

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at [www.aldenson.com](http://www.aldenson.com). Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

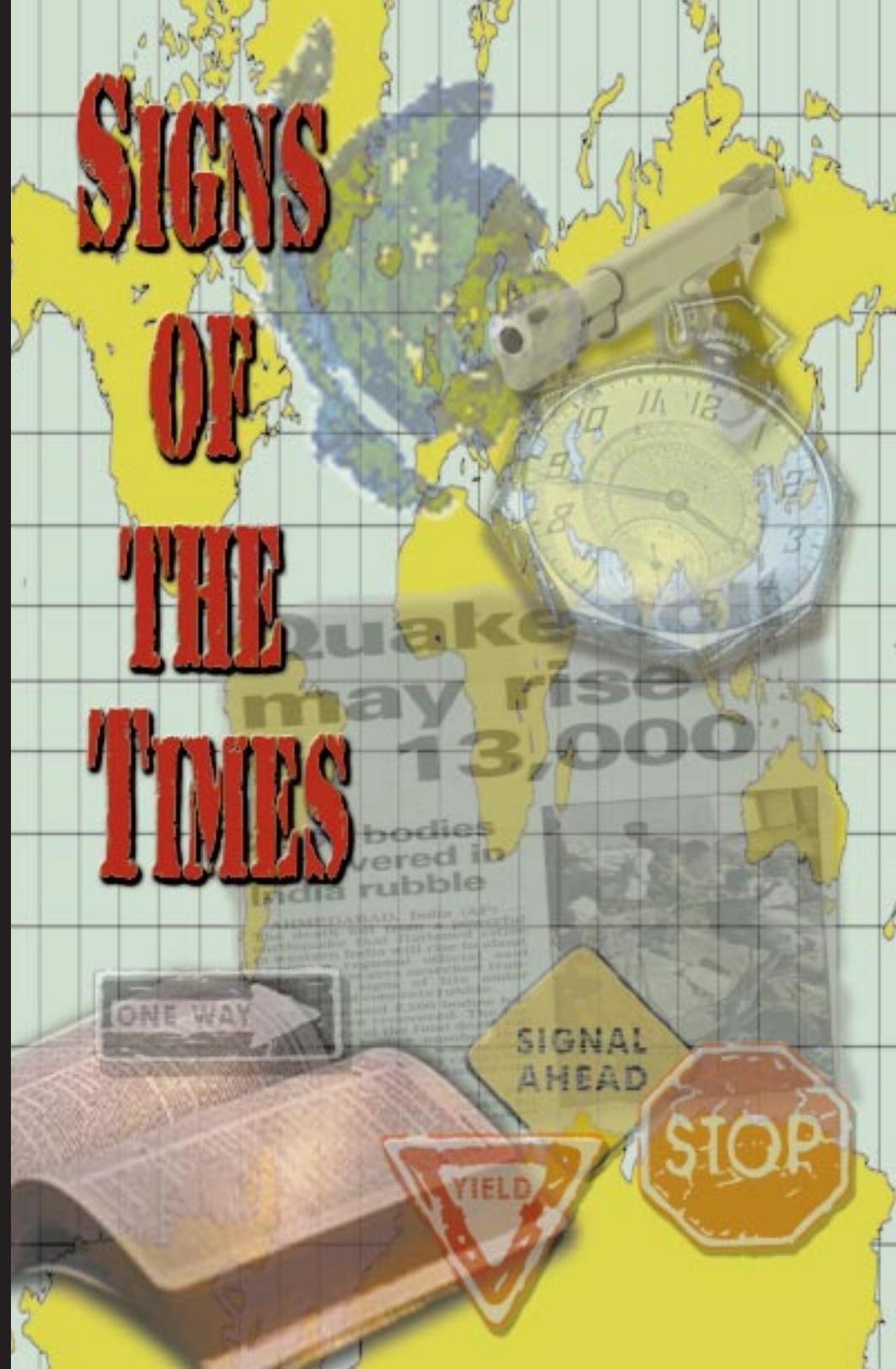
Sincerely,



**An Outreach of Celebration Ministries**

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Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The story is told of a man living on Long Island who bought an expensive barometer. When he examined the instrument upon receiving it in the mail, he was disappointed to see that the needle was seemingly stuck while pointing to the part of the dial marked, hurricane. After trying to dislodge the needle with no success, he determined he would return the barometer along with a nasty letter to the company where he purchased the instrument. The next morning he hurried off to work in Manhattan, not thinking about the barometer again. That evening he returned to Long Island to find both the barometer and his house gone! There had been a hurricane!

