to form my parliament first, but then I will revisit with my new parliament and the entire Likud (his political party) the feasibility of sending arms to the Ukraine to help in your battle for liberty and freedom."

We have had an almost complete change in the leadership mentality of Israel, and it happened without much discussion in the United States. I feel there are two reasons for that lack of discussion.

1. The rise of the religious right in Israel is the exact opposite of what our American government wanted and therefore to ignore it is to hope it does not gain popularity and empowerment.
2. The rise of antisemitism has made it very unpopular to speak of anything positive about the religious moves and empowering of the religious right-wing of Israel.

### **Rise of the Religious Right in Israel**

I want to look at the first point. This material is edited from six articles in the Wall Street Journal from November 7-December 5, 2022.

First, in an article by Eugene Kontorovich in the Wall Street Journal, he writes: "The victory of Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition has left many on the left bemoaning the end of democracy in Israel." Even before the voting began, Sen. Robert Menendez, (D., NJ) threatened harm to bilateral relations should Israelis vote to the right. The State Department has said it would boycott some right-wing ministers, and President Biden waited almost a week before calling to congratulate Mr. Netanyahu. Yet Secretary of State Antony Blinken apparently had time two days later on a Friday to phone Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who last stood for election (to-a-four-year term) in 2008.

They also fear a rebalancing of the powers of the Israeli parliament. Until now, the Israeli Supreme Court, just like the United States Supreme Court has been able to strike down any and all laws as unconstitutional. Even though Israel does not have a written constitution. They have defined the laws they should strike down as those that are "unreasonable" which means any that the Israeli Supreme Court does not like. The new rule of Netanyahu's coalition will press that a vote of 51% of the Parliament will be able to restore any law that the Court declares unconstitutional.

This change has been dramatic for the Israeli government. The previous government was the most left-wing in a decade and the first to include an Arab party. Yet the Palestinians still refused to negotiate on any of their issues. This will be an entire turn away from the two-state solution that the United States presently seeks. Our government wants to create an independent Palestinian government and separate country.

We need to see one other thing about the caretaker government set-up by the previous prime minister Mr. Lapid. He gave parts of Israel's territorial sea and offshore gas fields to Lebanon, in

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exchange for nothing. This despite traditional limits on the authority of a minority government and an explicit law requiring a Knesset vote and a national referendum. Yet the Biden administration didn't express concern about the violation of the rule of law. It applauded the move.

What makes this new government of Israel so threatening and upsetting to the United States and other countries?

\*They are led primarily by a strong religious coalition of Jewish people. They will be the most far right of all previous Israeli governments. Many of them are ultranationalists, many of whom view the modern state of Israel as God's fulfillment of His biblical promise to return the Jewish people to their land. So, they do not support a two-country solution to the problems of Israel and Palestine; they would have Jews settle in all the land because God has given them all the land. They would further allow their young men to not serve the mandatory time in the army if they were studying Torah for special religious purposes. They would intensify the presence and pressure of Jews upon the disputed holy sites in Jerusalem. The Wall Street Journal says, "The core people who voted for them see maintaining Jewish control of Israel, settling all of the land of Israel and protecting the rights of the Jewish people as essential and core to their Judaism and nationalism." In other words, the exact opposite of what the United States is trying to accomplish in all its peace brokering between Israel and the Palestinians.

### Rise of Antisemitism

Anti-Semitism has made it difficult for almost any positive statements to be made about the rise of the religious right in Israel. This has been heightened by the election of a Far-Right Leader, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and six members of his Jewish Power Party as members of the Knesset, the ruling body in Israel. He has been named by Prime Minister Netanyahu as the head of the Israeli police. Ben-Gvir is opposed to a two-country solution and is very much in favor of Jews settling every part of Israel including all areas of the West Bank. In fact, he and many of his followers have moved to the West Bank and live in it to validate their claim that this land was a part of the Israel that God has restored, and Israel is to be in charge of the entire country and all the land of the nation.

### Wars in Bible Prophecy

Let's let this background take us back to the present war between Russia and the Ukraine and see how that might match any part of Biblical prophecy. The war of **Psalms 83** is a war of Arab nations: Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Negev, Gaza and Lebanon against the nation of Israel. It will be a total defeat of the Arab nations just as the first three Arab Wars against Israel were. It will end with the ruin of the Arab neighbors of Israel, and Israel will be without vicious enemies and will live in relative peace. They will be able to live without the intense amount of protection and self-defense that presently mark the life of Israel. It will seem as if the immediate harm to Israel has passed; but that is wrong for what follows will be the two greatest wars in the Middle East.

They will not rival World War I or World War II in length and destruction but they will seal the deal when it comes to fulfilling Bible prophecy. The first will be the first war of Gog and Magog, recorded



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in **Ezekiel 39**. It will be the attack of three primary nations all spelled out in the start of the prophecy: Magog or the land to the North. Often thought of and often named as Russia. Meshach, often thought of and called Turkey because of the Meshach people coming from that region. The third is Persia or modern-day Iran. It is impossible to ignore the fact that these three nations are forming a closer and closer union. It also is worth noting that all peace efforts and diplomatic efforts between Russia and Ukraine are to be brokered by Turkey and their leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan. This new alliance of these three nations has taken place in the last decade and has become increasingly tight. It has tightened because of the civil war in Syria, another one of the kingdom against kingdom and nation against nation wars.

We know that all these pieces are not put together yet, for the prophecy also calls for Bosnia, (home of the Edomites), Ethiopia and Sudan, (Cush), Libya and Algeria (Put) to be a part of this alliance and we have seen little world political movement for that to happen except that all four African countries have experienced some to severe political instability the last few years, and Bosnia was in one of the worst and bloodiest civil wars of the last century. The battle or war between Russia and Ukraine is a nation against nation or kingdom vs kingdom war also. These two countries have been united in the same country most of the last 100 years. Russian absorbed Ukraine in December 2022 and Ukraine declared their freedom on August 24, 1991. Russian considers this a battle to restore their country and Ukraine considers this an invasion of a free and independent country. The world has followed this argument. Those who favor Russia in the war have often called it a civil war and those who feel Russia is wrong in the war believe that Russia is attacking a country that is sovereign, independent and free.

Although this war is not in any way a prelude to the great Gog and Magog war, it is aligning the countries that will oppose Israel in a tighter and tighter alliance. The interests of Russia, Iran and Turkey are often tied together in our world today and we will look very closely next week at what that means prophetically. Just as importantly, Israel is becoming a religiously run nation for the first time since it was rebirthed in 1948. Israel in 1948 was entirely an atheistic or at least agnostic nation. The people who inhabited it had gone through the great Jewish purges of Europe, Hitler and Europe/Asia; Stalin did not have a faith. They had a strong desire to return to the land of Israel but it was not fueled by faith and a strong belief in God. Now, 75 years later, the conservative religious right of Israel for the first time is in control of the legislature in the land. They do not control all the areas of government leadership and intervention; but they do control the Knesset and the military police of Israel. This will produce many more hard-liners in the negotiations with the Palestinians and in the discussions with all the Arab neighbors of Israel; it will inflame and fuel the great animosity between Iran and Israel; and will drive a wedge between Israel and the United States. We see that the isolation of Israel is rapidly advancing in our time.

### **Is the Russia Ukraine War a Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy?**

I think that it is very misleading to think of this war between Russian and Ukraine as a fulfillment of Bible Prophecy. It is not referred to in any of the wars that are spelled out in Biblical prophecy. But it is causing the alignment of nations to prepare for the Arab-Israel war and the Gog and Magog

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wars to happen. Jesus told us that wars and rumors of war will not be the end. This must be where we are now in the prophetic interpretation of world events; but especially look for nation rising against nation and kingdom rising against kingdom. The civil wars of this world, the ethnic cleansing wars, and the wars over ethnic superiority will lead to the final wars of the End-Times.

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### Lesson # 5: Does the Russian-Ukraine War Shape World Politics Prophetically?

One of the areas that the Bible often makes references to are the many different alliances that have and will happen in the world. It is true that some countries and ethnic groups seem to be battling continuously but often alliances are shaped by the politics of the time. Great events like World Wars, exploration and discoveries of new lands, physical tragedies like earthquakes, hurricanes, volcano eruptions, floods, and often wars have shaped the alliances of the world.

We want to look at what alliances are changing since the Russia-Ukraine war and how does that match Bible prophecy. Now, it is true that you can usually keep your eyes on Jerusalem and the nation of Israel, and you will see what God is unfolding in world prophecy. It is interesting that this war has great impact on Israel and her neighbors. The Bible has told us that Russia will be a menace to Israel in the last days and so will the neighbors of Israel.

#### **Biblical Promises to Israel**

It would be good for us to stop and remember some of the great Biblical promises to Israel.

##### ***Genesis 12:7 Gift of the Land***

*“The Lord appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring, I will give this land. So, he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.’”*

##### ***Genesis 17:7 Everlasting Covenant***

*“ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant, between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you, and I will be their God.!”*

##### ***Psalms 89:34-37 Covenant Continues Forever***

*“I will not violate any covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness, and I will not lie to David, that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; It will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.”*

Many other passages repeat the everlasting covenant God has made with Israel. But in ***Psalms 89*** God says:

##### ***Psalms 89:38-39 Israel Breaks the Covenant***

*“But you have rejected, you have spurned, you have been very angry with your anointed one. You have renounced the covenant with your servant and have defiled his crown in the dust.”*

It tells us that Israel did not keep their end of that covenant. God had to put a correction in the contract, sort of an addendum to the agreement. God would keep His end of the bargain and covenant but Israel would be out of the land for a long period of time because they broke the

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covenant and then as **Jeremiah 16:1-15** tells us, God chastises them as he itemizes the many ways they have rejected and spurned His love and care but had started the passage by saying:

### **Jeremiah 15:19-21**

*“If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me. If you utter worthy words, nor worthless words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. I will make you a wall to this enemy, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you’ declares the Lord. ‘I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”*

Many other passages also say, He would call all of Israel back to Him. Not just the Jews, but also the offspring of all the Ten Northern tribes that were dispersed throughout the world by the Assyrians. That has clearly happened and now we are waiting for God to reveal that next step.

