

01 – SIGNS OF THE TIMES

What Is Bible Prophecy?

- ✓ It's God "pulling back the curtain" and giving us a glimpse into the future. Why would He do that?
- (a) It Helps Us Believe – (John 14:29 – "I have told you this BEFORE it happens, so when it DOES happen, you might believe.") When the Bible predicts something, and then it happens in the real world – (right in front of your eyes) – you can't help but believe!
- (b) It Calms Our Hearts – It would be downright scary to see what's happening in today's world, if we didn't know how it was going to turn out. (As it is, we can face the future with confidence, because God has a track record, when it comes to prophecy.)
- (c) It Helps Us Gauge How Close We Are to His Coming – (Luke 21:28). When we see these things converge, we know we're getting close.

1.) The Rebirth of Israel – (They were dispersed for 2000 years.)

- (a) They'll Come Back to The Land – Ezk. 37:21 – "Thus says the Lord God, I will take the children of Israel from among the nations to which they have scattered & will gather them from every side and bring them back to their own land."
- (b) The Nation Will Be Born in a Day – Isa. 66:8 – "Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Or shall a nation be brought forth in a moment?" (May 14, 1948)
 - ✓ This is probably the most important end times prophecy. Until Israel came back into existence, none of the prophecies about the Antichrist or the Tribulation period could take place.

2.) The Last Generation –

2 Tim. 3:1 – "But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times

[of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear]. For men will be lovers of themselves (utterly self-centered and self focused), lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, sneering at God, they will be disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers (hard-hearted scandal-mongers, given to intrigue), without self-control, (constant liars and trouble-makers, and will think nothing of immorality), brutal, despisers of those that are good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

Prov. 30:11-14 – "There is a generation that curses its fathers and does not bless its mothers. There is a generation that feel themselves faultless despite their many sins." (Matt. 23:12 Amp. – "lawless".)

3.) Knowledge & Technology

Daniel 12:4 – "But you, Daniel, close up the book and seal it. These things will happen at the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

- ✓ Until 1900, knowledge doubled every 100 years. By 1945, knowledge was doubling every 25 years. By 1982, knowledge was doubling every 12-13 months. Presently (according to IBM), man's collective body of knowledge doubles every 11-12 hours. Now, with the advent of AI, the sky is the limit. According to an article by CNBC (business news), "AI will be billions of times smarter than humans ..."
- ✓ Sometimes People Ask: "At the start of WWII, people must have thought Hitler was the Antichrist, and that the Tribulation was beginning. They were wrong. What makes it different THIS time?"
- ✓ There simply wasn't the technology in Hitler's time, to carry out the things that are prophesied. The Mark of the Beast prophecy requires not only a digital currency, but the ability to monitor every financial transaction in the world, in real time. Modern computers, the internet, and AI have made that possible.

Rev. 13:16-17 – "And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their fore-

heads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark ..."
("Mark" – Charagma – etching. Computer chips are made by etching.)

- ✓ Nuclear War – (a) The destruction of Babylon (Rev. 18). The Bible predicts that the city will be leveled in one hour. (Who could have imagined such a thing in 96 ad.?) Not only that: Three times in the chapter it says that the people "stood afar off for fear of her torment". (Before nuclear radiation, *that* couldn't be understood.)

(b) Isaiah 17:1,14 proclaims that the city of Damascus will be destroyed overnight. When the world goes to bed, Damascus is standing. By morning, it's flattened, uninhabitable; a "ruinous heap". (Propheesied 2800 years ago. Not possible at that time.)

(c) Jeremiah 49:34-39 describes a last days' attack on Elam that causes its greatest strength to be broken. In the prophecy, Elam (the Southern part of Iran) is emptied, as people relocate to other countries. That just happens to be where Iran built their nuclear facilities and placed many of their missile silos. That explains why they'd leave the area. (Propheesied 2600 yrs ago.)

4.) The Political Atmosphere

- (a) A Move Toward a One-World Government – They've been moving in that direction for a long time. It will finally be realized under the Antichrist. (Rev. 13:7 – "And power was given him to extend his authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.")
- (b) A "Two-State Solution" – The division of the land is ultimately what brings about Armageddon. (Joel 3:2 – "I will gather the armies of the world and will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and there will I execute judgment upon them ... because they have divided My land.")
- (c) Constant Talk of "Peace and Security" – (1 Thess. 5:3 – "For when they say, 'Peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they shall not escape.")

- (d) An Increase in Antisemitism and Christian Persecution – Not just from individuals. Governments are involved in it (*Psalm 2:1-3*).

- (e) Ezekiel 38 describes certain alliances of nations that will exist as the Tribulation begins. In 1973, when Israel fought the Yom Kippur war, the list of allies was completely upside down. (The "good guys" were in the "bad guys" column, and the "bad guys" were in the "good guys" column.) Now, in 2024, the list stands exactly as Ezekiel prophesied it. (Now there are *strong* ties between the countries that will attack Israel. Russia, Iran and Turkey ...)

5.) The Spiritual Landscape

- (a) The World – In the days prior to the Rapture, the world descends into deep darkness. In our day, sin and even satanism are right out in the open. (The devil isn't hiding anymore!)

Isaiah 60:2 – "For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people."

Isa. 5:20 – "Woe to them who call evil good and good evil, who present darkness as light and light as darkness."

Rev. 9:20 – "The rest of humankind, who weren't killed by these plagues, didn't change their hearts and lives and turn from their handiwork. They didn't stop worshipping demons ..."

- (b) The Church – Certain things are prevalent in the Church as a whole:

Itching Ears – (2 Timothy 4:3 – "For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will heap to themselves one teacher after another who will say what they want to hear.")

Deconstruction, Deconversion – (1 Timothy 4:1 – "Now the Spirit unmistakably declares, that in the latter times some shall depart from [abandon] the faith, listening to seducing spirits ..."

False Teachers & Greedy Preachers – (2 Peter 2:3 – “These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money.”)

6.) Nature Gone Wild

- ✓ We’re all familiar with Jesus’ description of the last days in Mt. 24. Everyone has heard about the increase in earthquakes. Not nearly as many have heard this prophecy about the Euphrates River.

Rev. 16:12 – “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river **Euphrates**, and **its water was dried up**, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.”

- ✓ In the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25), Jesus lists signs that read like today’s newspaper.

Matthew 24:4-8 – “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you. For **many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of **wars and rumours of wars**: see that ye be not troubled ... For **nation shall rise against nation**.”

- ✓ The word “nation” is “ethnos” in the Greek, and it means “ethnic groups”. Jesus predicts an increase in racial tensions in the last days.

“... and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines**, and **pestilences** (we’d use the word “pandemic”), and **earthquakes**, in various places.”

- ✓ Anyone who’s paying attention and is honest with themselves has to conclude that we’re in the last days.