The Word of God is pointing to an approaching event on the horizon and the needle is not moving. Jesus is coming again! We don’t know the day or the hour, but the Bible says we can recognize the signs around us. Just like the man who was very foolish to assume that the barometer was wrong because it was unchanging, we would be just as foolish to ignore the unchanging evidence the Bible has given us for the second coming of Christ.

Though Christians for years have hoped and believed theirs would be the generation that

would see the return of the Savior, twenty-first century Christians have more reason than any generation before us to believe that Christ will be returning soon to take us home to heaven. The fact that others before us were wrong about when Christ would return should not keep us from evaluating the signs the Bible gives us. The truth is, Christ could come to rapture His church today, and no prophecy concerning His coming would go unfulfilled. There are definitely clouds on the horizon and all the barometers are pointing that way!

The Old Testament gives more than 100 prophecies regarding the first coming of Christ. All of those were fulfilled by Jesus—every one. There are five times as many prophecies concerning the second coming of Christ. Because God was faithful to keep His Word and His promises concerning the first coming, we know He can be trusted to keep His promises about the second coming of Christ. When we live every day with the knowledge that this could be the day Jesus returns for His church, it will motivate us to live a holy life. It should also challenge us to share the Good News of Christ with those who don’t know Him and will be left behind when He comes again.

Jesus  
is  
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again!

## Never in history have there been so many authentic signs of Christ's return.

There are two verses in the New Testament that should be a warning to us not to listen to anyone who tries to set a date for the second coming of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 24:36, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." And in Acts 1:7 it says, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority." Even though we are warned not to set a specific date for this event, Jesus did tell us in Matthew 24:33, "...when you see all these things, you will know it is near, right at the door."

What are the "things" Jesus is referring to? These are the signs that something significant is about to happen. To better understand these signs we need to establish a time line. There are four significant events in history and each

marks the end of an age. Three are in the past; one is still in the future. Each of these events either were, or will be, conflicts between God and Satan for the devotion of mankind. The first three were Creation, the Flood, and the first coming of Christ, including His death and resurrection for the sins of mankind. The fourth and last event will be the second coming of Christ to this earth.

The most important event in all of human history was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Cross represents the virgin birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, the resurrection of Christ, and it ended the age of law. In those days, God required obedient Old Testament men and women to sacrifice innocent lambs as payment for their sins. This was a symbol of the faith they had in the final sacrifice, the sinless Lamb of God, whom God would eventually send to pay for the sins of the world. The Cross also introduced the age of grace when all those who would repent of their sin and accept Jesus' death as payment for their sins could be saved by grace.

The church age, the age of grace, began on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 right after the ascension of Jesus back to heaven. The age of grace will continue until Jesus comes to rapture His bride, the church, which precedes the fourth event on our time line—the second coming of

# Quake toll

Christ. It helps to think about the second coming of Christ as a two-act play with a seven-year intermission. The Rapture of the church by Christ is the first act of the play. The Tribulation is the intermission, and the second-act of the play is the bodily return of Christ to this earth bringing back with Him all the those who either died in Christ or were raptured.

Two events will take place in Heaven after the rapture. One is the Judgement Seat of Christ where rewards will be given to Christians for their faithful service to the Lord. The other will be the Marriage of the Lamb, where the Bride (the church) and the Bridegroom (Jesus) will celebrate at a party like no one has ever seen before!

On earth, the Rapture will be followed by the Tribulation which will last for seven years. The Tribulation will end with the second coming (sometimes called the Glorious Appearing) of Christ to this earth. That second coming will begin the 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth after which the unsaved will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgement.

For the last 6000 years God has confined the evidences of His existence to creation, the Scriptures, Jesus' life and teachings, and the power of the Cross to change the lives of those who come to Him in faith. But, God is once

again about to begin showing Himself in miraculous ways that even the most hardened skeptics will have difficulty denying. Never in history have there been so many authentic signs of Christ's return. Probably the most important passage of Scripture concerning future events is found in Matthew 24-25 because it provides an outline of the future to which all other prophetic sections of the Bible should be related.