### **Conflicts in Israel Today**

We know that there are daily skirmishes and fights in the area. The Gaza Strip controlled by the Hamas, the militant, terrorist arm of the Palestinians is a constant threat and enemy of Israel. It is ironic that Hamas controls Gaza because our United States State Department forced Israel to give the land back to the Palestinians to produce peace. Within a month of Gaza being given back to the Arab leaders of Gaza, boat loads of the Hamas sailed down to Gaza from the Lebanon/Syria area and took over the nation. It has been a daily barrage of shooting, killing, mines, and missiles since that happened. Israel has even built a fortified wall to separate the two areas. The rise in power of religious extremists in Iran has made that relationship with Israel also very precarious. There have been bombings, missile attacks, and drone espionage that has only heightened over the last few years. When Hamas left Lebanon the invasions and excursions into Israel have subsided somewhat in that Northern region, but it is still not a problem free border. It is still patrolled and manned by thousands of Israeli soldiers every day.

### **United States Seeks Two-Country Solution**

In the meantime, almost every Israel/United States meeting is an effort on the part of the United States to get Israel to move back to the centerpiece of the Oslo Accords, a two-country solution to the problems between Israel and the Palestinians. The Secretary of State of the United States, Antony Blinken was in Israel last week and in an address in Israel last Tuesday, January 31, 2023 said, “Our two countries share a commitment to combat Iran, but we also want Israel to avoid taking steps that would complicate a two-state solution with the Palestinians. He went onto say, “Both Israelis and Palestinians should be ‘enjoying equal measures of freedom, security, opportunity, justice and dignity.’” He then laid it on the line as he told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, “Our peace process is one that should result in an independent Palestinians state alongside Israel, anything that moves us away from that vision is, in our judgment detrimental to Israel’s long-time security and its long-term identity as a Jewish and democratic state.”

## **DO CURRENT EVENTS MATCH BIBLE PROPHECIES ?**

This meeting between the United States Secretary of State and the Prime Minister of Israel comes at a time when the Palestinian Authority and the Israelis have almost quit cooperating on any activities. This meeting was the first since Mr. Netanyahu formed his new government considered the most right-wing and religious in Israel's history. Powerful members of Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet oppose a Palestinian state, support entering the West Bank and want to dissolve the Palestinian Authority.

The peace process that began in 1993 with the signing of the Oslo-Accords, and which many believed would end in an independent Palestinian state, has been dormant since 2014. U.S. officials are emphasizing that the longstanding security relationship with Israel doesn't depend on any specific U.S. president or Israeli prime minister. Still, Mr. Blinken and his staff have concerns about Israel besides the violence in the West Bank and Jerusalem; including a proposed judicial overhaul and moves from Israeli's right-wing cabinet members to change the status quo of contested holy sites.

The visit comes as the U. S. and Israel are cooperating efforts to establish ties between Israel and some Arab governments, contain Iran's nuclear program after Mr. Blinken's bid to re-enter the 2015 nuclear deal failed, and support Ukraine during its war with Russia. A war where Russia has gotten the support and aid of Iranian drones. The only thing the two diplomats agreed on in their closing statement was they shared the goal of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

### **Why Care About World Politics if Jesus is Coming Again Soon**

This leads to a question that I have been asked several times the last two weeks as we look at political current events and match those with Bible Prophecy. The question is, 'Why care about the worldly realm of politics if Jesus is coming again soon?' This is a good question, because it goes to the heart of our role in the world as followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us to be "*in the world, but not of the world*", and the political realm seems to reek of worldliness. You might say it is a murky pond.

It is a field where we see both the altruistic self-sacrifice of some and the utter depravity of man in others. Nevertheless, we cannot relegate the sphere of human endeavor to Satan and his minions. The repercussions of decisions made, and policies enacted in the political realm impact every person in a jurisdiction. And so, if we are to be salt and light in this darkening world, we must stay engaged and wield influence in this area. Even as I say that our goal is not to be a mere block or interest group, but to act as conduits of the Holy Spirit wherever He leads us to serve.

It is obvious that Bible prophecy impacts the political realm with forthtelling and foretelling. The ancient prophets often directed their charge to the king in power. Samuel called out and then rejected Saul, Nathan called out David, Jonah preached to Nineveh and the king was led to repent. In the New Testament, John the Baptist called out Herod the Tetrarch, speaking truth to power despite the risk of his own life.

## DO CURRENT EVENTS MATCH BIBLE PROPHECIES ?

Twenty years before he became the Dutch prime minister at the turn of the last century, Abraham Kuyper said, "There's not a square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ, who is Lord overall, does not exclaim, "mine!" If we believe that to be so, and if we believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and empowers the Church so that even "*The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it,*" **Matthew 16:18 KJV**, then our course is clear. Although final fulfillment of the promises of God awaits the return of our Savior-King, we must endeavor to "make His blessings flow, as far as the curse is found", Isaac Watts, From, Joy to the World 1719.

### Why Does Israel Not Stand Up More for Their Rights

The war between Russia and Ukraine has put more pressure of Israel to make all the right decisions. Muslims have no trouble making their intentions regarding Israel known, they want Israelis to die and be gone and they personally want to drive Israel into the sea. Iran who has profited and become more powerful because of the Russian/Ukraine war is a perfect example. We might ask "Why Israel does not see through this and stand up more for their rights."

1. Until now Israel has been led by humanists. Israel has had only one religious believer lead their country before Netanyahu and that was Menachem Begin. All the rest of have been either atheists or agnostics. So, they have had a Humanist worldview, and the essence of that viewpoint is a conviction that people are basically good. The Bible, of course, says otherwise. God's Word teaches that people are born with the flawed sin nature of Adam, and they are basically evil. The prophet Jeremiah said, "*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*" Humanists believe that they can charm and placate their enemies by being nice to them. Such behavior is sometimes effective when the enemy wants something other than your life. But when the enemy's stated purpose is to destroy you, he is not going to be deterred by acts of loving kindness. That's hard for a Humanist to believe. So, the Humanist leaders of Israel, people like Ariel Sharon and Shimon Peres, deceived themselves into believing that if they give in to Arab territorial demands the Arabs will respond by giving in to Israel's demands for recognition and peace. Self-deception is the worst form of deception.
2. A second factor that motivates Israel's suicidal behavior is a deep-seated desire for world acceptance. This is nothing new. In I Samuel 8 we are informed that the Israelites told Samuel that they wanted to replace God and His judges with a man as king of their nation. When he asked why, they replied "So that we may be like all the other nations." (I Samuel 8:20) In the musical, Fiddler on the Roof, the lead character, a Jewish man in Russia, keeps asking God, "Why did you have to choose us? Why not someone else?" He proceeds to bemoan the fact that they are required to dress and eat differently from the people around them. He keeps asking "Why can't we just be like everyone else?" Once again, they are deceived, for the truth is that regardless of what they agree to do, they will never be accepted. Despite the horrors of the Crusades, the Inquisition, and the Holocaust, Israel's leaders continue to believe that one day they will gain international acceptance and approval. Their Humanist mindset prevents them from accepting the

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truth that anti-Semitism is deeply rooted in the human soul because it is a supernatural phenomenon. There are people all over this world who hate Jews even though they have never even met one. That's because Satan has placed anti-Semitism in their hearts. Satan does that because he hates the Jews with a passion. His hatred is motivated by the fact that the Jews are God's Chosen People who gave the world the Bible and the Messiah. Furthermore, God has promised that one day He will bring a great remnant of the Jews to salvation through faith in Jesus. Satan does not want to see this promise fulfilled, and that is one reason he is determined to annihilate the Jews from the earth.

3. The third crucial factor that is shaping Israeli behavior is political pressure from the United States. We have been the only friend that Israel could count on since the state was established in 1948. We have voted to protect them from UN sanctions, and we have supplied them with billions of dollars in military and humanitarian aid. Our friendship has put us in a position to apply great pressure. That pressure began in earnest during the administration of the first President Bush. When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 90's, Israel was flooded with Jewish refugees. Two to three thousand arrived in Israel every day for a year! In one year's time, Israel absorbed a population equivalent to the U.S. absorbing the entire population of France.

Needless to say, since Israel is one of the world's smallest countries, the nation was literally overwhelmed by the flood of refugees. The Israeli leaders turned to the World Bank seeking a loan of \$5 billion dollars. The World Bank said they would provide the loan only if the United States would guarantee it. The Bush Administration responded by laying down the gauntlet to Israel: to get the loan, you must start trading land for peace.

Our nation was the one that literally forced Israel to the negotiating table. We are the ones responsible for imposing upon them the suicidal policy of appeasement. We are the ones who have continued to demand that they give away their heartland in return for a vague and empty promise of 'peace.' The explanation of our hardball tactics is simple: we are driven by our desire to protect our access to Arab oil.

History has proved that a policy of appeasement never produces peace. All it does is whet the appetite of the aggressor. And so, it will be in the Middle East. Israel had hardly withdrawn from Gaza before rockets started falling on Israeli farms in the Negev.

### **What Do Prophecy Teachers Have to Say About the Idea of Land for Peace?**

Gary Frazier of Discovery Ministries in Arlington, Texas says, "What are we thinking by putting unbearable pressure upon Israeli leadership to give away God's covenant land? The Palestinians read this pullout as a victory for terrorism and have so stated. Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar said the pullout from Gaza signifies the 'collapse of Zionism; 'We keep forcing the giving away of land and the Palestinians keep taking Israel piece by piece without ever making a single concession in the interest of peace. When are we going to take Palestinians at their word? Not their word regarding

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peace, but their true word as stated by Zahar, “We do not recognize the State of Israel nor its right to control any of this land.”

Gary Fisher of Lion of Judah Ministries in Franklin, Tennessee says, “God’s wrath is provoked by dividing up His land,”

### **Joel 3:2**

*“I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat” (When we started insisting on the division of God’s land, we started experiencing wave after wave of natural and other disaster, some allowed by God, and others brought on directly by Him.) “There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.”*

Don Perkins from “According to Prophecy Ministry” in Lemon Grove, California says, “My concern for the land for peace program is I felt things would befall America for forcing Israel into deals like this. The Scriptures warn against Man’s efforts to try to force a settlement on that region:

### **Zachariah 12:2-3**

*“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.”*

“I began to cry out to God for mercy on America for our part in this, and then as I dreaded, the unfortunate consequences of our meddling, in the form of hurricane Katrina, hit America’s Gulf Coast. I was amazed at the similarities in the devastation that fell on both groups of people. It was like I was watching the Gaza pull out all over again, but this time it was on American soil.”

Pastor Perkins said this because, the peace accord to give Gaza to the Arabs was signed in 2005, the very week that Ariel Sharon, then prime minister of Israel sent in Jewish troops, to evict the Jewish settlers who refused to move, August 28, 2005 was one day before Katrina smashed into New Orleans and other Gulf Coast cities on August 29, 2005.