Matthew 24:1-8 says, "Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to Him to call His attention to its buildings. 'Do you see these things?' He asked. 'I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.' As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said. 'When will this happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus answered: 'Watch out that one deceives you. For many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and plagues, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.'"



...that emergency crews had given up hope of finding many survivors under the debris.

In Gujarat state, where Friday's magnitude-7.9 quake hit hardest and buildings collapsed

In the first two verses of this text, the disciples are showing off the temple buildings to Jesus. Jesus responded by telling them that not only would the temple be destroyed, but that it would be destroyed so completely that not even one stone would be left standing upon another. History records that Jesus' words were fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Roman army destroyed the city of Jerusalem. Fires burned through the city and through the temple itself. After the flames burned themselves out, the soldiers saw that large amounts of gold had melted and run into the cracks between the blocks of stone of the temple. In order to recover the gold, the Romans took the building apart, stone by stone. What Jesus had prophesied came true—not one stone was left on another. The disciples then asked Jesus what the “sign” of His coming would be. Before He would answer their question, Jesus first gave them two warnings.

The first was a warning not to be deceived and Jesus repeated this warning five other times Matthew 24 (verses 4, 5, 11, 23, 24, and 26), and for good reason. We know there have always been false teachers around whom Satan has used to distort the truth of God and lead people astray. But, never has deception been so prevalent as it is today.

It seems like a new cult, or a new twist on an old one, springs up every week in this country, and occult and spiritualist activities are multiplying daily. Regardless of how right any group sounds, we need to remember that any teaching which denies that Jesus is the only Son of God, He was virgin-born, lived a sinless life, died a sacrificial, atoning death on the cross, was bodily resurrected, or that He is the ONLY way to God and to Heaven, is straight from Satan himself. In the days before Christ's return Satan and his demons will be harder at work than ever before, working their deceptive magic on the minds and emotions of people everywhere.

The second warning Jesus gave was that “wars and rumors of wars” are not “the sign” of the end. We can see this is true because there have always been wars—about 15,000 wars have been recorded in human history, so obviously, wars are not “the sign” of the end. However, since Jesus did make the subject of war part of His answer to the disciples' question, this can only mean that “the sign” had to be a special kind of war.

Jesus goes on to describe this special kind of war to His disciples in verses 7-8: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and plagues

and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.” Jesus said this would be a war started by two single nations who are soon joined by the kingdoms of the world, and would be followed by unprecedented famines, pestilence, and multiple earthquakes at the same time—these are the four parts of “the sign.” It is important to note that Jesus did not say that “the sign” would usher in the end, He said “the sign” (“All these,” the special war, famines, plagues, and multiple earthquakes) would only be the “beginning of birth pains.”

Tim LaHaye helps us understand the first part of “the sign,” which was the special war Jesus told His disciples about. This war actually started in June 1914 when Prince Francis Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria, was shot by a Serbian zealot. One month later Austria

declared war on Serbia, followed by other kingdoms of the world, until all but seven nations joined the conflict. Historians first called this “The Great War,” because at that point it was the greatest war in history. Later the war's title was changed to World War I. Of the 53 million soldiers involved, 13 million of them were killed. There were unnumbered civilians injured or killed, as well. This war lasted from 1914-1918.

The second and third parts of “the sign” would be the famines and plagues that Jesus said would follow this special war. In 1918 there was a flu epidemic that spread throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States that took even more lives than were lost on the battlefields. In Europe, this disease was made worst because of the malnutrition and famine that was a result of World War I.

In the days before Christ's return Satan and his demons will be harder at work than ever before, working their deceptive magic on the minds and emotions of people everywhere.

## When you consider all four parts of Jesus' that planet earth has already witnessed

The fourth part of the first sign Jesus gave His disciples was multiple earthquakes. The only known multiple earthquakes in history have been recorded since World War I. Earthquakes have always been a way for God to get man's attention. It is amazing how people who never give God a thought, suddenly have their attention turned to Him when the earth beneath them starts to move! In the book of Revelation, we are warned that the worst earthquake to ever hit this planet will occur during the Tribulation. A seismologist at the Scripps Research Center in La Jolla, California said, "It is almost as though the earth's plates are gyrating in anticipation of the world's greatest earthquake."