## **God in the End-Times Will Not Tolerate All Alliances as Right**

Alliances will come and go throughout the world, but we need to focus on some great promises of God in the End Times to realize that God will not tolerate all alliances as right.

### **Zechariah 12:10**

*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”*

Scripture clearly tells us that Israel will repent of what happened to Jesus and although it will be two thousand years later, they will grieve and ask forgiveness for what was done to Jesus Christ. Not only that, but at that time the entire remnant of Israelites will be saved. We know it is a remnant,



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### **Romans 9:27**

*“Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: ‘Though the number of the Israelites be like the sands of the sea, only a remnant will be saved,’”*

But it is clearly stated that the entire remnant will be saved and go to Heaven:

### **Romans 11:25-27**

*“I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited. Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob, and this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”*

The alliance that we all need to be anxious to be a part of is an alliance with Israel-for God has said He will bless those who bless Abraham and the nation that comes from him.

### **Genesis 12:3**

*“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

## **Lesson # 6: Does the Bible Predict the Russian-Iran-Turkey Alliance?**

One alliance that has formed the last few years is a match to Biblical prophecy and that is the new alliance between, Russian, Iran, and Turkey. We will look first at that alliance and then show what that means to Israel; because all the end-time alliances that are recorded in the Bible center around what is and will happen in Israel.

The Biden administration warned that military ties between Russian and Iran are expanding into “a full-fledged defense partnership,” and said the two nations are considering establishing a joint-production line to provide lethal drones to Russia. This should not surprise Bible Students of prophecy for Rosh (Russia) and Persia (Iran) are linked together in both of the Gog/Magog Wars that will usher in the Tribulation. The US said Friday that it believed Iran is considering selling hundreds of ballistic missiles to Russia, and described the military relationship between the two nations as moving beyond simply Iran’s supplying of drones to Moscow for use in the Ukraine.

The Biden administration announced sanctions against three Russian-based entities it said were at the forefront of the acquisition and use of Iranian drones: The Russian Aerospace Forces, which received the drones; Russian’s 924<sup>th</sup> State Center for Unmanned Aviation, which has sent personnel to train on Iranian drones; and Russian’s Command of the Military Transport Aviation, which was also involved in the transfer of drones from Iran to Russia.

The US is also considering additional steps, such as export controls, to restrict Iran’s access to sensitive technologies. “Russian is offering Iran an unprecedented level of military and technical support that is transforming their relationship to a full-fledged defense partnership,” said John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council. “To be clear; this partnership poses a threat, not just to Ukraine, but to Iran’s neighbors.”

Military and technical information is flowing in both directions between the two countries, and Mr. Kirby said, “The possibility of a joint production line is based on US intelligence,” and declined to elaborate. He went on to say, “We urge Iran to reverse course and not to take these steps.”

Mr. Kirby said Moscow sought to collaborate with Iran on areas such as weapons development and training and may be providing Tehran with helicopters and air-defense systems. He said Iranians pilots trained in Russia during the spring to fly the Sukhoi Su-36, a Russian jet fighter, could indicate that Tehran “may begin receiving aircraft within the next year.”

As part of the US effort to help Ukraine, Mr. Kirby said the Biden administration would be providing Ukraine with an additional security package of \$25 million dollars. “It will provide Ukraine with new capabilities to boost its air defenses and counter the threats that Ukraine is facing from drones,” he said.

Tehran and Moscow have long maintained a wary alliance, a relationship fostered in part by mutual opposition to the US-led world order and fueled by their shared status as the primary sanctioned targets for Washington.

## **DO CURRENT EVENTS MATCH BIBLE PROPHECIES ?**

US officials and analysts say Russian's use of Iranian drones raises the perceived potential threat that Tehran represents to Europe and fears that would likely escalate if Iran were to sell its missiles to Russian for use in Ukraine. Turkey, the Meshuck and Tubal of the Gog and Magog wars, has entered several alliances that all help it align them with the nations that will attack Israel in the last days. They include a new treaty with Iran, trade deals and assistance to Russia and becoming the brokering agent of the Russian/Ukraine war.

### **Is Israel the Most Hated Nation in the World?**

One of the questions that these current events raise: 'Is Israel the most hated nation in the world?' And the answer is yes. God had prophesied that Israel would be hated in the last days, and that she would be the source of extreme action.

#### ***Zechariah 12:1-3***

*"The Lord that stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person declares: "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an unmovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."*

In fulfillment of this prophecy, Israel is, without a doubt, the most hated nation in the world today, as we see decisively.

### **First the Persecution by the United Nations**

A partial listing of condemnations issued by the United Nations Human Rights Council since it was established in 2006, shows that Israel has been condemned 62 times, Syria 17 times, North Korea 8 times, and Iran 5 times. Of the 193 members of the United Nations, only 11 nations have been condemned, representing six percent. Of the 116 resolutions of condemnation, 53% have been aimed at Israel!

Not a one of the following states have received a single condemnation despite the fact that all of them have horrible records of human rights violations—Cuba, China, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Somalia, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Yet Israel has been condemned 62 times.

Or consider a list of terrorist organizations, ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Fatah, Hamas Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad. The only one that has been condemned by the UN Human Rights Council is ISIS, with one condemnation! But Israel has been targeted 62 times.

Israel is a democracy that provides the highest standards of freedom for all its citizens, both Jew and Arab. Yet, Israel is condemned. There is not one Arab country in the world that will allow Jews to be citizens, and there is not one that will allow freedom of religion for Jews and Christians. Yet, it is Israel that is condemned. In contrast, Israel allows Arabs to be citizens and to vote and serve in its parliament. It also provides freedom of speech and religion for both Christians and Muslims. Yet it is Israel that is condemned.

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Women in Arab countries throughout the Middle East are subjected to honor killings and are denied basic rights like voting and privileges like driving an auto, yet the UN Council on the Status of Women wrapped up its most recent meeting in March of 2016 by condemning only one country in the world, Israel, for supposedly violating the rights of Palestinian women! In the same month, the latest session of the United Nations Human Rights Council issued one condemnation each to North Korea, Syria, and Iran; but Israel received 4. That means that 98% of the 193 member states, inhabited by 6.6 billion people, get no mention at all in the resolutions of the UN Human Rights Council. Israel is one of the smallest nations in the world. It is only 300 miles long and 75 miles wide, about the size of the state of New Jersey. Does the United Nations really believe it is the source of all the world's problems.

Anti-Semitism in Europe. Further evidence of the world's hatred of the Jewish people is to be found in the rising waters of anti-Semitism that is currently sweeping Europe and the emigration to Israel that it is provoking. It is a phenomenon that was featured on the cover of Newsweek magazine in August of 2014. Here's how the feature article in US News and World Report put it in April of 2015. "Seventy years after the Holocaust, antisemitism is again flowing more virulent in Europe. From Toulouse to Paris, London to Berlin, Brussels to Copenhagen. Jews are being harassed, assaulted and even killed." According to the Pew Research Center, by 2013, Jews were being harassed in 34 of 45 European countries and anti-Semitic harassment worldwide had reached a seven-year high. Seven times as high as in the 1990's and they doubled in 2014.

The elections to the European Parliament in 2014 showed a surge of support for extreme right-wing Neo-Nazi parties in France, Greece, Hungary, and Germany. The population of Europe today is 742 million and only 1.4 million of those are Jews. That means that Jews constitute only 1/10 of one percent of the population and yet they are the focus of hatred and persecution. And in the process, they are blamed for many of Europe's problems.

### **In a World of Fiction vs. In a World of Fact**

Ron Dermer, the then Israeli Ambassador to the United States delivered a speech in New York sponsored by the Jerusalem Post. He titled the speech, 'Fact or Fiction' and I quote:

- "In a world of fiction, Israeli soldiers are war criminals. In the world of fact, the IDF deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for the efforts its commanders make and the risks its soldiers take to keep Palestinian civilians out of harm's way."
- "In a world of fiction, it is Israel that has an extremist, brutal and bloodthirsty society. In the world of fact, Hamas terrorists rule Gaza and welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem. Palestinian children are educated to hate Jews and Palestinian public squares are named after mass murderers."
- "In a world of fiction, there never was a Temple on the Temple Mount, and the Jewish people are foreign colonialists in the land of Israel. In the world of fact, the Temple of Solomon was built by the son of David 3,000 years ago in Jerusalem, and what the world

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calls the West Bank is the same land Judah and Samaria where the patriarchs of the Jewish people prayed, where our prophets preached and where our kings ruled.

- “In the world of fiction, Iran will seek to reconcile with the United States after the nuclear deal and become a partner for solving the problems throughout the Middle East. In the world of fact, Iran is vowing to remain an enemy of the United States and is wreaking havoc throughout the Middle East.”
- “In a world of fiction, a richer Iran will curb its aggression, end its support for terrorism and stop trying to annihilate Israel. In a world of fact, the Iranians will not be changed by improved wealth but will continue to try to eliminate the nation of Israel.”
- “In a world of fiction, Prime Minister Netanyahu is not prepared to negotiate with President Abbas. In the world of fact, President Abbas has avoided negotiations for the last seven years.
- “In a world of fiction, settlements are the obstacle to peace and Israel is ethnically cleansing the Palestinians. In the world of fact, our conflict predates the building of settlements in post-1967 by 50 years, the Palestinian population in the territories captured in the Six Day War has grown at least threefold, and those who allege ethnic cleansing are those who insist that a future Palestinian be devoid of all Jews.

### **Israel is the Most Remarkable Country on Earth**

It is at times like this, when the world predictably rushes to defame and demonize Israel, that I am proudest to serve Israel. Because despite being the most maligned country on earth, Israel is the most remarkable country on earth.

Not perfect, but remarkable. With a people who are moral and compassionate. With soldiers who are brave and decent. With institutions that are sound and resilient. And with a Prime Minister I know is as determined as ever to secure Israel’s future.

Someone once said that if the story of Israel were submitted as a movie script. It would be rejected for being too fantastic to believe. After all, the restoration of sovereignty in our ancestral homeland after 2,000 years, the return of the exiles of our people from across the globe, the defense of Israel against implacable enemies, and the transformation of Israel from a desert backwater to a global technological power, seems to defy both history and logic.”

### **Will Islam Conquer the World?**

Let me speak to one more Alliance that seems to be strengthening at this time and that is the coalition of Muslim Nations. Which leads to a question, ‘Will Islam conquer the world?’

Islam’s growth rate has risen over 500% over the last 50 years as their birth rate dwarfs the birth rates of all other religions. Today’s 1.5 billion Muslims make up 22% of the world’s population and controls 65 nations. Between the twin strategies of holy war (jihad) and immigration, Muslims are expected to exceed 50% of the world’s population and surpass Christianity as the largest religion by

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the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. By all indications and by every statistic, Islam will indeed conquer the world. Churches will eventually become mosques. Your children will eventually become Muslims or die for refusing. This is the direction the world is plunging towards right now. OR IS IT? I would argue, no. Islam has an end according to the Bible. The Bible foretells us of three prophetic wars that are coming which I believe will absolutely end Islam as a viable religion in the end times.

1. **Psalm 83 War** is the major one of these. This war strikes at the very geographical heart of Islam. It's a war in which Israel will have to deal with its hostile bordering neighbors: Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Jordan, and input from Egypt. Israel and these nations repeatedly are getting into skirmishes and that cannot last much longer. Israel needs to do something about living under the constant threat of missile attack, and according to **Psalm 83**, when the prophecy is fulfilled, Israel will control these border nations and gain a brief peace.
2. **Gog/Magog Wars** are the second war found in Ezekiel 38-39. These wars cover two chapters of the Bible and tell of a major change in the world because of them. The Gog/Magog Wars foretells how Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, and the 'Stan nations' and other countries that form the outer ring of Islamic nations in Africa and the Middle East will war against Israel. Israel appears unbeatable after the Psalm 83 War and so all of these nations combine into an alliance or coalition in order to make an attempt to plunder and destroy Israel. What happens? The bible reveals that God will make His appearance, not physically yet, but in a supernatural way will destroy these invading hordes of the military. This will be quite an attack on a religion that's based on having to destroy one's enemies for Allah's honor, it will be a very difficult time when Allah loses every single last day's war. I believe these end time wars are going to decimate Islam before the Tribulation even begins.
3. **Conventional War of the Tribulation** is the third prophetic end time war that should break the hold of Islam. This is the conventional War of the Tribulation, **Revelation 6**. Islam is a force today but there is no mention of Islam in the Tribulation. Four religions will exist in the Tribulation: Christianity, made up of those who accept Christ after the rapture; second, Judaism and the Antichrist will persecute both of these religions; third, there will be what the Bible calls the Harlot religion, made up of a conglomeration of world religions. This seems to be the powerful religion of the end times, but the Antichrist is really just using her for his own ends and halfway through the Tribulation, the Antichrist destroys the Harlot religion; and establishes the fourth religion, paganism, based on a worship of the Antichrist. He will most likely eliminate the remainder of the Islam adherents so he will not have competition in his take-over of the world.

Looking at these three biblical end time wars, it seems that the clear conclusion is that Islam will not have a great future. A Psalm 83 War could break out at any minute. Just think what will happen if the new Russian-Iran alliance leads to nuclear warheads available in Iran for the Arab enemies of Israel to use. The Gog/Magog wars have already seen most of the needed alliances coming together

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in a very definite form. Europe is fragile and they are ready for a strong leader to take over. It seems that in the areas of alliances, everything is lined up and is in place.

## **Lesson # 7: How Do US Abortion Laws Biblically Fit into World Politics?**

As we continue to look at current events and measure them by Biblical prophecies, one area that continues to create intense debate and has a rippling effect in the world is the United States' laws on abortion.

Abortion was declared legal in some areas of the United States in 1971. By 1973, it was in full force in all fifty states and started the killing of babies at a rate of 4,000 a day or 1 ½ million per year. By 2013, 60 million babies had been aborted or 10 times the death count of Jews, 6 million, murdered by Hitler.

Since there was no Constitutional basis for the decision, the justices found a justification by proclaiming that they had discovered an implied "right of privacy". They urged that this newly discovered right was sufficient to guarantee a pregnant woman freedom of choice regarding the destiny of the baby within her womb.

This incredible decision flew in the face of 4,000 years of Western civilization. It violated the fundamental tenets of American's Judeo-Christian heritage. It contradicted the Hippocratic Oath that has guided the medical profession for centuries. The ironic thing is this decision also violated the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution. That amendment specifies that 'no person shall be denied life, liberty or property without due process of law.' The justices got around this prohibition by declaring a baby in the womb to be a non-person, just as the Supreme Court ruled in 1856 in the notorious Dred Scott decision that Negroes were non-persons. We will never know how many great musicians; great playwrights, authors, pastors, doctors, freedom fighters and dozens of other needed leaders have been destroyed in their mother's womb.

The Court's decision unleashed a holocaust on babies. Well over 64 million were aborted and in some parts of the United States one out of every three pregnancies now ends in an abortion.

### **The Bible Makes It Clear that Abortion Is Wrong**

The Bible says we are to choose life for us and our children:

#### **Deuteronomy 30:19-20a**

*"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before your life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and our children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to him."*

The Bible says what God hates:

#### **Proverbs 8:16-19**

*"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."*



## DO CURRENT EVENTS MATCH BIBLE PROPHECIES ?

### **Without a Doubt Abortion Sheds the Blood of the Innocent.**

Those who support abortion say that the baby in the womb is not a human being. They dehumanize it and call it a fetus, or protoplasm, even a non-viable mass; but the Bible tells us that God has been involved in the process from the start of conception.

#### ***Jeremiah 1:4-5***

*“The Word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.’”*

#### ***Psalms 139: 13-18***

*“For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb, I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. For you saw my unformed body, all the days ordained for me were written in your book, before one of them came to be.”*

I want to note one thing about this passage, the word ‘create’ is the same word the Bible uses in Genesis to talk about the creation of everything that was created. The birth of a child is like the birth of the universe and all that is in it. It was nothing before but through the touch of God, they come into being.

These passages from God’s word clearly teach that the baby in the womb is a human being from the point of conception. The humanness of the baby in the womb is also confirmed in the New Testament in a story related to the birth of Jesus. The story unfolds in **Luke 1:39-44** and says that when Mary became pregnant with Jesus, she went to see her relative Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist. When Mary came into the presence of Elizabeth. We hear Elizabeth say this about the two unborn babies:

#### ***Luke 1:41-45***

*“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, ‘Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!’”*

So, a very natural question from this passage is:

### **Was Jesus a Human Being in His Mother’s Womb, was John the Baptist?**

You might say, well isn’t that just something that affects the United States? Remember, we are still considered by many in the world as the place of prosperity and opportunity. In a desire to gain from the things the United States has to offer, many accept all the other values the

United States has as a part of being what makes up that opportunistic culture. We have exported some terrible things. We are the world’s largest producer of pornography, violent and sadistic movies, blasphemous television programs and movies; we have made mass shootings an event of

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each day; we encourage homosexuality and export our stands on homosexuality; but our seal of approval on abortion has opened the lid through the last 50 years and much of the world has followed suit. It is hard to not see how rejecting God's laws in favor of Man's philosophical wanderings has produced a perverted and distorted value system in our country. The values that made us great have been replaced by humanistic values that reflect priorities that often are totally anti-Bible.

### Look at some of our national priorities

You can be arrested for harming bald eagles, taking the eggs from the eagle nest or harming the eggs; yet until this past year people were encouraged to seek abortions and often given financial help to pay for the abortion. We weep over the killing of whales and dolphins but have allowed the slaughter of millions of babies and seldom shed a tear. We have dehumanized the baby in the womb by calling it many names—but not a baby. It is “tissue; gametic materials, fetal tissue, fetus, or protoplasmic material,” but not a baby. Many states require parental consent for even the piercing of ears for an underage child; but have fought to provide free birth control pills and abortion without any parental consent.

### Some Say Abortion should be a Matter of Choice

The widespread practice of abortion has helped desensitize the American public. But you say that are many sincere people, even professing Christians and entire Christian denominations who believe abortion should be a matter of personal choice. Let's look at some of their arguments:

1. **Is it fair to bring a baby into the world who is unwanted?** This argument is an emotional deception. There is no such thing as an unwanted baby because there are hundreds of thousands of couples in America today who ardently desire to adopt a child.
2. **What about rape victims?** Less than one percent of rape victims ever conceive, probably due to the trauma involved. But even in those situations where conception does occur, should the baby be killed for its father's crime?
3. **We must provide for the protection of the mother's life.** I want to quote what former Surgeon General of the U.S. Dr. C. Everett Koop wrote:  

“Protection of the life of the mother as an excuse for an abortion is a smoke screen. In my 36 years of pediatric surgery, I have never known of one instance where the child had to be aborted to save the mother's life. If toward the end of the pregnancy complications arise that threaten the mother's health, the doctor will either induce labor or perform a Caesarian section. His intention is to save the life of both the mother and the baby. The baby's life is never willfully destroyed because the mother's life is in danger.”
4. **What about a deformed or mentally deficient child? Shouldn't it be aborted?** What about a child who becomes mentally retarded or blind at say age 5 or 6 due to an illness or an accident? Should that child be killed? How perfect must a person be to live?

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5. **What about a woman's right to privacy?** What about the baby's right to life? Which right is more important? The right to privacy is a selfish right. The right to life is a God-given right. And if the privacy argument is going to prevail, should we then prohibit policy from violating the privacy of a home to stop parents from abusing their children?

### Is the Baby in the Womb a Human Being?

The bottom line in all these arguments is whether the baby in the womb is a human being. If it is, as God's Word teaches, then it should be accorded the full protection of the constitution. The teaching of the Bible is clear:

*Psalm 127: 3 "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him."*

Why is an eagle in the egg considered to be an eagle, but a baby in the womb is not considered to be a human being? Even logic demands that we recognize the humanity of the unborn child.

It has become such an issue in the United States because our presidents and leaders, starting with President Bill Clinton have said, they oppose abortion but believed in the freedom of choice. It is where we have been a lot of the last 20 years, but the position of being anti-abortion but pro-choice is the ultimate cop-out and it sounds a lot like the pre-civil war arguments of many politicians. They were against slavery, but they should not take away the freedom of the slave owners to control their own property. President Lincoln was above this. He took a moral stand against the issue of slavery. On March 6, 1860, while running for president, he delivered a speech in New Haven, Connecticut in which he taunted those who claimed to be opposed to slavery but who believed in free choice:

"Let us apply a few tests. You say you think slavery is wrong, but you denounce all attempts to restrain it. Is there anything else you think is wrong, that you are not willing to deal with as wrong? You will not let us do a single thing as if it (slavery) is wrong. . . . We must not call it wrong in politics because that is bringing morality into politics and we must not call it wrong in the pulpit because that is bringing politics into religion. . . . There is not a single place, according to you, where this wrong thing can properly be called wrong."