When you consider all four parts of Jesus' first "sign," it is reasonable to believe that planet earth has already witnessed the beginning of the end. Remember, Jesus did not say that the first sign would usher in the end, but in verse 8 He said, "All these (the four parts of the one sign) are the beginning of the birth pains." In other words, when a woman is having a baby the first pain doesn't mean that the baby will be born immediately—she may have many hours of labor ahead. The first pain is just a sign that the time of waiting is almost over. The birth isn't imminent until the pains are intense, regular, and close together.

Tim LaHaye says, "World War I did not signal that we should look for the immediate coming of Christ or the 'end of the age.' It signaled that we should look for more birth pains. And it is our thesis that many other signs, or birth pains, have arisen during these more than 80 years since that 'Great War.' Many of them grew out of that first 'sign,' until today the 'birth pains' are very intense—and may even be in the last phase. If so, 'the end' may be rapidly approaching. In fact, it may be as Jesus said: 'Near, even at the doors' (Matthew 24:33)."

The Hebrew and the Christian prophets had much to say about Israel and Jerusalem in the end times. There is not an evening that



## first "sign," it is reasonable to believe the beginning of the end.

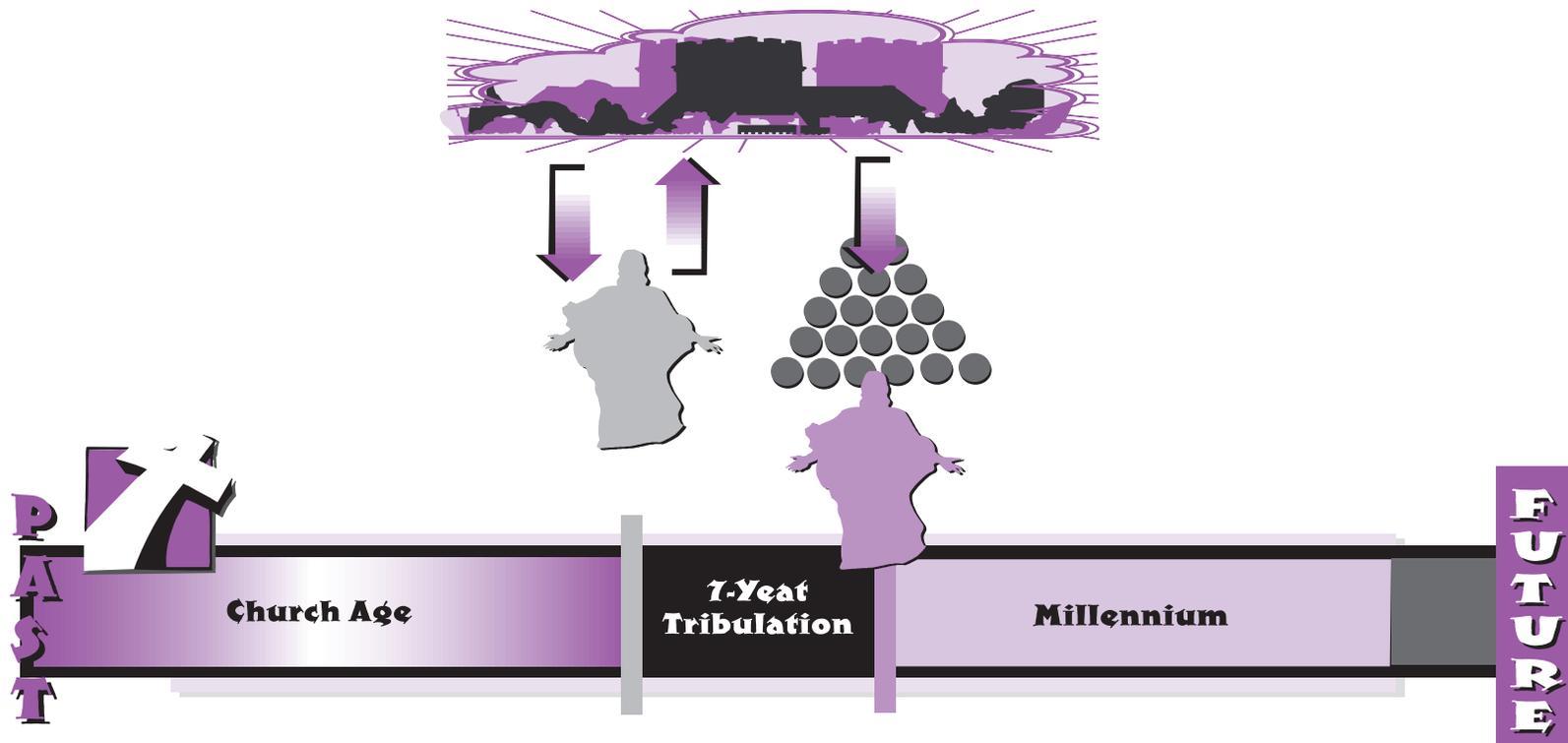
goes by without some bit of news coming from this tiny country in the Middle East. Compared to the other nations of the world, its population is very small, yet the attention of the world stays constantly focused there. The prophecies about Jerusalem make it clear that the Holy City will be in the center of world events in the end time. Israel is at the geographical center of the world and at the center of the world's attention. This is not accidental because it was predicted by the ancient prophets thousands of years ago and we have the privilege of seeing many of those prophecies unfolding before our very eyes.