Go back and substitute the word "abortion" for "slavery, and you will have the current debate. Where among our political leaders is there a Lincoln who is willing to take a stand for what is right and then fight for it?

### What Should Christians Do?

We need to take a stand for righteousness. Our Savior has called us to be salt and light in the world, **Matthew 5:13-14**. We cannot stand by passively and allow the innocent to be murdered:

*Proverbs 24:11*

*"Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die."*

*Psalm 82:4*

*"Rescue the weak and the needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

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What could possibly be weaker than a baby in its mother's womb? What could be more wicked than a medical doctor who perverts his life-saving skills by using them to kill babies?

**Proverbs 31:8** says that we are to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves, for those who are unfortunate. We are to *“hate evil, love good, and establish justice.”*

### Consequences of Abortion

We and the world are already experiencing the consequences of abortion.

1. **Guilt & Depression:** We have a depreciation in the value of life and a corresponding increase of violent crime. Another consequence is a generation of women burdened with guilt and depression from having an abortion. We are also missing a whole generation of young people who were aborted and who could now be living productive lives, helping support Social Security taxes necessary to support the very parents who had them aborted.
2. **Kindling the Wrath of God:** Prophetically, we are kindling the wrath of God:

#### *Isaiah 5:24-25*

*“Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore, the LORD's anger burns against his people; his hand is raised and he strikes them down. The mountains shake, and the dead bodies are like refuse in the streets. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.”*

This pagan view has permeated our world. Harvard University celebrated its pagan worldview this year by inviting Jacinda Ardern to deliver the school's commencement address. She is the Prime Minister of New Zealand, who recently stated she will not run for the office of Prime Minister again. She spent quite a long time bragging about her parliament and its legislative accomplishments.

“We have a mixed member proportional system which means . . .It's ensured our parliament better reflects our communities. Almost 50 % of our parliament are women (applause), 20 percent Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand and our Deputy Prime Minister is a proud gay man (huge cheers) and sits among several other rainbow parliamentarians (applause.)” In the last ten years, we have passed laws that include everything from the introduction of gay marriage (joyous cheers) and the banning of conversion therapy (applause), right through to embedded a 1.5-degree climate change target into law (applause), banning military-style semi-automatics and assault rifles and the decriminalization of abortion (ecstatic ovation).”

It is obvious that the lead of the United States in many areas is mirrored and echoed throughout the world.

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### Does the United States View of Abortion Influence the Rest of the World?

Our view of abortion in the United States has had a great and very direct influence on the rest of the world; but by itself is not a sign of the end times. The first chapter of Romans ends with a definition of a world where the pagan or humanistic world-view eclipses the Christian view. It says:

#### **Romans 1:29-32**

*“Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil, they disobey their parents, they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”*

This new state of the United States is quite a change for the 1892 pronouncement of the Supreme Court who declared: “This is a Christian Nation . . . We’re a Christian people, and the mortality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity” Yes, our political parties disagreed over many things, but they agreed on the fundamental principles of the Christian worldview. This began to fall apart during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, resulting in an ever-increasing virulent culture war. By the time the century came to an end the Humanist worldview had triumphed, resulting in tensions so extreme that they menace the future existence of our nation.

### Contrast the Worldviews of Christianity and Humanism:

#### **Humanism:**

Man is Supreme  
Man is Basically Good  
Evolution produced life  
Life has No Meaning  
Morality is Irrelevant  
Truth is Relevant  
The Supernatural is a Myth  
There is not Life After Death  
Life is about Achievement  
The World’s Only Hope: Economic,  
Political and Social Reform

#### **Christianity:**

God is Supreme  
Man is Basically Evil.  
God Created Life.  
Jesus Gives Life Meaning.  
God’s Word determines Morals.  
Truth is Absolute.  
The Supernatural is Real.  
Life continues After Death.  
Life is about Service to God.  
The World’s Only Hope: Jesus.

Abortion is not a specific sign of End-Times prophesy, but it fits into the categories of many End-Time actions of wickedness and a worldview that does not honor God or His Word. If we are to

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survive the perilous end-times in which we are living, you must commit yourself to living with an eternal perspective.

### What Does it Mean to Live with an Eternal Perspective?

In the words of **Peter 2:11** it means living as *'aliens and strangers'* in this world. Similarly, in the word of the author of Hebrews, it means living as *'strangers and exiles.'* **Hebrews 11:13**, Paul said in

#### **Romans 8:14**

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."*

I like the way the great Christian writer, C.S. Lewis explained that to live with an eternal perspective means:

*"Living as commandos operating behind the enemy lines, preparing the way for the coming of the Commander."*

## **Lesson # 8: How is Abortion an End-Time Barometer?**

In this lesson, we continue to look at current events and measure them by Biblical prophecies, we see that the laws of the United States about abortion have had a great influence upon the rest of the world. Which leads to another question to ask prophetically; 'Is the abortion debate an end-time barometer or just an issue that helps shape our time now?'

It is very clear from the Old Testament that God did not tolerate His people sacrificing or destroying their children through the fires of Molech or the destruction of the child in the worship of Baal. It is obvious that deceptions and accusations have been a strong part of the abortion debate in the United States. For 49-years, our nation that claimed to be "One Nation, Under God", and has been deceived into believing that abortion is a political issue with political solutions. There is no other way to explain how our nation could oversee and condone the destruction of over 64 million babies in those 49 years. Choice has proven to be a false God. It has demanded the death of these American babies and raised a culture of wanton self-idolization and violence. God was unwavering in His denunciation of this abominable practice in the Old Testament and those who allowed it in the land.

God does not change, and He will not be mocked. As we witness the rage that has ensued following the June 24, 2022, Supreme Court ruling that Roe v. Wade is unconstitutional, we must ask ourselves, who is being served by continued abortions.

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn pointed out that we are in the 50<sup>th</sup> year since Roe v. Wade. He said, "in the Bible, the 50<sup>th</sup> year is the Jubilee, the year of restitution, when that, which is taken is restored and that which was done is reversed." A jubilee is a demonstration of grace, something that evokes celebration in the midst of humility.

### **American is at a Moral and Spiritual Crossroads**

Fifty years ago, the United States Supreme Court handed down its infamous 'Roe v. Wade' decision. In an instant, the court legalized abortion throughout the Nation. Since then, the United States has tolerated much more liberal and unrestrictive abortion laws than every other western nation. China and North Korea are representative of the few nations that were more unabashedly committed to abortion than the United States.

The Supreme Court overturned the decision last summer. The majority opinion echoes the overturning of previous decisions that had enabled slavery, denied rights to women, legalized discrimination, and other injustices. Many Christians who have been praying for an end to abortion have reason to praise the Lord. But the decision is not an end to abortion. It just pushes the battle back to the states. Several voices on the left are already making sure that abortion has resumed in their states. Several political officials are pledging to promote abortion in blue states, even promising to pay for abortions and travel expenses for women who live in states that may restrict abortions. American is at a moral and spiritual crossroads. The choice is ours. We are at a point that

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mirrors the challenge that Elijah, battling the prophets of Baal, gave to the nation of Israel. Elijah said:

### *1 Kings 18:21*

*“How long will you waver, between two opinions? If the lord is God, follow him, but if Baal is god, follow him.” The passage concludes, “But the people said nothing.”*

The same question hangs over our society right now. We are wavering between two opinions, one advocates the protection of innocent life, while the other encourages the woman to make the choice of whether she wants an abortion or a birth.

This is one of the essential choices for our nation. My encouragement is to follow the advice of the Psalmist who said:

### *Psalms 62:1-2*

*“Truly my soul finds rest in God, my salvation comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation, He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”*

## **A Worldview that Includes God is a Must**

Paramount to making the choice is to make sure you have a worldview that includes God and all that He has written. Worldview is the lens through which we perceive everything. It offers us a framework to build our perception of reality. Additionally, the West ascribed to a Judeo-Christian worldview. That is not to claim that every person was a Jew or a committed Christian, but merely that society was built around certain common understandings, including:

1. There is an objective reality.
2. Moral law is immutable and handed down from God, not invented or imposed by humanity.
3. Each person is accountable to a Judge who will execute perfect justice in due time.

Our own founders adopted a Christian understanding of the sinful nature of man leading to a system of checks and balances within our governmental institutions. They respected the sovereignty of God and trusted that He will act as the ultimate judge. Without negating the role of other influences, there can be no denying the impact of such a Judeo-Christian worldview. Western civilizations thrived, elevating the value of human life, prizing the importance of human ingenuity and realizing the greatest and most widespread prosperity in the history of the world.

All this was possible because Western societies collectively understood that God reigns above the affairs of men and we shall all answer to him in the end. Starting in European Universities and spreading to the United States came a new worldview called “higher criticism” and it has changed every segment of our society. It literally has challenged not only the truth claims that have been handed down for generations, but also the very idea that there is an objective Truth. A famous entertainer regularly talks about “your truth” vs. “my truth” as if truth is so transitory that it shifts from person to person.



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Jewish philosopher and scholar Dennis Prager affirms the danger of the path we are on. “If America abandons its Judeo-Christian values basis and the central role of the Jewish and Christian Bibles, its founder’s guiding test; we are all in big trouble, especially most of America’s non-Christians, just as the Jews of secular Europe were in a previous time,” from his book, ‘America Founded to be Free, not Secular.’

This change in the worldview of the United States has certainly impacted the area of abortion. The mere fact that it was once legal, all abortions, even full term, has put tremendous pressure on many to believe they have lost a right and a freedom. I think what Proverbs says is so true:

*Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.”*

Unless there is a common understanding of purpose, an agreed-upon vision, there is no unity of effort or purpose. When people cannot even agree on a set of principles, a society will inevitably turn upon itself. Certainly, if Thomas Jefferson were alive today, and writing our documents of government, there is no way our current Congress would agree to embrace the phrase, “We hold these truths to be self-evident. . .” Some would argue against any truth being self-evident, while others would challenge, “whose truth?” While others still would deny the validity of knowable truth whatsoever.

Certainly, we have never lived up to our own lofty ideals. But there was a time when we at least aspired to serve as a city on a hill, a beacon of truth and freedom. Today, many within our own country exhibit a loathing for those very goals. Given over to lusts, degrading passions, and depraved minds (as described in **Romans 1:18-32**), they are no longer able to discern truth.

### **Abortion is Not an End-Time Indicator**

So, when the discussion is done and the prophecies are reviewed, we do not see that abortion is an end-time indicator; but much more the result of what happens when people quit living for any Godly good and decide to do only the things that support what they want to do. **Romans 1:29** said that God gave them over to every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. It seems clear that the destruction of the babies of this land would be both wicked and evil. To be able to convince yourself that the child in a womb is not a real human, would mean that depravity has become a part of your outlook on life. Paul said that when people are given over to their own desires, they will be full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. It is not hard to see that abortion and the fruits of abortion fit well into several of those categories.

It seems that abortion is not a barometer of the end-times; but more a barometer of how low the value of life has become in our nation. I would be concerned that life of the unborn has become so callous.

### **Will Christ Come Back Soon?**

One of the recent questions of our study has prompted me to take the last half of this lesson and speak directly to it. The question was:

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“All my life I have heard every generation say that the current events mean Christ will come back soon. If every generation thinks that, is it really going to end someday?

I think this is a great question, and one that we have probably all asked ourselves at one time.

I wanted to take part of this lesson and deal with some of the events that are unique to this time and this generation. It is true that wars, rumors of wars, natural disasters, plagues and other items have always been with us. It is true that the Bible says they shall continue to increase like “birth pangs”; but we might still wonder if there are signs that are truly unique to this day and time, signs that have never existed before. Are there new signs that clearly point to this period of history as the time of the Lord’s return” The answer is yes.

### Signs that are Unique to the Time of the Lord’s Return.

1. **Events at the Time of the Lord’s Return:** **Daniel 12** tells us that some events will only be in place at the time of the return of Christ. Daniel had said:

*Daniel 12:8 “I have heard, but I do not understand! What do these events mean?”*

*Daniel 12:9 God replies, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end-time.*

*Daniel 12:10 God finishes this discussion with Daniel by saying in, “Those who have insight will understand.”*

The fact that these have become understandable only in the last decades show that God is revealing more than ever before.

2. **Multitudes of People Die:** The population of the world is now slightly over 6 billion people. That means one and a half billion people will die in the initial judgments of Revelation, reducing the world’s population to 4 ½ billion. The next series of judgments, recorded in **Revelation 8 & 9** will kill another third of Mankind. One-third of 4 ½ billion is another 1 ½ billion people. Thus, in the first 3 ½ years of Tribulation, a total of 3+ billion people will die. That will be almost one half of the population of this world. The unparalleled carnage of the Tribulation seems to me to point to nuclear weapons. **Revelation 8** speaks of one-third of the earth being burned and one-third of the seas being polluted **Revelation 8:7-8**. Later in the Tribulation, near the end, we are told that people will suffer from “loathsome and malignant sores,” **Revelation 16:2**, which sounds like one of the effects of radiation poisoning. The prophecies concerning the Tribulation carnage have clearly depended upon a major technological breakthrough for their understanding. That breakthrough occurred on July 16, 1945, when the first atomic bomb was exploded in New Mexico. When the first hydrogen bomb as exploded in 1952, we entered the era for the first time where we could inflict upon ourselves the kind of carnage described in the **Book of Revelation**.
3. **Army of Two Hundred Million.** **Revelation 9 & 16** state that an army of 200 million soldiers will march from the east’ toward Israel. **Daniel 11** indicates that this will be an

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army representing nations in revolt against the Antichrist, **Daniel 11:44**. Demographers estimate that the total population of the world at the time the Apostle John wrote Revelation (95 AD) was only two hundred million. How could an army that size march out of the east? It made no sense. In fact, it took 1,650 years for the world's population to double to 400 million! At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the total world population was only 1.6 billion, still too small for an army of 200 million to march from the east. But the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has witnessed an exponential increase in population. The population count is now at 6.7 billion, and one country to the east of Israel, namely China, presently has an army of 200 million.

4. **Observance of the two Dead Witnesses in the Streets of Jerusalem:** We are told that in the middle of the tribulation period, the Antichrist will kill the two witnesses in Jerusalem. Revelation further tells us that their dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days and that all the people of the world will look upon them. Prior to 1956, that prophecy was not understandable in natural terms. There was just no way that all the people of the world could look upon two dead bodies on the streets of Jerusalem. But all that changed on October 4, 1957, when the Russians sent up the first satellite called Sputnik. Today almost 56 years later, our planet has many man-made satellites circling it, making possible all sorts of instantaneous communication. No one doubts that would be possible now because modern technology has made it understandable.
5. **Nation of Israel has been Restored and is a Nation Again.**
6. **Image of the Antichrist:** The image of the Antichrist being able to speak and pronounce things about people. But we have robots doing the work of actors, politicians and many other areas now.
7. **Mark of the Beast:** Another prophecy in **Revelation 13** that is dependent on modern technology is the famous one that states the Antichrist will control the world's economy by requiring people to bear his mark or name on their hand or forehead in order to buy or sell anything. This would not be possible before the invention of laser and computer technology combined with the positioning of the orbital satellites. Such technology is already greatly advanced. We have almost become a cashless society and the use of a credit card is behind almost every purchase. To prevent the card being lost or stolen, just embedding the code on your hand would solve the problem.
8. **Euphrates River Dried Up:** In **Revelation 9 & 14** we are told that an army of 200 million led by 'the kings from the east' will march across Asia toward Israel during the Tribulation, most likely in revolt against the Antichrist. **Revelation 16:12** indicates that this army will be held up at the Euphrates River until its water is suddenly dried up, enabling them to cross and proceed to the Valley of Armageddon. The Lord could dry up the water of the Euphrates River without any trouble at all, just as He parted the Red Sea for Moses and dried up the Jordan River for Joshua. But I think it is very interesting that this can now be accomplished overnight through natural means. In 1990, Turkey completed the

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construction of the massive Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates, and they in fact cut off the flow of the river in order to fill up the lake behind the dam. This action almost resulted in a war between Turkey and Iraq.

These are just some of the signs from the Book of Revelation that needed the additional technology for them to be able to make sense.

### Unique Signs for This Generation not Just in the *Book of Revelation*:

1. **Speed of Transportation:** *Daniel 12:4* tells us that the speed of transportation and the volume of knowledge will vastly increase in the end times. We have witnessed the fulfillment of this prophecy in our lifetime. When the 20<sup>th</sup> Century began, most people were still traveling the same way they had been since the dawn of human history, namely walking and/or riding a animal. Today we have autos, bullet trains, supersonic airplanes, and spaceships. And all of this developed in only 80 years.
2. **Growth of Knowledge:** Similarly, the growth of knowledge has been overwhelming. Technical knowledge is doubling every two years. One edition of the New Yor Times Sunday edition contains more information than the average person in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was exposed to in a lifetime! Through the World Wide Web, I can almost instantaneously access research resources all over the world. With the click of a computer key, I can go to the Vatican Library, and from there to the Library of Congress, and from there to the Jerusalem Museum. The growth in communication speed is breathtaking. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It would have taken months for news of internal wars within a country to surface but now we hear it that night on the news.
3. **Unique Spiritual Signs:** Spiritual signs are also unique now. Key is the growth of massive Christian crusades; the Charismatic Movement; and the focus on the power of the Holy Spirit with the explosive Pentecostal Movement, the use of satellites and smart phones, “the Jesus Film” shown to over 1 billion people, the 10/40 movement which focuses on reaching the 97% of the world population that lives in that area; and other outreaches make this generation the most far-reaching generation ever. Jesus prophesied:

#### ***Matthew 24:14***

*“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.”*

We are truly living in a unique age. Historical developments and technological inventions are making it possible for us to understand many end time prophecies for the first time.

## Lesson # 9: How Does World Health Measure the End-Times?

Our look at current events and then measuring them by Biblical prophecies will focus on world health in this study. Since we are still in a continuing pandemic, you might think the discussion would focus on our physical health, but we have already addressed that. I want to speak about the mental health of the world and the Bible warning of special vulnerability in the End-Times.

Daniel foretold in **Daniel 12:4** that there would be a great increase in technology and speed in the latter days. For anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear, the signs of the times are crying out that something significant is happening and the end is near. The cacophony is growing day by day. It would be easy to become preoccupied with the signs themselves. Some watch the political trends and want to respond politically. Others perceive the inherent threats in emerging technologies and want to unplug from the world. While the Lord motivates different individuals to serve in different capacities, applying their gifts, we would want all to take a balanced approach. Even as we discern meaning from the signs, the question remains: Am I consuming the news or is the news consuming me?

The signs themselves are important, but only as they advise us of what lies ahead. So, we don't want to fixate on the signs themselves but instead focus on the event or the person they direct us to watch. Just opposite, we can get so caught up in the rut of daily living that we don't even recognize the multiplying signs.

I think there is value in looking back in time to understand how previous generations of Christians perceived the signs pointing to Jesus' return. We know that almost 2,000 years ago, the writers of the New Testament shared their expectation that Jesus could come back very soon. Their anticipation did not distract them from the commission to preach the Gospel, or to spread it to tribes and nations far from Israel. As a matter of fact, their urgent hope served to motivate their dedicated service. That is why Paul traveled throughout Asia Minor and desired to go to Rome. It is why Thomas the apostle went east to India to proclaim the Good News to all he could.

### **False Teachers, a Sign of the End-times**

As we look at this area of mental health, I hope it will have the same effect on you. It will make you want to share the Gospel even more and help those who are trapped in a helpless and hopeless life. Paul writes in **II Timothy 3:1-9**, a clear sign of the End-times. It is false teachers spreading a false message to vulnerable people and leading them away from the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He wrote:

#### ***II Timothy 3:1-9***

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. They are the kind who*

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*worm their way into houses and gain control over gullible women (people) who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always looking but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned are rejected. But they will not get very far because as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone."*

I think we have mistakenly thought that only false teachers getting into Churches, Bible Studies, and Bible groups and leading people astray. But that has been going on forever, from the New Testament time forward; so why would Paul label this as an End-Times sign? Maybe because false teaching had never happened before on the scale that it is happening today. Yes, I am talking about the secular, humanistic world-view espoused 24/7 over the internet on our phones, computers, and even TVs and the horrible mental anguish and mental problems it leaves in its wake. It has wormed its way into our homes and attacked the vulnerable: women, men and especially children.