The only way these prophecies could begin to be fulfilled was for Israel to once again be a nation. The most infallible sign of the approach of the end times occurred in 1948, when God supernaturally began gathering millions of Jews back to the Holy Land, and Israel once more became a nation. The Jews were driven out of their homeland in A.D. 135 by the Romans. They were scattered throughout eastern Europe, Spain, and eventually into the Americas. Throughout their 17 centuries of exile they were able to maintain their national heritage. God gave many promises in the Scripture, such as Ezekiel 37, that He would eventually re-gather the children of

Israel back to their land.

The events God orchestrated in order to keep His promises are very interesting. In 1916, World War I was going badly for England. England was desperate to find a way to manufacture TNT and a smokeless gunpowder quickly. A brilliant Jewish man, Chaim Weizmann, invented a formula that made possible the rapid production of these materials. By doing so, he changed the course of the war for England. The British government told Dr. Weizmann to name his price. Rejecting personal wealth, he asked that Palestine be declared the international homeland for the Jewish people. So, on November 2, 1917 the Balfour Declaration was drawn up and signed. The gathering of the Jews into Palestine was a gradual development. In 1917, less than 25,000 Jews lived in that land. Today the population is more than five million and growing.

In 1939, the British reneged on their 1917 treaty and after World War II withdrew from Palestine. Shortly after, the National Council and the General Zionist Council proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign state of Israel on May 14, 1948. Both the United States and Russia recognized the new nation and Israel was accepted into the United Nations.



- Jesus comes in the air.
- Rapture of all Christians (no signs for Rapture, could happen at any moment).
- Christians taken home to Heaven.
- Judgement Seat of Christ and Marriage of the Lamb in Heaven for Christians.
- Russia and her Muslim allies attack Israel.
- Antichrist appears on the world scene.
- Antichrist signs covenant with Israel.
- Tribulation begins (lasts for 7 years).
- Temple rebuilt in Jerusalem.
- The Battle of Armageddon.
- Second coming of Christ to earth with all the saints and angels at the end of the 7 years of Tribulation.

- Jesus defeats all His enemies, captures the Antichrist and the false prophet and cast them into the lake of fire.
- Satan chained in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.
- Jesus sets up His kingdom of peace on earth for 1,000 years.
- At the end of 1,000 years, Satan is released for one last rebellion.
- Jesus defeats Satan once and for all, and throws him into the lake of fire.
- The Great White Throne Judgement of God (final judgment of the unsaved).
- Heaven and earth are replaced with a new heaven and a new earth. The new Jerusalem comes down out of heave where the saved of all the ages will live for eternity with their Lord.

In 1967 the Jews took control of Jerusalem after Israel's famous Six Day War. General Moshe Dayan planted the Israeli flag on the Muslim Dome of the Rock, then in an attempt to make friends of the Arabs, he took the flag down and gave the Muslims control over that sacred spot. Today, the Jews control most of Jerusalem, but not the Arab quarter or the temple site.

Jesus prophesied in Luke 21:24, "Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." The "times of the Gentiles" have not yet come to an end, but as things continue to heat-up in the Middle East it seems that time is growing short. In Ezekiel's vision in chapter 37 it indicates that half way through the Tribulation a visitation of the Holy Spirit is going to sweep through that land and there will be a mighty revival and a great spiritual awakening when Jews recognize Jesus as the Messiah they rejected.

In Matthew 24:32-34 Jesus said this to His disciples: "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have hap-

pened." When the fig tree is used symbolically in Scripture, it usually refers to the unbelieving nation of Israel. When Israel officially became a nation in 1948, it was the "sign" of Matthew 24:1-8 and the beginning of the "birth pains." The fig tree (Israel) was planted in 1917 when the Balfour Declaration was signed, but it was not a full-grown, budding tree until 1948 when Israel was granted statehood. So just as a budding tree indicates that summer is coming, so "these things" (World War I, famines, plagues, earthquakes, and Israel becoming a nation) indicate that the Lord's coming is near.

Jesus said that "this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." In the Greek language, the pronoun "this" always refers to the person or thing mentioned right before it. In this case, that would be the "generation" who sees the sign of Israel as she either became a nation in 1948 or when she took possession of most of Jerusalem in 1967. Either date would mean that the return of the Lord may take place anytime between 2000 and 2025. Of course we can't be certain, but we do know that this generation has more reason to believe Jesus will return during our lifetime than any generation that has ever lived.

In Ezekiel 38-39, Ezekiel, a Hebrew prophet, was given a detailed prophecy by God twenty-five hundred years ago foretelling that Russia would become a dominant player on the world scene in the last days. He predicted that Russia (Gog and Magog) and her allies which are all Arab Muslim countries today, would march to Israel to finish the job that Adolph Hitler started—the total destruction of the Jews from the face of the earth. What they all have in common is a passionate hatred for Israel. Indeed, 55 million of Russia's own 250 million people are Arabs, most of whom hate Israel. For centuries prophetic scholars have been convinced that Russia will lead the Arab world down to the mountains of Israel to destroy her but God will intervene.

We know that Russia's government and

economy are in trouble. If she is going to be the major power that Ezekiel forecasts her to be, she will have to make a move soon, or she will be too weak to do so. All indications are that Russia is getting ready to do just that. According to reports coming out of that area, Russia and her Muslim allies are continuing to do everything they can to incite war in Israel. These chapters in Ezekiel tell us that God will supernaturally protect Israel and destroy Russia's armies. We know from Scripture that the attack on Israel by Russia and her allies will occur either right before or after the Rapture of the church. The number one and the number two end time events are the attack by Russia on Israel and the Rapture of the church. No one knows which will come first. We do know that the Rapture will take place prior to the Tribulation.

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The word "Rapture" comes from a Latin translation of the Greek word which means, "caught up." In I Thessalonians 4:13-18 Paul tell us that the Lord, Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. The bodies of those who were saved all throughout the church age and who have died, will rise first to be joined with their spirits, and then those of us who are alive and remaining on earth will be caught up with them in the clouds. We will all meet the Lord in the air—and we will always, from that point through eternity, be with the Lord.

In I Corinthians 15 Paul says that Christians "will all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." Paul calls this miraculous event "the blessed hope." He says in Titus 2:13, "...the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." The word "hope" here means, "a present, confident expectation of a certain future event." Jesus is our hope!

The Bible tells us in II Corinthians 5:10 that when we get to Heaven all Christians will stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ, not to have our sins judged because the Bible says these have all been paid for by the blood of Jesus and "remembered no more." Christ will judge the works we have done in His name,

and this is where rewards will be given. After this takes place, we will participate with Jesus in the Marriage of the Lamb.

There are no signs for the Rapture itself, no prophetic events predicted before the Rapture takes place, but if we understand the events the Rapture ushers in, we can see that the Rapture could indeed be especially near. One of these evidences concerns the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. The first temple that Solomon built was destroyed in 86 B.C. The second temple began in 535 B.C. and was completed in 516 B.C. and renovated by Herod the Great starting in 19 B.C., was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. The prophet Daniel, the apostles Paul and John, and Jesus Himself, all taught that Israel will have a third temple rebuilt either before the Tribulation begins or soon afterward. This third temple is seen in complete operation by the middle of the Tribulation.