### **Humanism is the Poison, Technology is the Arrow**

We are truly confronting a seismic collapse of the biblical worldview here in the West and almost the entire Christian world. What's been the proverbial poisoned arrow to the Achilles' heel of our society? Humanism is the poison, technology is the arrow, and our Achilles' heel is the hearts and minds of our newest generation. We now reside in an age almost utterly devoid of the fundamental teachings of the Bible and the biblical worldview, and we are reaping the whirlwind for it. Watch the societal chaos raging across your news feed, and you will undoubtedly agree. You may be thinking, "The Humanism I can understand but I'm not quite following you about the technology. Maybe you have some kind of grudge against technology?"

No, I assure you, I do not hate technology. Quite the contrary, I love it! After, all, isn't technology just applying what we know to fix problems and build stuff? Technology can be thought of as the gadgets and devices we make, but it also includes the technical skills and creativity it initially takes to invent and forge these tools. The communication technologies that the Lord has provided His church today have reached far more people for Jesus Christ than in any era before Richard Leghorn coined the term "The Information Age" back in 1960. Praise God.

But there is the other side of the technology sword, and it is quite evident in our generation. Technology greatly benefits both individuals and society, but in the wrong hands, it can produce great harm. The lord of all evil, Satan, knows this. He's been steadily following his sinister plan for thousands of years to be a corrupting influence on humanity, and it continues to this day. The only difference between then and now is that Satan utilizes technology in his insidious mission to send as many people to Hell as he can before he himself is at last cast into the Lake of Fire. Satan's primary purpose for technology is to create distraction. And it has been working amazingly well.

No other generation in the past has been subjected to as many distractions as the Millennials and Gen-Z's of today. Gen-Zs have lived their entire lives never having known what life was like without being connected 24/7 to the Internet. This characteristic has led Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University, to label Millennials and Gen-Zs as Generation Me and

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IGen, respectively. And, after columnist Victoria Barret reviewed two studies about classroom attention, she subsequently labeled the children of today as the Distracted Generation.

### **Are the Children of Today the Distracted Generation?**

A great price has been paid psychologically for these endless distractions. Barret cites a Pew Research Center finding where nearly 90% of teachers surveyed said that digital technologies created “an easily distracted generation with short attention spans.” In a Common-Sense study, 71% of teachers surveyed said they thought technology was hurting attention spans somewhat or a lot, with 60% concluding that online distractions hindered their student’s ability to write and communicate in person.

Though ever-connected to their “friends” over social media, losing in-person human relationships has caused Gen-Zs to find themselves increasingly homebound, jobless, dislocated, lonely, lethargic, physically weakened, depressed, and addicted to prescription pain killers. They are 35% more likely to commit suicide than previous less-technical generations. Twenge notes with some worry that “it’s not an exaggeration to describe IGen as being on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in centuries.”

Their abruptly negative shift in teen behaviors towards a troubled emotional state is not a Western problem either but has become a global cultural phenomenon. Twenge identifies the extent of the problem: “These changes have affected young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household. The trends appear among teens poor and rich, of every ethnic background, in cities, suburbs, and small towns.”

Computers are everywhere now. Smart devices are all the rage, and now people wear their computers on their bodies in the form of smartphones and watches. Billions of people have scrambled to purchase electronic devices, filling their houses and their lives with portable technology. Statista reports that the average person owns 5.8 computer devices, adding up to nearly 50 billion devices operating worldwide.

“Over 4.54 billion of the 7.77 billion people in the world are connected by the Internet. The average Internet user spends 6.5 hours online every day, generating 88.55 gigabytes of Internet traffic every second. The average person will spend nearly 4 hours each day on their devices, dedicating 90% of that time engrossed with any of the 5-plus million apps.”

Indeed, the Internet has developed into today’s Tower of Babel. Language barriers are even becoming a thing of the past as translation apps turn one’s smartphone into a Star Trek-like universal translator. The networks are getting faster and more robust as fifth generation (5G) technology is being implemented at record speed to keep up with the exabytes of data being shared. And the Internet continues to expand into its third phase, seeking to encompass every device into the Internet of Things.

Alphabet, the parent company which owns Google, has risen to become a monopoly, channeling 92% of Web searches, and 44% of emails generated, and it now decides who sees what information. Cries of Internet censorship, especially against Christian and conservative viewpoints, are on the

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rise. He who controls information controls the world. In today's world of advanced technology and hi-speed communication, many technologies drive visual learners to on-demand and streaming video. As technologist Joh Dryer points out, "Technology has become a kind of supra-cultural phenomenon that finds its way into every aspect of our diverse lives"

Author Craig Loscaizo notes that digital media is perfect for engaging with the mosaic style of thinking used by the Postmodernist, meaning they draw conclusions from seeing the parts rather than seeing the whole because they are a "sound-bite driven culture" who have neither endurance nor lengthy attention spans." : A staggering 90% of the U.S. Internet users ages 18-44 years constantly watch You-tube and Tik-Tok.

The \$100 billion global gaming industry has also taken the world by storm. Gamers play an average of seven hours each week, but that has been increasing by 20-25% every year. The global gaming community transcends national borders, living within virtual worlds, sharing common experiences, and speaking in a common vernacular.

Social media has added an average of 2 hours and 24 minutes per day spent multi-networking across an average of 8 social networks. "Active social media users, primarily female, have passed the 3.8 billion mark on a plethora of popular platforms." Social media has become the primary means of communication among youth, even preferred alarmingly over in-person conversation.

### What Characterizes Today's Brave New Culture?

Media expert Steve Turner would describe it as "pop-culture" and notes just how vastly it suffuses just about every part of the lives of everyone everywhere. He warns that, "Even the driving spiritual forces behind much of pop culture are intent on altering the perceptions of the outgoing culture, often negatively towards God, the Bible, and Christianity." The result has been the transition of our society away from historical Modernist logic-based thinking to a Post-Modernist relativistic feelings-based post-Christian era.

Evangelism expert Rick Richardson describes the characteristics of this Post-Modern culture as including a common belief that people are their own gods, often engage in identity (one of us) politics, are rampantly distrustful of authority, and hold a general belief that love rules. They have an over fear of "the Patriarchy" and readily discard what often came before, tending to view Christians as self-serving." This is Satan's new ethos, carefully indoctrinating the masses worldwide into Humanism via their ever-present and ever-watching technologies, thus, creating a new global culture devoid of any biblical foundation. Pro-Humanist, antichristian, "having a form of godliness but denying its power" the end of days culture Paul warned Timothy about has, at last, arrived, // **Timothy 3:1-9**. These deniers of the one true God, Paul promises, will learn how foolish they are. But Christians know the Holy Scriptures that make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Flip that sword of technology and use it instead to reach our lost generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do so, and you will change your world.



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### *II Timothy 3:1-9 NIV*

*1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.*

### **Last Day Signs, Deceivers Characteristics**

I want to take some time and look at that passage from *II Timothy 3*; and see what are the last days signs that Paul warned Timothy to watch and observe?

They have a lot to do with deceiver characteristics. It is a focus on outward forms of Christianity and virtues. It is totally an external focus that pretends to be godly but does not give any power of God or Godly things. They focus on knowledge but the people who become followers or we might say today, addicts, of their social media teaching always gain knowledge they think, but they really never learn anything. They never get to the truth where you can use the information to direct your life.

They are like Jannes and Jambres, Jewish tradition tells us these were Egyptian magicians—who pretended to be Jewish converts and went along on the trip out of Egypt with the children of Israel. When Moses was on Mt. Sinai getting the Law; they were the ones who led the plan to build the golden calf and tradition tells us that they perished along with all the others who worshipped the calf and all the things this idol represented: sexual orgies, drinking, and unrestrained revelry. These deceivers practice deceiving signs and wonders. They say they are spiritual, but they are not.

### **Attack on Thinking and Mental Health, Aimed at the Vulnerable**

The final thing I want us to note is that this attack on thinking and mental health is aimed at the vulnerable. Paul tells Timothy the most vulnerable in Timothy's Day were the women who were searching constantly for something new and exciting and different. They were vulnerable to the teaching of these who promise intellectual insight but deliver a non-affirming life. How much like social media, the promise is how to be popular, make the most friends, learn how to be the best at all you do, and become the true "bright and shining star" of your generation. But instead, social media often delivers loneliness and isolation; a feeling of inadequacy about your body, your mind, and your insights; and less friends than you have ever had. I do believe the influx of smart devices

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and especially the toll they have scored on the youth of our world makes this an End-Times Prophetic reality.

How can you change that slide into all the negative mental depression that comes with this deception via technology?

*II Corinthians 5:20 says,*

*“We are Christ’s ambassadors, as though God was making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf. Be reconciled to God!”*

The call is clear, we are to find our answer in Christ Jesus so we can see the deception around us and become close to Christ and His Father God.

### **Prominent Sign; Reestablishment of Israel**

At the turn of the past century many Christian writers testified to a growing anticipation of God’s age-old promises being fulfilled. Several expressed a belief that God would somehow motivate the Jewish people to return to their ancient homeland. Although the Jews were dispersed around the world and integrated in places like France, Germany, Poland, and Russia, they foresaw a time when the Jewish Diaspora would clamor to go home, because that is what Ezekiel foretold. Their faith was not dampened by the implausibility of resurrecting a Jewish state in the middle of a hostile Muslim world, or the possession of the Holy Land controlled by a Turkish-based caliphate. They simply accepted the Word of the Lord and looked for the ultimate fulfillment of all of its promise. In his booklet, *The Coming Dictator and is Jesus Coming Back*, published in 1934, William Edward Biederwolf, described the coming antichrist and the anticipation of Jesus soon return. R. I. Humberd was another prolific writer who discerned that he was living on the cusp of prophetic events long anticipated by faithful Christians. In his 1934 booklet, *‘God’s Man and Satan’s Man in final Conflict’*, he wrote: “If we are living in the latter times and I am convinced that we are, then soon we can expect the Jews to return to the Promised Land and ‘dwell safely there.’”

This overriding sign, the reestablishment of Israel, its repossession of its ancient capital of Jerusalem, the growing animosity of the world that will lead to outright hostility against Israel, driving it to the end of itself and into the arms of God, tells that he is near, right at the door. It is only adding to the evidence to point out that in the Latter Days, Paul writes to Timothy, false teachers will come that will disrupt the health of world and they will prey on the vulnerable. I feel we are seeing this sign of the Latter days fulfilled completely as we watch the mental health of our world diminish quickly; through the influence of social media and the teachings of the internet.

## Lesson # 10: Sexual Mores and End-Time Prophecies

This Hope Looks Up lesson will complete our series on “Do Current Events Match Biblical Prophecies?” We will look at sexual mores and what the Bible says about the morals and mores of the End-Time generation. It will help us to see that many of the seven deadly sins have flipped and many of them are now considered a virtue and not a sin. This is especially true of the first word on the list. This example is the peril we encounter over the change of value in this word.