Researchers report that there are many different groups in Israel preparing to rebuild the temple. There have been reports that a detailed model of the temple has traveled throughout the United States to raise money for the project. The Temple Institute is an organization that has made the utensils needed for temple worship according to biblical standards. One of the necessary ingredients for

reactivating Old Testament-style temple worship is the ashes of a red heifer. In 1997 there were pictures carried in Western newspapers of a rare red heifer in Israel. Efforts are under way to breed such animals. With modern shipping and building equipment, the temple could be rebuilt and fully functional in under a year.

Today the Muslim holy place stands in the way of rebuilding the temple. However, after Russia and her Arab allies try to attack Israel and are destroyed by God, Israel would be free to rebuild her temple. We know from Scriptures the Antichrist will appear on the world scene after the strength of Russia and her allies is broken. The Antichrist may, at that point, either talk the Muslim survivors into moving their sacred mosque from Temple Mount, or when he signs the covenant with Israel (which begins the Tribulation) the Antichrist could make moving the Dome of the Rock part of the covenant. No one knows for sure, but we do know that for the first time in history since the destruction of the second temple in 70 A.D., the world is on the verge of seeing a third temple built in fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. This gives us even more reason to believe that Christ could return for His

Christ will judge the works we have done in His name, and this is where rewards will be given.

church in our lifetime.

Another important piece of the end times puzzle is the city of Babylon. This city is mentioned in the Bible 280 times. It is the most important pagan city that ever existed. Babylon

influenced almost every city in the world in some way—whether religiously, governmentally, or commercially. Every false religion in the world can be traced back to Babylon and this city was where Satan introduced idolatry and secret societies. The religious practices that started there laid the foundations for Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Gaia worship, and many other cultic systems, even though the city had long since been destroyed (536 BC) before the rise of these religions.

In 1971 Saddam Hussein was given 30 million dollars by a rich citizen of Iraq to start the rebuilding of the ancient city of Babylon. The first building constructed was a temple to the sun god. Since then, Hussein has spent millions and millions more to rebuild the twenty-one square-mile city. It was reported in June of 1990 by Prime Time Live that Saddam Hussein had spent over a billion dollars of his oil wealth rebuilding the city of Babylon as a monument to himself.

# God is “not wanting anyone to perish, ...

Hussein has an abnormal hatred for the Jews, Jesus Christ, and all Christians. This, along with his bizarre behavior, makes many Christians believe that the “butcher of Baghdad” is indeed demon-possessed. According to God’s Word, Babylon will again become Satan’s headquarters during the Tribulation. At that time Babylon will once again be the world’s headquarters for governmental, commercial, and religious systems. In Isaiah 13 and 14 and in Jeremiah 50 and 51 the Bible speaks of Babylon being overthrown twice. The first time was in the seventieth year of Israel’s captivity and the second will occur during the seven-year Tribulation. When God destroys it the second time, it will never rise again. Even now this city is being prepared for its last appearance in history, so keep your eyes on Babylon.

Jesus warned His disciples in Matthew 24:21 that there would be “great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor every shall be.” Jesus was referring to the shortest, but most traumatic of the prophetic events. Many of the ancient Hebrew prophets warned Israel about such a period of suffering. There are many other names in the Bible given to this period of time, but the one Jesus used, tribu-

lation, seems most appropriate. We know from the book of Daniel, chapter 9 that it will last for 7 years. In the book of Revelation, John divides those years into two three-and-a-half-year periods. Jesus in Matthew 24:15-21 makes a distinction between Tribulation (the first 3 1/2 years), and the “Great Tribulation” (the last 3 1/2 years).

The Bible makes it very clear that this will be the greatest period of suffering and terror in all of human history. This terrible time is the most mentioned event in all of the Bible, except the second coming of Christ. The Tribulation is a horrific period of seven years in which God pours out His wrath on the rebellious and unbelieving people of the earth. It will be a time of judgement and those who suffer those judgements are not innocent. These will be rebellious people participating in every vile and filthy sin known to man. Yet in spite of their blasphemy and sin, God intends that the Tribulation lead even these wicked men and women to faith in Christ.