### **Seven Deadly Sins, the Deadliest is ‘Pride’**

At one time, Western thinkers recognized “deadly sins”: Pride, Greed, Wrath, Envy, Lust, Gluttony and Sloth. It would be good to explore each one of those, but without question the one that has always been considered the deadliest of them all is “Pride.” Even Wikipedia calls Pride, “the original and most serious of the seven deadly sins” because it is “the most demonic out of them. . . and thought to be the source of the other capital sins.” The source for that insight is cited as John Climacus, also known as “John of the Ladder,” a 7<sup>th</sup> century Christian monk who lived on Mount Sinai. The corrupting influence of pride is evident in the downfall of angel Lucifer. Enamored with his own beauty and convinced that he was worthy of praise instead of God, Satan sought to be exalted in heaven. Tellingly, he did not want to embrace God’s holiness or righteousness or grace, just God’s high and lifted-up status. Because of his rebellion against the Almighty, Satan was cast out of heaven. Scripture is clear that “pride goeth before a fall” **Proverbs 16:18**. And yet, pride is the emotion that swells our hearts as Americans. We could use some of the unity and mutual respect today that comes from pride in our country; but pride and our sense of arrogance and superiority, the natural landing spot for pride has led to grave errors in our society and our interaction with a lot of the world.

Every June, America now celebrates, “Pride Month.” This in-your-face affirmation of LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex “plus”) lifestyles that permeates our airwaves. Lest you didn’t realize that the acronym had gained new letters, that was the official White House Pride Month acronym. We can rest assured that other letters will continue to be added as new identities are discovered.

### **Satan’s Five-Part Plan to Destroy America**

Allen Parr of Allen Parr Ministries and host of the hit You Tube channel “The BEAT” and Dr. Nathan Jones of Lamb-Lion Ministries combined to write an article on, “What is Satan’s Five-Part Plan to Destroy America?” I want to share several of their thoughts:

- **Breaking Down Families** - The first area Satan has implemented is: “Breaking Down Families.” The breaking down of families isn’t something necessarily new, but currently there are a whole lot of woke organizations out there that have been fighting for evil under the banners of feminist rights and many other anti-family positions. Clearly, a war on the traditional nuclear family is being waged. As a result, divorce rates climb even higher, even among Christians. We have more and more people giving up on their

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marriages. The Enemy knows that people are stronger together than apart, so Satan has made a concentrated effort to tear apart the foundational structure of our society, the nuclear family.

Jesus in **Matthew 19:1-10** states what was written in:

### **Malachi 2:16**

*"The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.*

Satan absolutely hates the nuclear family because the family establishes the very foundation of a just and Godly society. As the family goes, so society goes. The Enemy knows the truth, and so he creates conflict and discord within the home for the purpose of causing families to break up. Divorce creates a significantly negative effect on children of broken homes, often causing young adults to prefer to just live together in sin or wait to get married much later in life. Some wait until well past their child-bearing and rearing years. If Satan can split children off from a nurturing family structure, then they become far more vulnerable to temptation. That's the number one tactic in Satan's strategy to destroy the foundations of a nation.

- **Abortion** - The second part of the plan is abortion. We have discussed this in depth in this series, but let me say, the enemy has been trying to normalize murder through years. Abortion has been his most successful normalization, but euthanasia and self-administered suicide have also grown in popularity and frequency.
- **Emotional Disorder** - The fourth one is emotional disorders, and we are living in a time when many kids suffer from low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety. Children are being prescribed massive amounts of medication to deal with these emotional conditions. Our Creator cherishes every one of His creations made in His image, but Satan steals their identity away from them with Evolution and other humanist philosophies. This tragically has resulted in a generation that often sees life as pointless and concludes that existence is meaningless.
- **Division** - The fifth is division, and it is easy to see that the enemy attacks our nation by fermenting division. Americans are so divided right now. Social media has become one of the main tools in Satan's insidious work toward sowing discord and division throughout our society. The different ways Satan causes division: race, politics, denominationalism, gender issues, generational issues and class issues.
- **Confusion Over Sexual Identity** - It is the third item in their list that I want to focus on in this discussion. Satan's five-part plan to destroy America includes confusion over sexual identity. Satan has been using sexual identity to attack our nation, especially targeting the newest generation, and by that is causing great confusion over one's gender and

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sexual identity. It seems like now more than ever our youth have become terribly confused about something as simple as their own gender.

### Sexual Identity Confusion

In interviews on college campuses, when Students are asked how many genders there are, some amazingly responded with “infinite,” and some just make up numbers because they simply have no idea. Job applications are offering the choices of “male,” “Female,” and “other.” Gender is also being removed from birth certificates. The enemy is doing a job on our youth by getting them confused over the biological identity to which they were born.

The Bible clearly declares there are only two genders:

***Genesis 1:27** states, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.”*

Not only has confusion over gender and sexual identity been running rampant, but gargantuan efforts have been made to create sexual preference confusion as well. LGBTQI+ agenda is being pushed on almost every television program that is available to watch. It’s blatantly obvious that the Media is strenuously attempting to normalize the homosexual agenda with regular characters that are same-sex couples or by extolling characters who are inclined to be same-sex attracted. “Family friendly” entertainment companies such as Disney and shockingly some of our public-school teacher work hard to normalize same-sex sexual relationships, even as young as the tender elementary ages.

We are watching in horror as the Enemy weaves into the fabric of our country the normalization of extra-marital sexuality, which is something God has clearly defined as sin:

#### **Leviticus 20:13**

*“If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable.”*

#### **Romans 1:24-27**

*“Therefore, God gave them over in their sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”*

#### **I Corinthians 6:9-11**

*“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Now that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were*

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*sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.!”*

### **I Timothy 1:9-11**

*“We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for what else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.”*

It is the book of Romans in the first chapter that tells about the world winding down morally until it destroys the fiber of the world. It talks about ungodliness, unrighteousness, suppression of the truth, and worship of the creation rather than the Creator.

### **God’s 3-Step Response to Rebellion**

**Romans 1** tells us how God responds to this kind of rebellion against Him and His Word. He steps back and lowers the nations’ hedge of protection, allowing evil to multiply. The first result is a sexual revolution, which started in our nation in the 1960’s and has continued.

#### **Step 1 - Romans 1:24 NIV**

*“Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desire of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.”*

If a nation persists in its rebellion, the Lord will take a second step back and allow sin to multiply, resulting in a plague of homosexuality, which started in our nation in the 1980’s-1990’s and has only increased. So, we read **Romans 1:26-27** which shows this next step is homosexuality for men and for women.

#### **Step 2 - Romans 1:26-27 NIV**

*“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”*

If a nation still refuses to repent, God will take a third and final step back and deliver the society over to a depraved mind, **Romans 1:28-31**, and that seems to be where we are today.

#### **Step 3 - Rom 1:28-31 NIV**

*“Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.”*

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Everyone is clamoring that what they want to do is right and we simply add letters to our ever-changing sexual pride chart. This has to be where we are to explain the nation's celebration over the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same sex marriage. As we celebrated, God must have wept. I have no doubt that we signed a 'hands off of us' decree when the court decision was made and cheered. We are not alone. Europe has rejected Christianity, and Christians are being persecuted and slaughtered worldwide. Our world is a ticking time bomb.

### **Fulfillment of End-Time Prophecy**

We're experiencing a fulfillment of end time prophecy. The Biblical prophets, including Jesus Himself, all prophesied that in the end times society would disintegrate into violence and immorality, that it would become as evil as in the days of Noah. And that people would go about their business as if everything was normal. That is exactly where we are today. And thus, we are witnesses to the very signs that are heralding the soon return of Jesus.

This is why the great pastor, Adrian Rogers, once said, "The world is growing gloriously dark," Or, as Jan Markell likes to put it: "The world is not falling to pieces; rather, the pieces are all falling into place.

### **No Need for Believers to Despair**

But the reason we do not need to despair is because there is individual hope for those who are believers. God has promised that He will never forsake us, and the signs of the times clearly indicate that we are on the threshold of the Tribulation, which means we are about to be called home to be with Jesus.

Another reason we do not have to despair is because of what God is doing in heaven right now. The Bible says in *Psalms 2* that while all the political leaders of the world conspire against Him, His Word and His Son, our Creator, sits on His throne and laughs. He is not laughing because He does not care. Oh no! He is laughing because He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of mankind and Satan to the triumph of His will in history.

There is also hope for unbelievers. As the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Robert Jeffress pointed out: "When the darkness deepens, the light of Jesus will shine more brightly. Like a diamond on a black cloth, and more and more people will be drawn to Jesus and be saved."

### **Believers, Beacons of Hope**

Meanwhile, as the darkness deepens, those of us who are believers must serve as salt and light, standing for God and His Word and refusing to give into the demands of a pagan society, regardless of the cost. We must be beacons of hope, pointing people to the God of hope while urging them to put their hope in their only Hope, Jesus, the Son of God, who is the soon returning King.

### **Signs that Point to the Second Coming**

We have over 500 signs outlined in the Bible that all point to the second coming of Jesus Christ. We have only looked closely at 10 over the last 10 lessons and can safely say that there are many areas that we did not cover. However, many of the signs that we spoke about are only enhanced by the

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fulfillment of other signs. This is very true in the areas of immorality. The Humanistic enlightenment movement has allowed immorality to be legitimized and often categorized as a valid area of study. So, what was once looked at as dangerous and antisocial behavior is now accepted as just another way that people are shaped and function in their life. This has really accelerated with the growth of knowledge and the expansion of published material. Now we see that through the study and categorization of many different approaches to sexuality, people can find something that relates to them or relates to their feelings and allows them to feel very justified that they have those feelings. This has caused human trafficking to explode all throughout the world. Mines, obscure fishing areas, and many other areas are often stocked with boys who meet the needs of the men working in these places. We have watched the tremendous explosion of girls taken off the streets and from those categorized as run-aways and see that they are cycled into human trafficking throughout the world. The sting operations have proven that Phoenix is one of the places where that particular type of sexploitation is happening. This is often only the tip of the iceberg in what is happening throughout the world. When God said He would give an unrepentant world over to their depraved mind, that legalized them doing whatever they wanted, it has moved us very close to the days of Noah, filled with violence and sexual immorality. Let's pray that men and women will continue to come to Jesus and receive Him as their lord and Savior throughout this time.