In Joel 2:28-32 we see the two aspects of God’s nature at work during the Tribulation. We see His wrath but we also

see His goodness and mercy. These verses show us that there will be many, many people who, even though they missed the Rapture and had to endure the terror of the Tribulation, came to faith in Christ all because of the amazing grace of God. We are told in II Peter 3:9 that God is “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” Only our great and awesome God could balance the wrath and terrifying judgements of the Tribulation, with His grace, mercy, and love. At the end of the seven-

years of Tribulation, Jesus Christ will physically come back to earth for the second time, bringing the saints and all His holy angels with Him—what a sight that will be! The Bible speaks of this second coming of Christ 318 times in the New Testament—only the doctrine of salvation is mentioned more. In Matthew 24:27-31 Jesus gives us one of the most detailed descriptions of His coming in all of Scripture. Jesus says that when He comes the second time, unlike the first, everyone on earth will see it and know it.



... but everyone to come to repentance.”

In Zechariah 14:3-5 the Scriptures tell us that when Jesus comes again to earth, that His feet will touch down on the Mount of Olives, the very same spot from which He ascended when He went back to heaven after His resurrection. When He does, Zechariah says the earth will split in two. Geological reports indicate there is a fault under the Mount of Olives; the touch of Jesus' feet on the ground will cause that mountain to split open as another announcement of His coming.

When Jesus comes to earth again, it will be at the height of the most famous battle in history, the battle of Armageddon. The apostle, John, gives us the details in Revelation 19:11-21. The Antichrist, the false prophet (the second-in-command and minister of propaganda), and all the godless armies of the world will be gathered there to fight Christ. On that day, Jesus will defeat all His enemies with the Word of His mouth and capture the Antichrist and the false prophet and cast them into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:1-3 says that a mighty angel will descend from heaven to the bottomless pit, and chain Satan there for 1000 years. Jesus Christ then sets up a kingdom of peace on the earth for 1000 years. This 1000 year

period, called the millennium (Latin for 1000 years), will be a time not only of peace on earth, but of righteousness and prosperity. Jerusalem will be the capital city and Jesus will be the King. The blood-bought saints of God from all the ages will rule and reign with Him over the earth.

At the end of the millennium Satan is set free for one last rebellion. Once again, Satan will deceive humans to gather with him outside of Jerusalem to try to take over the throne of Jesus in Jerusalem. Jesus Christ will put him down once and for all, and God will seize Satan and throw him into the lake of fire. Then the last, great event on our time line takes place. It is also the event that causes the most fear or dread in all of Scripture. It is the Great White Throne Judgment of God. Revelation 20:11-15 is the passage that describes this powerful event. This is the final judgement of the unsaved. There all the unsaved are resurrected in order to stand before holy God at the great white throne. There will be no place to run or to hide on that day. All who stand before God are those who rebelled against Him and rejected the Savior's sacrificial death on the cross as payment for their sins. Everyone there will hear those awful words, "Depart from

Me, I never knew you." Then there will be a transformation like no other as God makes all things new. The earth will be changed into a new earth. The heavens will be changed into a new heaven. A new Jerusalem will come down from heaven where all the saved of all the ages will live for eternity with their Lord.

Each person who has ever lived will either hear God say to them, "Depart from Me, I never knew you," or "Enter in with Me to the new Jerusalem." Which will you hear? Every person ever born has a choice: to obey God and allow Him to be God in their life or to be their own god and do their own thing. The choice we make will determine where we spend eternity—with God or without Him. There are only two choices. 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ came to earth the first time to go to a cross and die a horrible death for the sins

of the world. If you will accept His sacrifice as payment for your sin and give the control of your life to Him, you can be assured of never having to stand at the Great White Throne Judgement of God. You can give your heart and life to Christ right now if you will pray a prayer something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and that my sin must be paid for. I accept your death on the cross as payment for my sin. Please forgive me of all my sin and come into my heart and save me right now. I give the control of my life to You. Please help me live for You here on earth until You take me home to heaven to live with you forever. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

When you know for sure you belong to Jesus, you can say with the apostle John, "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

"Depart from Me,  
I never knew you" OR  
"Enter in with Me  
to the new Jerusalem"  
Which will you hear?